Sasquatch Planning to Run the R2R Again!

By John Selby, Founder and Board Member

Over 400 people have already signed up to run the 11th annual Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay and Ultra, including 30 ultras who will run the entire 50 miles solo! And Sasquatch! He is training to run too, so keep your eyes peeled when you are out on the Foothills Trail. You may see him on the trail or in the woods, huffing and puffing as he gets in shape. Become one of our 200+ volunteers, and you may be lucky enough to give him a high five on National Trails Day!

More good news: REI has committed to become a Gold Sponsor! They are preparing to put up a huge tent at the finish area next to the beer garden. Yes, you read that correctly. Race Director Richard Pasquier has an agreement with Wingman Brewers from Tacoma to provide a beer garden at the finish area! Ultras will get one beer free to honor their extraordinary effort!

You may or may not remember from previous announcements but this year we are giving the Half Marathon its own day - July 27th - and its own name - The B&O Half Marathon (for Buckley to Orting). By the time you read this, it will also have its own website and registration link. Many runners are registering for both the R2R and the B&O.

The 2013 R2R will be better than ever. The Mayor’s Cup will challenge towns along the course to field the fastest 4-person relay teams. Emergency services and radio communication will be at every exchange along the course. Gone are the Marathon+ Walk/Relay and the 50K Ultra, so the event will be

Continued on Page 9
Letter to the Editor

Metropolitan Parks District Vote
By Scott W. Anderson, Bonney Lake Parks Organization Committee

We are reaching out to your organization to make you aware of the coming vote in Bonney Lake, Washington, concerning the formation of a Metropolitan Parks District (MPD) on April 23, 2013. With the formation of an MPD, dedicated funds can finally become available to finance much needed sports facilities, parks, miles of trails and community center that the citizens of Bonney Lake have been wanting.

Many of the proposed projects have come through input from organizations just like yours. For example:

Fennel Creek Trail
Community Center

The BLParks.org group would appreciate your assistance in disseminating this information to your members. It is our hope to inform the citizens of Bonney Lake to gain their support for this opportunity for our City as well as gain the support from organizations who actively utilize parks, trails, ball fields and community centers.

To learn more I encourage you to please review the attached information and check our Facebook page for the most up to date information and “LIKE” us at https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Bonney-Lake-Metropolitan-Park-District/232646786868082?fref=ts or our web page at www.blparks.org. You can email us at YESMPD@gmail.com. Contact us for more information or if you would like to help. Thank you for your interest in a Bonney Lakes Metropolitan Park District.

Respectfully,
BLParks.org committee
Tacoma Wheelmen Bicycle Club (TWBC)
Government Affairs Report

BY BOB MYRICK, TWBC

During the February 5th meeting of the TWBC the following items were discussed:

TWBC members attended a conference on Transportation and the New Economy on February 7th at University of Washington-Tacoma. The conference had presenters from within and outside of the Puget Sound Region. I wished more time could have been dedicated to discussing how to create a sustainable transportation system where people drive less to get to work.

TWBC members attended a presentation on the University Place soft surface trail proposal that would link Chamber’s Creek to the Leach Creek. The City has apparently assembled the property necessary to moving forward with developing the trail.

Lynn Peterson has been appointed as Secretary of the Washington State Department of Transportation. She was working for Oregon’s governor as an advisor on alternative modes of transportation and has been on Cycle Oregon. I am sure she will be bicycling with our new Governor in the Olympia area on his weekly rides.

It is my understanding there will be a meeting regarding Tacoma’s Prairie Line Trail at the Tacoma Art Museum on Thursday, March 14th.

I hope to see you on the road soon as I begin leading the Sunny Sunday rides when I’m in town. Remember to Ride more and Worry less. It is good for your health and the health of the planet.

The next TWBC Government Affairs meeting will be the first Tuesday of the month at the Harvester Restaurant in the Stadium District at First and Tacoma Avenues. Start time is 6p.m.

“The only way of finding the limits of the possible is by going beyond them into the impossible.”

- Arthur C. Clarke

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Networking for Trails:

**Prairie Line Trail**

**by Bill Hilton, Editor, Trail Line News**

In The News Tribune article (January 27, 2013), “The less complicated Prairie Line trail best serves space, visitors” Peter Callaghan reported the portion of the Prairie Line Trail which travels through the UWT is moving forward in a more user friendly design with construction anticipated to start this spring and trail completion taking place in the fall.

According to the article, the portion of the Prairie Line Trail traveling through the UWT campus will be of a simpler and more user friendly design than first envisioned. This is due, in part, to UWT Chancellor Debra Friedman and Vice Chancellor Harlan Patterson requesting feedback from the public and community surrounding UWT and then it being given serious consideration in the outcome of the final trail design.

The article further states, “Gone are the pretty but a bit too precious design elements. Gone are the outcrops and seating areas that disrupted the gentle curve of the right of way and threatened to do physical damage to bicyclists who didn’t slow to a crawl.”

From reviewing the article, it sounds as if the history of the rails and earlier warehouse uses will be maintained and the trail will be built with bikes and walkers in mind. Stormwater collection and treatment will be a consideration and the trail can also serve as a gathering place for students and neighbors.

Finally, in these days and times, it is encouraging to have public officials willing to ask for public input and include it in the decision making process. As the article so appropriately puts it, “And best of all, by simplifying the design, a workable trail and gathering place can be completed with the $4 million budget available.”

> “Life is either a daring adventure or nothing.”
> - Helen Keller

**How Well Do You Know Your Pierce County Trails?**

Here’s your chance to win a membership renewal in the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition.

A photo be posted of a location on or along a Pierce County trail in the quarterly editions of the Trail Line News. If you can describe its location more accurately than any other response received, you will win a one-year individual membership renewal.

No one guessed the location of the photo in the last issue. In fact, no one even tried! The photo was of the artwork on a bridge support along the Sumner Trail under the Tacoma Avenue bridge over the Stuck River about one and a half miles north of its confluence with the Puyallup River. It’s a beautiful trail just waiting for you to experience it.

Let’s see if you can do better this time. Please respond with your answer to “Where is this?” under the adjacent photo to John Selby at JohnSelby16@gmail.com.

Good luck! The winner will be announced in the next issue.
4th Annual Families in Motion Day
BY DIXIE GATCHEL AND BILL HILTON, FRIENDS OF THE RIVERWALK

For those persons and families looking for something healthy and exciting to do on Saturday, April 27, 2013, in Puyallup, please join us (Friends of the Riverwalk) for the “4th Annual Families in Motion Day” event taking place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. along the Puyallup Riverwalk Trail.

Friends of the Riverwalk, which is affiliated with the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition, will once again partner with the city of Puyallup, Goodwill (Puyallup), and others to make the event enjoyable for participants of all ages.

Friends of the Riverwalk were proud to be present for the Veterans Park dedication on August 20, 2012, and we continue to partner with the city of Puyallup and others in order to improve the beautification of the trail for the pleasure and enjoyment of trail users.

A number of activities are planned and early risers can start by enjoying either a 10K walk sponsored by the Daffodil Valley Volkssports Association or the 1st Annual Veterans Park Race along the Puyallup Riverwalk Trail. The Official Opening Ceremony will occur at 10am in the Goodwill Parking lot located at 1200 4th Street NW - just off River Road.

There will also be a number of booths/exhibitions, children’s games, music and opportunities to walk, run, stroll, skate, bicycle, or walk your dog along the trail during the day’s event.

This is a chance to come out and experience the Puyallup Riverwalk Trail firsthand and enjoy a number of activities!
Active Transportation Report
by Dixie Gatchel, Coalition Coordinator for Active Transportation

Transportation Funding Nearly Dry

Read it and weep! Projections for significant federal funding for any of our future transportation needs, including bicycling and pedestrian, does not look promising. That’s my conclusion after reviewing the Washington State 2013 dismal report on the state of transportation. (Link: http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/)

Federal funds accounted for 90% of project construction costs during the cross-continental interstate highway era. Those days are gone. Funding for MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century) may provide some funding for bicycling/walking under the Transportation Alternatives (TA) provision. However, MAP-21, a pitiful replacement for the former Transportation Enhancement, will expire in October 2014 and funding had been cut 30% to begin with. The State also has more leeway on sub-allocation and usage of the TA funds which may be problematic insofar as bicycle/pedestrian funding goes.

The truth is the Highway Trust Fund will become insolvent unless Congress either finds new revenues or reduces investments. Revenue from our 37.5 cents per gallon has lost 47% in dollar value over the past 12 years due to inflation. That’s probably why our state is floating so many trail balloons about public/private partnerships; road and bridge tolling; and driving based usage fees. The will, public and political, for increasing the gas tax is almost non-existent. Maybe, just maybe, alternative funding will be found once things settle out and we set our collective minds to finding a solution.

In closing, below is a folksy witticism from my Toastmaster magazine that encompasses my thoughts about the lack of sustainable transportation funding. It is attributed to Zig Ziglar, a wildly popular public speaker, who died recently at age 86.

“Expect the best. Prepare for the worst. Capitalize on what comes.”
The ForeverGreen Council held our annual planning retreat on January 9, 2013. We had great attendance and lots of energy around updating our overall work plan.

First, the Council reviewed our vision and mission statements. The Vision Statement remains unchanged: A countywide system of trails connecting all of Pierce County’s communities. The system links sidewalks, bike lanes, and local pathways into an integrated network for safe, convenient, non-motorized travel. Minor changes were made to our Mission Statement: To advocate for the funding and implementation of a system of multi-use trails that links each community and jurisdiction in Pierce County. ForeverGreen will work inclusively with all interested trail stakeholder and user groups to promote coordinated policy, direction, and priorities for trail plan implementation and advocate for financial and technical resources to design and construct trails.

Then, after discussion we approved a new set of Long Term goals for the next five to ten years:

1. Achieve implementation of the Pierce County Regional Trails Plan.
2. Advocate for long-term trail funding.
3. Advocate for pedestrian-oriented community design and connections to the county wide trails system.
4. Advocate for funding for preservation of trails.
6. Strengthen our relationships with like-minded organizations.

Finally, the Council reviewed Short Term goals and created a new list of short term goals and activities which were adopted at the February Council meeting. Council members volunteered to lead each of the activities:

1. Hold a winter board retreat in January 2014. (Jane Moore)
2. Participate in the implementation of the City of Tacoma’s Mobility Master Plan. (Shawn Phelps, David Seago)
3. Continue to work on a trail connection from Puyallup to Tacoma in cooperation with Pierce County, Puyallup, Tacoma, and Fife. (Bob Myrick will monitor activities)
4. Update the trails priorities list (in the Pierce County Open Space Task Force Report) with input from like minded organizations. (Bryan Bowden)
5. Hold a Pierce County Trails Conference. (Barbara Skinner and Jane Moore)
6. Support Bike to Work Day/Month events in Pierce County. (Shawn Phelps)
7. Convene a meeting of principals of like-minded organizations to strengthen relationships and increase collaboration. (Barbara Skinner)
8. Secure funding for the ForeverGreen budget and develop a 5-year funding plan. (David Seago)
9. Develop and publicize a case statement for trails. (David Seago)
10. Advocate for complete streets as a way to provide connections to the trail system and fill missing links. (Jane Moore, Shawn Phelps)
11. Compile and produce an annual report. (Jane Moore)
12. Support proposed plans, projects, grant applications, and legislation related to trails or active transportation. (All)
13. Conduct a feasibility study for construction of a bridge connecting the Puyallup and Sumner River Walk Trails. (Ernie Bay)
14. Meet with Pierce County Council, Pierce County Executive, and elected officials from other jurisdictions to promote implementation and funding of the Pierce County Regional Trail Plan. (Terry Lee)
15. Maintain the website as a static source of information about the organization. (Jane Moore)
16. Establish a social media presence for ongoing communications.
17. Reconsider the name of the organization; current name does not indicate purpose. (Lyle Quasim)
Memberships/Donations

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

Those wishing to make a donation to support the continuing efforts of the Foothills Rails-To-Trails Coalition can do so at the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation website: http://www.tacomafoundation.org/page10002505.cfm

Once at the website simply click on the large “Donate” button highlighted in yellow and follow the instructions on the page.

Thanks for your consideration!
Foothills Rails-To-Trails Coalition

Scholz Farm and Garden
14310 128th St. E.
Puyallup, WA 98374
Phone (253) 848-7604
Fax (253) 840-8699
ScholzFarm@MSN.com

Allen Scholz
Fawntella Scholz
simpler to put on. Volunteers will also be pleased to learn there will be a course closing time 12 hours
after the 7 am start - no more waiting until after dark for the last runner.

Watch the exciting, 4-minute video on the R2R website, http://www.rainiertoruston.com/ and please
volunteer by contacting race director Richard Pasquier at rpasquier@comcast.net or start training like
Sasquatch and register your team to help us celebrate National Trails Day on June 1, 2013.

R2R Legacy Remains
Photos by ©Vince Streano 2012
Meetings:

**Monthly Board Meetings:**
Open to all members and are generally held on the 4th Thursday from 7-9 p.m. at the Heritage Quest Research Library located at 1007 Main St., Sumner. Monthly meetings may be rescheduled, so check our website at www.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:** (Note: no meetings in July or August.)
Scheduled on 2nd Saturday 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 Mariella Arnold at RAArnold@aol.com.

**Friends of the Riverwalk Committee:**
We are an informal group of volunteers devoted to the enjoyment and betterment of the Puyallup Riverwalk. Please join us for most Monday mornings* at 9 a.m. at Mrs. Turner’s Restaurant, 701 East Main, Puyallup.
*call prior to confirm in case of cancellation. Ernie Bay (253)-848-7718, bugtrail@aol.com. or Bob Kastama 253-435-1637, kastamaq@gmail.com, Puyallup City Parks 253-841-5447

Events:

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

**4th Annual Families in Motion Day Event:**
For those persons and families looking for something healthy and exciting to do on Saturday, April 27, 201, in Puyallup, please join us (Friends of the Riverwalk) for the “4th Annual Families in Motion Day” event taking place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. along the Puyallup Riverwalk Trail.

**Sponsorships:** Ernie Bay, 253-848-7718, bugtrail@aol.com
**Exhibitor Site:** Dixie Gatchel, 253-435-0462, gatcheldb@q.com
**Prizes Donations:** Bob & Diane Kastama, 253-435-1637, kastamaq@gmail.com
**Daffodil Valley Volkssports Assn 10K walk:** Carolyn Warhol, 253-845-6592
**Vendors and 1st Annual Veterans Park Race:** Lona Graves, 253-841-5515
Correction:

A December 2012 Trail Line News story about Dr. Ernie Bay receiving the Helen Engle Lifetime Achievement Award incorrectly listed the person Mayor Marilyn Rasmussen as presenting the award to him. The correct presenter was Mayor Marilyn Strickland, Tacoma Mayor.

Being accurate is important to the Trail Line News. We appreciated those readers who reached out to help correct this error.

Bill Hilton, Editor, Trail Line News

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

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COMING SOON......!

CALENDAR -"Visions of the Foothills Trail” This 18 month calendar, (July 1\textsuperscript{st} 2013 - December 31, 2014), includes spectacular photos, and the history, the events, the people, and many interesting facts about our wonderful trail. The calendar will first be available for purchase at the Puyallup River Walk’s ‘Families in Motion’ Event taking place on April 27, 2013. We know you’ll want to share them with your friends. Watch for your June 2013 newsletter for more information about how, and where, to purchase the calendar. Here is the front cover of the calendar by the artist who’s photos will be featured.

Photo by ©Bob Rowan 2012