Trail Loses an Advocate

Age 80, Milton (Milt) E. Loflin of Milton, WA, passed away January 29, 2011 in Federal Way, WA. Milt worked as a computer engineer for many years and was an avid motorcycle enthusiast. He was very active in the community of Milton, WA. Milt was one of the truly great human beings and a lifelong free thinker who only made friends, never enemies. He was one of the original members of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Interurban Trail through the towns of Milton and Edgewood. Milt’s warm and forthright personality will be greatly missed as a vocal advocate for the trail he loved. He is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Doris; children Jean Matte-Pepper, Christopher Loflin and Jennifer Loflin; 3 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, and brother John Loflin. A celebration of Milt’s life was held in February. Please visit yahnandson.com to leave a tribute or to view a complete obituary for Milt.

2010 a Banner Year for the R2R

by John S. Selby, R2R Founder and Coalition Board Member

In 2010 our new Race Director, Rob Hester, more than doubled participation from 223 in 2009 to 507 people. One hundred and twenty people, mostly members of the Coalition, helped as volunteers. Thank you! The event raised over $4500 for our cause, and we already have more registrants this February than in 2010.

New for 2011 is all on-line registration, which should simplify life for everyone and help us continue growing this great event for the benefit of completing the Foothills Trail all the way from the base of Mt. Rainier to the shore of Puget Sound along Ruston Way in Tacoma.

Due to budget cuts, we lost Pierce County Parks and Recreation as a title sponsor, but Rob has recently added another: Volyn Law. Owner, Scott Volyn, finished the R2R, his first 50 miler, in 2010. Congratulations, Scott! And thank you for your support. Paul Morrison of Fleet Feet Sports in Bonney Lake continues to support the R2R as the other title sponsor. Thank you, Paul.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

President’s Message

by Buzz Grant, Coalition President

On June 4, 2011, National Trails Day, we will again stage the Rainier to Ruston (R2R) Relay and Ultra. If you, as I once did a few years ago, are wondering what an ultra means, as it was explained to me, it is a person with enough stamina and fortitude to run the whole 50 miles from Mt. Rainier to Ruston. In general, any distance longer than a marathon is called an ultramarathon. WOW! I personally congratulate all of them because I feel it is a major feat.

The R2R is the largest function sponsored by your Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition. This requires hours of work parties prior to the run to make the undeveloped R2R portions passable. That does not address some members of the Coalition that will work 4 to 12 hours on the day of the R2R to make it a success.

There is a lot of history and beauty to experience if you come out to participate, either as a competitor or a volunteer. This run will go along the upper Carbon River past the town sites of Manley-Moore (lumber), Montezuma (coal), Fairfax (coal) and Melmont (coal). At one time there were 10,000 people living in these now abandoned towns. You will see veins of coal and sandstone on the hillsides, while the forests offer a tranquil surrounding.

The course also passes through the former coal mining towns of Carbonado and Wilkeson, then travelling down through Gale

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
Families in Motion

BY DIXIE GATCHEL, EVENT COORDINATOR FOR VENDORS

Interested in finding health and happiness in your own backyard? If so, mark your calendar for Saturday, April 30, from 10 am to 2 pm for the 2nd annual Families in Motion Day on the Riverwalk Trail. The events and activities taking place focus on “trails uniting communities” for healthier bodies, healthier communities, and healthier economies with a wide variety of ways for folks to join in the fun. The event affords those unfamiliar with the trail an opportunity to discover ways to utilize it as part of their daily living.

Friends of the Riverwalk, a committee of the non-profit Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition, is the sponsor for the event. Co-sponsors include the City of Puyallup; Healthy Communities of Pierce County; Goodwill Industries; Daffodil Valley Volkssports Association; and Senator Jim Kastama with the “Beat the Senator” 5K Fun Run. Our vendors will set up in the Goodwill Parking lot at 1200 4th Street NW, just off River Road in Puyallup. If you have something to donate, please consider Goodwill as a recipient to show our appreciation for allowing us to use their parking lot.

Event highlights to date include: All-A-Board (skateboard exhibitions); Central Pierce Fire & Rescue (helmet fitting and fire extinguisher training); a Daffodil Valley Volkssports Assn 5/10K sanctioned event; Dog Daze (dog walk and feral cat trapping); Puyallup Police Explorers (hand printing & trail security); Shaolin Kung Fu Academy (exhibition); Trout Unlimited (fishing on the Puyallup); Healthy Communities of Pierce County (healthy food choices); prizes and more.

Contact Dixie at gatcheldb@msn.com for reservation of a free vendor spot. Power is unavailable, and capacity is limited to 1 EZ-UP tent. Please bring your own table and chairs. The Friends of the Riverwalk Committee is totally responsible for the estimated $2000 costs associated with the event, so donations in cash or kind are welcome. Please contact Ernie Bay at 253-848-7718 or Bob Kastama at 253-435-1637 if you can help.

Volunteers from the Puyallup Police Explorers and Foothills Coalition Courtesy Patrol members will be on duty to assure security and information. Contact Jerry Larson (aka Captain2Wheeler) at 253-845-7219 for courtesy patrol signup.

Foothills Trail Coalition Board

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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.piercecountyrails.org/ and our email address is foothillstrail@gmail.com.

Mission:
The mission of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition is to assist Pierce County communities in the creation, maintenance and usage of a connected system of non-motorized trails for healthier people from Mt. Rainier to Puget Sound.

Ads:
Business card ads are published for a fee of $25 per quarter or $100 for one year, paid in advance to the Coalition and sent to the Ad Manager, Loras Gassmann, P.O. Box 192, Puyallup, WA.

Editing:
The Trail Line News is edited by Wendy Beauchaine, FTCeditor@gmail.com.

Layout:
The Trail Line News is designed by Charlene Binfet, 253-236-4873, joenchar@hotmail.com.

Printing:
The Trail Line News is printed at L&L Printing and Graphics, (253) 848-5546. Circulation is approximately 1250 copies.
TWBC Government Affairs Report

BY BOB MYRICK, TACOMA WHEELMEN BICYCLE CLUB AND COLITON MEMBER

In February’s meeting, the committee discussed Puyallup versus the Transportation Improvement Board. Ralph reported on the Transportation Improvement Board. The TIB wants Puyallup to return $3.27 million in grant funds to improve part of 9th Street SW, behind the South Hill Mall. The City decided to not install bike lanes and a sidewalk on part of the road project. The TIB has a Complete Streets policy that requires accommodations for pedestrians, bikes and busses.

In conjunction with Complete Streets, there are several bike-related bills being considered down in Olympia. HB 1700 relates to requiring WSDOT and other transportation infrastructure providers to install bike lanes and sidewalks where possible and practical. Several TWBC members attended Transportation Advocacy Day in Olympia in February. For information on HB 1700 and other bills, look up the Bicycle Alliance of Washington website. Right now, the Vulnerable Users Bill needs voters to write their Legislators to ask for support. This bill provides significant monetary penalties to drivers who injure cyclists and pedestrians. Furthermore, injuries are not being taken lightly. Attorney General Rob McKenna is pushing for changes in the State’s Tort Liability laws.

Also discussed was the site survey of South Tacoma’s Sounder Station, to canvas where and how a bike lane can work on a trail in that area. Over by the Riverwalk, work is being done to create a sustainable community.

New regulations include the Federal Government’s ADA requirements for allowing disabled people access to trails and sidewalks. Apparently, electric vehicles are now allowed on trails and sidewalks if the user claims to be disabled. There is no provision for asking for proof that the person is disabled. You can even drive a vehicle with a gas motor if you claim to be disabled. The City of Tacoma claims the law doesn’t apply to bike lanes since the lanes are part of the street right of way.

Finally, we have many topics on the horizon to include the Steilacoom Railroad Tracks near the former Paper mill. The tracks are dangerous, and we are encouraging folks to have that track crossing removed. In Washington, DC, there appears to be a successful Red Bike rental system where you can pick up and drop off a bike along the public right of way. We also talked about the apparent success of the Yellow Warning Sign Paint on the Foothills Trail in Orting. We have seen a great improvement in the behaviour of both cyclists and motorists in Orting. TWBC and Foothills agreed to pay about 2/3 of the cost, about $600 from TWBC. Enjoy the trail!

From reading this month’s report, you can see we need help at our committee level, but more importantly, we need help to put on a KID Ride Program this spring and to put on a Pierce County Bikes Program. Of course, we also need help in putting on the Daffodil and the PMC, Peninsula Metric Century.

Our committee plans to meet on the first of each month at the Harvester Restaurant in the Stadium District at First and Tacoma Avenues at 6pm to carry on our work in the community. Please step up. In the meantime, pedal more and worry less.

“Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”
- Margaret Mead
Networking for Trails: Edgewood & Milton Interurban

by Diane Kerlin

Construction for Phase 1 of the Edgewood portion of the Interurban Trail should be ready to go to bid before April 15th. Preparation for all the requirements of this federal money was thrown into a time crunch which worried a lot of folks. This has been delayed and funding continued so many times that there was a real danger of losing it. There would be no more renewals. The bid ad date for the basic design construction of the accompanying trailhead park, Jovita Crossroads Park, is April 30th. This will apply RCO funding. Both of these parts have been scaled back as costs have risen since the original grant proposals were submitted, but it’s a beginning.

The Edgewood section of trail is planned to someday meet the Milton section for a greater link in this regional trail. Our community lost a strong advocate for this trail when the City of Milton’s Milt Loflin passed away on January 29th. He had been a supporter and citizen activist for many quality of life causes. It was a great joy to him when construction for the trail section through Milton took place, and the trail dedication followed. He looked forward to one day having these sections connect over or under Enchanted Parkway, back to the Pierce County line where it would meet up with the Edgewood portion. Milt will be greatly missed.

Railroad Underpass

by Donald Rich, Board Member

The RR underpass at the East end of the Riverwalk Trail is now complete and open to riders and walkers. The metal cover supported by the concrete wall appears to be quite adequate protection from falling objects, to include locomotives. A short section of a newly graded access road on the East end of the new underpass provides a much better connection to 134th and Meeker Trailhead. This is just one more completed step in our great trail, which has unfortunately already been tagged with graffiti.

Innovative Signage on the Orting Trail

by Capt2wheeler

Bob Myrick, local Tacoma Wheelmen activist, with a little help from friends John Ernest Berry III, Jerry Larson, and Buzz Grant, FRTTC President, teamed up with the Orting City Council/City Administrator, Mark Bethune, in the selection, implementation and financial support to make several trail crossroads safer for vehicles, bikers and hikers.

The final signage selection is already getting the safety results we were striving for, said Myrick.

There now seems to be camaraderie between auto drivers and trail users. Waves and smiles for safe passage are more the order of the day for all trail users and cross trail drivers, reported Larson, Chairman of the FRTTC Courtesy Patrol.

The advanced alert signage distance from the crossing gives users much more time to avoid a problem with cross traffic.

The trail safety program discussions were concluded with Myrick, Berry, Larson, and Grant conveying a “well done” to the Orting City Council and proposing that the council pass on special recognition to Mark Bethune for his hours of research in selecting and implementing the new safety signage!
I SUPPORT
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

**Name:** Loras Gassmann       **Home:** Sumner, Wash.
**Birthplace:** Holy Cross, Iowa       **Age:** 69

**What I do:** In addition to the volunteer work I do for the Foothills Trail here in Washington, I enjoy my genealogy projects, geocaching, visiting microbreweries, listening to folk-bluegrass music, attending history talks, cooking, hiking, light woodworking and eating out.

**My background:** I grew up in rural Iowa, where my ancestors settled before the Civil War, and I come from a very large, extended family. I have about 150 true-blooded first cousins. At one time, I had 40 living aunts and uncles. I have become the “Hefel family correspondent.” I gather information from my cousins, then prepare and distribute e-newsletters. In 2009, my sister and I put together a family reunion in North Buena Vista, Iowa, and 400 cousins attended. The descendents of John and Rose Hefel—my mother’s parents—now total 625.

**A meaningful life story:** In June of 1960, I was in a major car accident and received many injuries, including internal, head, ribs and back. Three vertebrae were crushed, and I was paralyzed from the chest down. Surgery was performed that evening to remove pressure from the spinal cord. About a week later, after coming to, I started to have feeling return to my legs. After 60 days, I was able to walk out of the hospital with crutches. The doctors and nurses said it was a miracle.

**Latest or greatest accomplishment:** Having spent most of my life in Iowa, the flatlands, the mountains of Washington State have fascinated me. When I was a young man, my back was broken twice, so I am most grateful that I have been able to climb Mount St. Helens three times. As a member of The Mountaineers, I have hiked almost all of the trails in Mount Rainier National Park.

**Recent rail-trail experience:** Currently I am the treasurer of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition. We are a local group building a network of trails in Pierce County, Wash. The main Foothills Trail will connect Mount Rainier National Park to Puget Sound, and also connect to other regional trails. In 2009 I did a GPS tracking of the Foothills Trail for Rails-to-Trails Conservancy’s trail-finding website, TrailLink.com.

**Why I have been a supporter of Rails-to-Trails Conservancy since the beginning:** In the 1980’s, while visiting northeast Wisconsin, I rode the Ahnapee State Park Trail. When I enthusiastically shared with my brother my great accomplishment of riding all 15 miles, he told me about the Elroy-Sparta State Trail, the granddaddy of trails, in western Wisconsin. Naturally, I had to do that trail, and it became a regular event to ride this system as it continued to expand. It was during these rides that I heard of, and joined, RTC.

Loras Gassmann has been a member of RTC since its founding in 1986. As we prepare to celebrate our 25th anniversary, we wish to recognize the central role that all of our members have played, and continue to play, in our mission. To learn about ways to get involved with our work, please contact our membership department at 202-974-5105 or online at www.railstotrails.org.
Active Transportation Report

by Dixie Gatchel, Coalition Coordinator for Active Transportation

Our three year plus dream for a fair share of funding for multi-modal transportation sustained a disturbing setback despite unwavering support from Infrastructure Chair Congressman Jim Oberstar (D) Minnesota. The internet has been rife with rumors of drastic budget cuts and non-existent support for surface transportation and public transit emanating from the new batch of members elected to Congress. Funding for bicycling/pedestrian infrastructure and high speed transit proposed by President Obama in the 2012 budget is under scrutiny. However, Ray LaHood, Transportation Secretary, is a believer and is optimistic that Congress can complete a long-term surface transportation reauthorization before the August recess.

So where do we go from here? Ongoing world events demonstrate dramatically that we the people have power when we persist in fighting for, and voting for, causes we believe in. Focused federal investment is needed, now, to complete networks of active transportation infrastructure that will make it safe and convenient to walk and bike to work, school, shops, recreation and transit. And guess what? This action creates JOBS! Want to help? Badger your congressional representative to co-sign the Active Community Transportation Act (HR 4722) which was introduced by Rep. Blemenauser (Ore) in March 2010. Currently, Washington State Representatives Jim McDermott and Jay Inslee are co-signees. We can also act to e-mail and call our representatives and members of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and insist that they include Active Transportation program in the reauthorization.

I am encouraged by the formation of local committees, such as Friends of the Riverwalk, which is gaining great rapport with the City of Puyallup folks in working to achieve our common goals. Want to help? We meet every Monday morning at 9:00 am at Charlie’s Restaurant in Puyallup. The Foothill Coalition members hope that this is the first of several local committees that unite forces to connect trails. Bob Myrick and I are scheduled to meet with members of a new Tacoma group also working to connect trails in Pierce County, the Coalition for Active Transportation. So take heart, trail lovers — the pendulum always swings to and fro, and the best is yet to come. Blues be gone!

What is Active Transportation?

AT = ☕️ + 🚊 + 🧵 + rails-to-trails conservancy + You

Planning a trail vacation?

by Ernie Bay, Coalition President Emeritus

Rambletown http://rambletown.appspot.com/ is an excellent website that features geocoded trail information in their GoogleMaps. The Rails-To-Trails Conservancy has also been mapping trails nationwide on their trail finder site at http://www.traillink.com, featuring detailed trail information, guidebook descriptions and trail reviews.

Cascade Water Alliance

toll free: 1.877.299.0930
cascadewater.org
Calendar of Events

Meetings:

Monthly Board Meetings:
Open to all members and are generally held on the 4th Thursday from 7-9 p.m. at the Puyallup Public Library, south entrance. Monthly meetings may be rescheduled, so check our website at www.piercecountytrails.org for changes.

Charlie Chat - Weekly Luncheon:
Informal luncheons from 12-1 p.m. 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 on 2nd Saturdays of each month at High Cedars Golf Course, 149th St. Ct. E., 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. Contact Jerry Larson at 253-845-7219 or Capt2Wheeler@comcast.net.

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 breakfast on most Monday mornings* at 9 a.m. at Charlie’s Restaurant, 113 E. Main, Puyallup. Please note that we may change the venue of this luncheon. Continue to check the website (http://www.piercecountytrails.org/) for the latest information.

Events:
March 19th - Foothills Dash, 8 a.m. (race at 9), Orting Eagles Lodge, 112 Bridge Street South.

April 2nd - Work party at Gale Canyon. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at 268 Ave. Ct. E. west of South Prairie.

April 23rd - Work party at the Upper Carbon working with The Back Country Horsemen. Meet at 6 a.m. at “Around the Corner” for breakfast and depart at 7 a.m.

April 30th - Families in Motion Day from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Puyallup Riverwalk Trail, 1200 4th St., Puyallup. Contact Ernie Bay at 253-848-7718.

May 7th - Work party at Gale Canyon. Meet at 8:30 a.m. on 156th St. Ct. E at Johns Rd E, NW of Wilkeson.

May 21st - Work party at Buckley to South Prairie & Lower Gale Canyon. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at “Fitzers Mill” located at 12200 Rt. 165 SW of Buckley.

Work Parties RSVP to Don Partington at 253-820-8411 or cedarfamily@comcast.net

June 4th - Rainier to Ruston Relay and Ultra.
If interested in helping please, contact Race Director, Rob Hester at 253-226-5495 or rcwhester@yahoo.com.

More info at www.rainiertoruston.com

1430 East Main, Suite E
Puyallup, WA 98372
(253) 848-5546
Fax (253) 848-5547
www.landprintinginc.com
Email:
landprinting@aol.com
For those of you who also ran last year or plan to in 2011, we are selling DVDs to remember the event by. The order form for the DVD is available on the R2R website. You will also be able to purchase a 2010 DVD as well as pre-order a DVD for 2011 when you register online for the 2011 race.

The running course this year is the same as last, so runners will again enjoy essentially the same beautiful route first run by two teams of crazies on National Trails Day in 2003. “Hey, let’s see whose team can get from Mt. Rainier to Ruston Way the fastest!” “OK, you’re on!”

Last year some of the exchanges got pretty crowded, so we looked into spreading out the starting times. We will be using chip timing for all participants, so we can assign all running teams to four wave starts 30 minutes apart, with the slowest runners first and the fastest last.

We will no longer record arrival times at the exchanges, but the new element of fun will be that faster runners will be passing slower ones all the way down the course. There will be three timing mats - Mt. Rainier start, So. Prairie, and Ruston Way finish. Chip timing will be a huge help in giving out the awards accurately and on schedule.

The other big news for 2011 is for the walkers. We listened to your suggestions and did what you said. This year walkers will be on almost all dirt trails (the prettiest legs of the course) starting at Fairfax (Manley Moore Bridge) rather than Mt. Rainier (Mountaineers’ parking lot) and ending at South Prairie rather than Orting. The only pavement is from Lower Burnett road to So. Prairie. We will use a gun start at Fairfax and a chip timing mat at So. Prairie. This course is comprised of three legs (#2, 3 and 4) and is only 15.6 miles long, so it should be easier to recruit participants. There will be no more 2-person or 6-person teams, only solo walkers and 3-person teams. But of course, as in the past, we will allow and encourage walkers to pair up, so a “3-person” team could have six people walking in pairs, or 2 people could walk the whole distance together as solo walkers.

As the News Tribune once wrote, the R2R™ is one of Washington State’s “Ten Great Races To Get You Motivated.” So start training and recruiting and dreaming up clever team names and cool decorations for your team vehicle. Whether you are a walker, runner or volunteer, check out our four-minute video clip on the R2R website to get yourself really pumped and plan on joining us on National Trails Day to celebrate our past achievements and experience the unique, Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay and Ultra, truly “An Adventure in Your Own Back Yard!”

Six-runner team Swift Six rings the bell at Ruston Way while Bob Rowan videotapes in the background. *Photo by Byron Vasecka.*
Canyon along Gale, or sometimes called Wilkeson Creek. Here, participants can experience more of the as-yet-undeveloped Foothills Trail. Upon arriving at South Prairie, you will follow the developed Foothills trail through Orting, McMillan and on to Puyallup, then follow the Puyallup River to Fife and on to Tacoma and Ruston.

The runners and relay participants will travel 50 miles, but for a fantastic walking experience, there is a 15-mile walk from Manley-Moore/Fairfax to South Prairie, which is 83% soft trail.

COME OUT AND PARTICIPATE, WHETHER YOU WALK OR RUN OR VOLUNTEER - HAVE FUN ON NATIONAL TRAILS DAY!

**Memberships/Donations**

Janet Grimes
Sandra Olsen
John & Doreen Anderson
Madeline Davidson
Stephen R. Feldman
Gordon F. (Buzz) Grant
Ben M Light & Linda L. McIntyre
Steve & Kay Pedersen
Galen (Lynette Arthur) Stark
Bicycle/Recycle
Spencer Farms, Inc.
Bruce Dees & Associates
Ron & Martha Celestres
Bob & Diane Kastama
Dianne Niemann
Charles - Lauren Bulley
John Mandy & Ed Vervoort

**Mileage Chart**

**Foothills Trail Coalition**

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non-motorized trails for healthier people from Mt. Rainier to Puget Sound.

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Please email my newsletter to □
(includes a 1 year ad in the Trail Line News)

$200 Corporate
$100 Trail Builder
$50 Pathfinder
$30 Family
$20 Single

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No.: ______________________________
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Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition
P.O. Box 192, Puyallup, WA 98371-0021

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