Don Partington Receives R2R Founder’s Award

Don Partington receives the R2R Founder’s Award from race founder John Selby for his outstanding work as Trail Crew Leader, organizing and leading numerous work parties to prepare the trail for the Rainier to Ruston Relay and Ultra. Photo by Ernie Bay

President’s Message
by Buzz Grant, Coalition President

Two years ago at the Washington State Trails Coalition (WSTC) Conference in Spokane, the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition volunteered to help host the 2010 conference in Tacoma. The WSTC represents hiking, biking and walking trails, water trails, off-road vehicle trails and horse trails throughout our state. This is the first time the WSTC has met in Western Washington. We are working with our partners the Forevergreen Council, the Tacoma Wheelmen and the WSTC to present the best conference ever! The Conference will be held in Tacoma at the La Quinta Inn and Suites on October 22 and 23, 2010. This is a great opportunity to get together with and network with other people and groups that support many different types of trails. For information on this great conference, go to the WSTC website at www.washingtonstatetrailscoalition.org.

The City of Edgwood have asked for our help planning Phase II of the Interurban Trail that goes through their city including some great rides and walks on local trails. We will be making suggestions about trail needs and amenities. One of our goals has always been to help the county and cities in Pierce County plan and build a connecting network of trails. We really appreciate the opportunity to work with the City of Edgewood.

In addition, we are partnering with the Tacoma Wheelmen and

Continued on Page 6

Continued on Page 4

Courtesy Patrol 2007 - What Were We Thinking?
by Jerry Larson, Courtesy Patrol Chair

A look back to see where we are today! “One must build on the past to constructively contribute value to the future.” (author unknown)

Three years ago, an insightful debate was initiated at luncheon regarding the future and parameters for the FoothillsCourtesy Patrol.

Today, the interest and success of the Courtesy Patrol Certification program has soared well beyond Pierce County. The mission statement says “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 Mount Rainier to Puget Sound.”

Continued on Page 6
Work Party Report
by Don Partington

It’s so satisfying to see how nice the trail looks after we’ve been through. If you want to join us some time, usually about four or five hours, come on out and play.

Last month, we attacked the south end of Gale Canyon, easily the prettiest section of the Foothills Trail. The “vegetation” was between two and four feet tall, with nettles and blackberries dangling from the sky. We had three workers who spent their time exclusively between the washouts, while I did the south section from Johns Rd. It now looks great! If you want to explore this undeveloped part of the trail, the best public access is on 156th St. Ct. E., 100 yards north of Johns Rd E, NW of Wilkeson.

In July we hacked at blackberries between Buckley and South Prairie, what we now call the Upper Loop.

It’s very rewarding to see the results of the time we spend out on the trails. If you want to help out, watch our web site for dates, or email Don Partington at cedarfamily@comcast.net.

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### Mileage Chart

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Meeker</th>
<th>McMillin</th>
<th>Gring</th>
<th>Crocker</th>
<th>South Prairie</th>
<th>Eaton Marsh</th>
<th>White River</th>
<th>Wilkeson</th>
<th>Carbonado</th>
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Publisher:
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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.

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TWBC Government Affairs Report

BY BOB MYRICK, TACOMA WHEELMEN BICYCLE CLUB AND COALITION MEMBER

Our committee met August 3 at the Harvester Restaurant in Stadium District.

A new and improved bike map may be in the works now that Pierce County personnel had to destroy more than 10,000 copies of the popular Pierce County Bike Map due to a recent claim against the County and its Public Works Department. While almost every road is a bike road, the map is created in order to direct cyclists to safer and quieter routes, helping keep cyclists off busy arterials. Apparently, a local attorney claimed the bike map led a cyclist to a local road where there was a non-standard storm sewer grate, and she was severely injured when she hit the raised asphalt curb that had been installed to direct storm water into the grate. The raised curb appeared to be located far away from the white, painted fog line where we would normally ride on the shoulder. This is a very unfortunate situation in that the County risk managers are trying to limit liability from claims. At the same time, we all know this action will result in cyclists being on busy arterials with no proper bike amenity like a wide shared lane, a fog line shoulder or a bike lane. TWBC is now working with Bicycle Alliance of Washington for a new State law to waive tort liability for bike maps and signage.

You may have read about the crisis at the Sprinker Center and the need to save the ice rink. The County Council is studying the creation of a new Park District. Unfortunately, only about $2 million of the funding would be scheduled for completing the Foothills Trail to Buckley. We have been working with the Foothills Coalition and ForeverGreen Council to get a more proper allotment for county trails. We think $10 to $12 million should be programmed for trails if a bond issue comes about. Most of the trails are scheduled to be built by local communities. We identified trails that help link together a system in our urban growth area and trails that have already had feasibility studies completed, like the Eatonville system and the Ashford-Elbe trail.

Tacoma has completed a trail design workshop on the Prairie Line Trail (See page 4). The trail goes through the University of Washington-Tacoma campus and comes up from the Esplanade to eventually connect somehow to the Scott Pierson and Waterditch trails. The workshop will have focused on needs through the campus area. The City is applying for funds for phase 1.

Finally, TWBC sponsored a Green Drinks event at Wildside Wine shop on August 5. We had a great event thanks to Carol Davis, and the cost was minimal. Green Drinks is a mostly monthly event sponsored by various environmental groups throughout the county, and it is known mostly for networking and conversation. TWBC has been asked to contribute about $200 to a special reception on October 22 at the Washington State History Museum during the Washington State Trails Coalition Conference “From Backyard to Backcountry and the Trail Between.” For more information and to sign up, check www.washingtonstatetrailscoalition.org.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 7 at 6pm at the Harvester Restaurant in Stadium District. All TWBC members are invited to join in the conversation. I hope to see you at the club meeting, committee meeting, or on the road before the rains start up. Ride more and worry less!

What people say behind your back is your standing in the community.

– Edgar W. Howe, U.S. editor and humorist, 1853-1937
Networking for Trails:

Prairie Line Trail
by John S. Selby, Coalition Board Member

On August 9 I attended a public presentation on conceptual plans for the Prairie Line Trail, given by Elliot Barnett and Diane Waitr (City of Tacoma) and Ben Mauk (UW Tacoma). The two parties have been cooperating for years to convert the abandoned BNSF right-of-way to a non-motorized trail through the UW Tacoma campus to the Thea Foss Waterway. They are now seeking funding sources, which, if granted in July of next year, would be used in a two-year construction project to complete the first phase of the project. Phase I is from Dock Street, up the curved 15th St. ramp and Hood Street adjacent to the Tacoma Art Museum, and through the UW Tacoma campus to 21st Street, the southern boundary of the campus. The pedestrian

Continued on Page 9
Active Transportation Report

by Dixie Gatchel, Coalition AT Coordinator

Love trails? If so, don’t miss the Washington State Trail Coalition biennial conference at the LaQuinta Hotel in Tacoma on October 22-23 with the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition as host. The early-bird fee of $99 per person covers everything for the two day event, including meals, sessions, field trips and a walking tour and reception at the Washington State History Museum on Friday night. September 22 is the cutoff date for the reduced fee. The complete program and registration form is available at: www.w-s-t-c.org. Track II of the program covers our “burn calories not carbon” campaign in three sessions: Making the Case for Active Transportation; Partnering for Power; and Finding the Funding for Trails. Panelists from Spokane, Seattle, Vancouver, Portland and Puyallup will share ideas, accomplishments, and dreams regarding the future on multi-modal options for safe and connected people-powered transportation.

For now, in these lovely dog-days of summer, it’s important for trail activists to continue pushing our congressional representatives to co-sponsor Oregon Representative Earl Blumenauer’s H.R. 4722, the “Active Community Transportation Act of 2010” (ACT Act). ACT is the direct result of Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) Campaign for Active Transportation which the Foothills Coalition has been participating in for three years. If ACT passes, the U.S. Department of Transportation will set aside $2 billion within the Surface Transportation Program for building safe, integrated networks for pedestrian and cycling access to public transit and places we work, live, play, learn and shop without needing a car. If your representative is one of the holdouts, please encourage him or her to co-sponsor this very important legislation. For sample letters and further information, log onto: www.railstotrails.org and click on “ACT Act Gains Momentum.”

Want to have your say on the resolution of the long delayed completion of the South Prairie and Buckley segments of the Foothills Trail? If so, be on hand at the Pierce County Community Development Committee meeting on September 20. At a prior meeting on June 21, the decision was to give Pierce County Parks and the property owner, Dwight Partin, “one last shot” at negotiating an amiable property deal for purchase before recommending that the Pierce County Council commence condemnation proceedings. For great insight into the issues go to the Pierce County internet site at www.co.pierce.wa.us and find the June 21 community development committee meeting. Hope springs eternal!

Did you attend the dedication of Puyallup’s new Shaw Road Extension overpass on August 21? It’s an impressive structure and should divert a lot of motorized travel from heavily-used Meridian. I’m forever hopeful that due concern in this dangerous area was given for the safety of walkers and cyclists heading for the Foothills Trail or the Puyallup Riverwalk along Pioneer Way or East Main during implementation. Time will tell.

There’s a lot going on this fall, so please make a difference – get involved! Sign up for a 3-hour shift at our Foothills Coalition Puyallup Fair booth on-line at www.piercecountytrails.org. Also, please don’t forget to admire our exhibit in the display case at the Puyallup Library during the month of September. Happy Trails!
Could our founders have envisioned the eventual scope of this undertaking? Not to mention, the Courtesy Patrol also services special event invitations. The word “maintenance” in our current mission statement is very significant.

To set our Courtesy Patrol goals correctly, we must entertain a number of issues, such as what trails we will serve; whether or not to expand the certification program (to include first aid, CPR, traffic control, auto parking, etc., or leave it status quo to minimize legal exposure;) and whether or not to implement a certification fee to those outside a specific region to offset our costs and develop the Courtesy Patrol as a fund raiser since we have numerous requests from outside Pierce County for Coalition membership and Courtesy Patrol certification.

In addition, we must answer a number of questions. Since we have initiated the first known Courtesy Patrol Certification Program and graduation in the state, do we progress through growth, or hold status quo fulfilling our own needs? How much volunteer time are Courtesy Patrol members willing or able to contribute as trail connections and expansion continues? Will this force the escalation of recruiting and certification? Finally, is the following board-approved vision adequate: “Courtesy Patrol vision is to foster a positive impact through practical “courtesy” and visible patrol and serve as ready volunteer pool for the FRTTC events/happenings and partnership with Pierce County Parks and Recreation”

It’s very apparent that Dr. Ernie Bay and Jan Wolcott consulted the past many times during the last 20 years to get us where we are today, with beautiful trail and streams, while Mt. Rainier looms in the distance. Their past has given us our future!
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:
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 Mrs. Turner’s Restaurant, 701 E. Main, Puyallup.
*call prior to confirm in case of cancellation.
Ernie Bay 253-848-7718 bugtrail@aol.com
Bob Kastama 253-435-1637 kastamaq@gmail.com
Puyallup City Parks 253-841-5447

Washington State Trails Coalition Biennial Meeting: October 22-24, 2010
Details at http://www.washingtonstatetrailcoalition.org/index.html Hosted by the Foothills Trail Coalition and ForeverGreen. If you would like to help in planning, contact Ernie Bay at 253-273-5449.

Events:

Work Parties: Sept. 12, Oct. 9, and Nov. 6
Generally held on Saturdays as announced by email. Call Don Partington at 253-863-5307 to get on his distribution list or email him at cedarfamily@comcast.net. For work party details please visit our website at http://www.piercecountytrails.org/events.php.

South Prairie Salmon Run: The 5th annual South Prairie Salmon Run is being held September 25 at the Trailside Expresso. Races include 10K run (Chinook), 5K run (Coho), 3k/5k Walks (Sockeye), and the Kids (Minnow) fun run. Registration begins at 7:30 am and the races start at 9 am. You can access the registration form through the Rails-to-Trails Coalition newsletter or at SOUTHPRAIRIE.SALMONRUN@GMAIL.COM. After the race, a wonderful salmon lunch is served up by Capt Mike Inglin, owner of the Trailside Expresso, and the Town of South Prairie for a minimal donation. We look forward to seeing you there.
Hitching Post  
by Jeanette Fohn

WANTED: Equestrian To Serve as a Board Member

Hello Equestrians!

Do you ride or hope to ride on our trail? Do you have ideas about how to make the trail safer and more enjoyable for horses?

Currently I am the only board member that is an equestrian. Unfortunately, my current commitments prevent me from continuing in this very important role.

The coalition board is composed of very dedicated and passionate people. They are very supportive of equestrians on the trail, but really do not know what our needs are. We need to unite, attend meetings, volunteer for work parties, and educate other users on how to be safe around horses. Please contact me at JeanetteFohn@msn.com or the president, Buzz Grant, at railroadbuzz@q.com or 253-845-4991 if you are willing and able to help out.

Here are just a few reminders for equestrians and other trail users when they see horses on the trail.

Equestrians

1. We are guests on the trail. Be respectful of other users. Be aware they may not be educated on how to approach horses safely.

2. Many towns and cities do not allow horses within city limits, for example Puyallup and Buckley. Make sure you know the laws for your section of the trail.

3. There are very narrow sections adjacent to the paved path. Please make sure your horse is well trained and safe around bikers, skaters, dogs, children, etc.

4. Clean up your manure if it lands on pavement! It is unsightly and possibly unsafe to cyclists. Stay on the dirt as much as possible so that manure will not be a problem. If that sounds difficult, consider getting a “manure bag” that attaches to the horses tail.

5. Please wear a helmet for your own safety.

6. Have fun and enjoy this wonderful resource!

7. Get involved! Join the coalition, attend meetings, serve as a board member, join work parties, and write articles. Let’s try to make the trail wider, safer, and more user friendly for horses!

Happy Trails!

---

Bikers, Walkers, Skaters, etc.:

1. Slow down when approaching horses, especially from behind.

2. Give an audible sound (“approaching on your left” or a friendly “hello, are your horses ok to pass?”) so they know you are there.

3. Contain dogs (they must be on leash) and children. Most equestrians will be happy to let you pet their animals if you ask. Walk slowly and approach from the front and slightly to the side. Never approach a horse from the back!

4. Make sure you swing wide and give the horses lots of room. There are many narrow areas for the dirt shoulder. Sometimes on the left and sometimes on the right. The horses will probably be on whatever side is widest.

5. Please yield to horses on bridges. Stop on your side of the bridge and wait for the horses to pass. This is for your own safety. Bridges can be very scary and slippery for horses! They may decide to jump on top of you if they get frightened!
walkway on the 15th St. ramp would be widened to better accommodate bicycles, and Hood Street would be moved away from the TAM to allow for a wider trail next to the museum.

Phase II would develop the trail from 21st Street south to connect with Tacoma’s Water Ditch Trail. They have also applied for a Transportation Enhancements grant for Preliminary Engineering for the entire trail. Diane expects to receive funding for this, so they should be in a nice position for construction grants in the future.
Membership makes a difference!
The work we are doing is made possible because of your generous support. Credit cards accepted.

Email: ____________________________ Signature: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________  Zip: ____________________________
CITY: ____________________________  Address: ____________________________
Name: ____________________________  No.: ____________________________
No.: ____________________________  Exp.: ____________________________
Charge my: □ Visa  □ Mastercard

Mark your categories,

Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition
P.O. Box 192,
Puyallup, WA 98371-0021

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.

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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Return Service Request