Riders' Roundup



South Coast members ready to head out to clear trails at the horse camp at Bullards State Park.

VP of Field Services — End of Season Reflections

Appreciating OET Members' Spirit

As another year draws to a close and the last golden leaves fall from the trees, I find myself reflecting on all that we've accomplished together. This season always reminds me that Oregon Equestrian Trails is more than an organization—it's a community built on shared passion, hard work, and love for the land we ride.

Across the state, volunteers have given countless hours to maintain, repair, and improve our horse camps and trails. Whether hauling tools, clearing branches, pounding posts, or simply lending a hand to a fellow rider, your efforts make it possible for others to enjoy the freedom and beauty of Oregon's backcountry. Each of you contributes in your own way, and together, you keep our trails open, safe, and welcoming for generations to come.

It's easy to forget how much work goes into a single mile of trail until you've done it yourself—the early mornings, the heavy loads, the unpredictable weather, and the endless details that make a camp or trail usable. Yet, despite the challenges, you show up. You show up with determination, good humor, and that quiet sense of purpose that defines the OET spirit.

So as the year winds down and we gather with friends and family, I want to extend my sincere thanks to every one of you who made a difference this year. Your dedication sustains our mission and inspires others to get involved. You are the reason our trails remain places of joy, connection, and adventure.

May this season bring you rest, gratitude, and the satisfaction of knowing your work truly matters. I look forward to the trails we'll ride and the memories we'll make together in the year ahead.

Happy Trails! Matt Dolphin

November-December 2025

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Riders' Roundup

A monthly publication from Oregon Equestrian Trails, a non-profit trail and horse camp organization.

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President Frank DeWeese



Most of you know by now that I have decided to conclude my time as president this year. I have been honored to serve in this role for the past seven years, and it is encouraging to see the positive changes taking place.

Our marketing team, led by Collette, has increased new membership numbers, reversing the previous trend. Our public lands team, led by Kim, is keeping us engaged in state and local decision-making and guiding us to have greater impact for equestrians. Matt, as VP of Field Services, has successfully led trail-clearing work parties at Quinn Meadow Horse Camp for multiple years in a row. He continues to promote volunteer safety and accurate hours reporting while representing OET with our agency partners.

Our chapters are increasingly using external grants and hiring contractors to complete larger projects. OET has partnered with several agencies to upgrade to metal corrals at many campgrounds across the state. With increased income from grants and other sources, we created a finance committee that implemented enhanced chapter financial reporting, making proper tax reporting possible.

These are just a few of the exciting developments within OET. I expect even more positive results from your state officers going forward. The team in place is truly cantering on all hooves.

I will still be around. As past president, I will continue participating in board meetings for a couple more years. I also plan to join work parties and support our West Valley Chapter. I look forward to an exciting and productive year for OET in 2026. Thank you for all you do—you always make me proud.

The annual membership meeting will be held on February 21 at Roth's Fresh Market in Salem. Please plan to attend and welcome your 2026 board members. Your presence alone will help make it an amazing meeting.

Stay safe and stay healthy. I hope to see you out on the trail or in a horse camp.

Attend November OET Board Meeting

Saturday Saturday Nov. 22, 10AM
Oregon City Library. 606 John Adams St., Oregon City

Online via Google Meet

Meeting ID meet.google.com/wpv-pkvs-xxm
Phone Number: 1-208-741-3899
Pin: 414 831 267#

The views and opinions expressed by our members and contributing authors to *Riders' Roundup* may be personal and may not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Oregon Equestrian Trails as a whole.

VP of Public Lands
Kim McCarrel



We have several public lands issues on the table right now, but there aren't any new developments to report. Maybe that's because of the government shutdown. I don't know. In any case, I don't have any pressing issues to regale you with this month.

Instead, let's revel for a few minutes in the successes the Roseburg and Central Oregon chapters have had in creating new riding opportunities for all of us.

Kelsay Valley

This beautiful area, located about 75 miles east of Roseburg and near Crater Lake National Park, features the delightful Kelsay Valley Horse Camp and many miles of lovely trails both inside and outside the Mt. Thielsen Wilderness. But in recent years, the trails have been hard hit by three forest fires and a couple of severe winter storms that have caused thousands of trees to fall across the trails, rendering them impassible. OET's Roseburg chapter applied for a Recreational Trails Program grant, asking for funding to hire youth corps and veterans crews to help clear 50 miles of trail. That's a lot of trail! The youth crew completed three weeks of work this summer and fall, making huge strides in clearing the trails. They'll be back again next year to log out the rest of the trails. Roseburg chapter reports that usage of Kelsay Valley horse camp has already increased because of the trail clearing. So make your summer camping reservations at Kelsay Valley early and enjoy the fabulous trails.

Cline Buttes

The Central Oregon chapter had many work parties in the past year to install signs on the existing trails and roads in the Cline Buttes area. This year-round riding area, located between Bend, Redmond, and Sisters, features four equestrian trailheads and offers more than 60 miles of trails where horses and bikes are entirely separated. Until now, you had to wander around to find your way along the trails. That can be its own kind of fun, but most people prefer a few signs along the way to help them if they get turned around. There's no camping at Cline Buttes, but the easy trails offer relaxing riding opportunities and some stunning mountain views. If you're coming to or passing through Central Oregon, consider taking a day or two to explore the Cline Buttes trails.

Corral Flat

The Central Oregon chapter is currently working on signing 60 miles of trails used for the Bandit Springs endurance ride in the Ochoco National Forest. It took chapter representatives 15 years to convince the Forest Service to make these trails into official "system" trails so they could be signed. (The trails have existed on the ground and have been used for the Bandit Springs ride for something like 40 years, but the Forest Service viewed them as "permitted" trails, which aren't eligible to be permanently signed.) You can camp for free at Corral Flat, a mostly flat area adjacent to a big meadow. It has no toilets, no water, and no corrals, so you'll have to bring your own amenities. But it offers giant ponderosa pines that are ideal for high-lining, or you can bring a portable corral. The riding is fabulous, with easy loop trails of various lengths that showcase the open ponderosa forest, lush grass, and verdant meadows of the area. You can get directions by Googling "Corral Flat, Oregon." Detailed trail maps should be available online by next spring.

Sisters Area

The Sisters Ranger District hasn't approved any new trails for over 10 years, so their approval of nearly 70 miles of new or realigned trails a month ago was a big deal. The plan included new bike trails (including a new downhill trail that will get bikes off the Met-Win Trail between Three Creek Meadow and Sisters—yay!), new hiking trails in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness, and miles of new equestrian trails out of Sisters Cow Camp and Whispering Pine Horse Camp. (The Forest Service heard us loud and clear when we told them it was a shame to have a horse camp as nice as Whispering Pine that had no official trails nearby. That's right: zero, zilch, nada. And Sisters Cow Camp only had two official trails out of the camp. Sure, you could ride the surrounding forest roads, but you had to know your way around.) Anyway, the Forest Service heard our argument that equestrians, especially those from out of the area, want trails that radiate out in about a five to seven mile radius from horse camps to create ten to fifteen mile loops. Thanks to the tireless work of Central Oregon's Pat Marquis, the Forest Service saw the light and approved miles of new equestrian trails. Many of the trails run on existing dirt forest roads, with short segments of single-track connecting the roads to form loops. The connecting single-track trails will be built in the next year or two, with route signage included so you can find your way around.

The Central Oregon chapter campaigned for these latter three projects for years, and their diligence and persistence has paid off. Likewise, Roseburg chapter has been working hard to get the approvals they need from the land manager. Both chapters have gotten grants to help fund the projects, and their volunteers have stepped up to make their trail dreams come to life. So make plans next summer to enjoy the new trails in the Cline Buttes, Corral Flat, Sisters Cow Camp, and Whispering Pine areas.

I hope to see you on the trails!

VP Marketing Outreach
Collette Hayes



Hello OET'ers!

What are your chapter's big plans this coming year? What will be your membership drive plan? Pull me in if you would like me to help — I will be happy to join in! I usually have some goodies to entice both new and returning members.

Thank you to everyone who works hard to keep OET at the forefront.

Happy Holidays! The new year will be here before we know it. In 2026, we'll be at the Oregon State Fair. Also, don't forget to purchase a raffle ticket for our Annual Meeting Fund Drive. If you'd like hard-copy tickets to sell, please contact me.

Tickets can also be purchased on our website: www.oregonequestriantrails.org/product/raffle-tickets/

SAVE THE DATE:
Annual Membership Meeting
February 21, 2026.

New guidebooks
will be updated & printed in
January 2026.

The Backbone of OET: Officers Keep Us Strong

Chapter Officers play a crucial role in the success of Oregon Equestrian Trails. Without our dedicated officers, we wouldn't have the leadership needed to accomplish our goals.

We Need Your Support Now!

We're calling on you to step up and take on officer positions. It's not fair to expect the same few individuals to shoulder the chapter's responsibilities year after year.

We all face challenges and have commitments outside of OET. Our reasons for joining may vary, but we all share the camaraderie of riding buddies, engaging events, and a wealth of resources.

Can you spare a couple of hours each month?

I often hear members say, "I don't want to get roped into anything." Remember - you're already part of this community. The only question is how much do you want to contribute, and that's entirely up to you, no matter what position you take.

Please consider stepping forward.

Currently, we risk having to dissolve our West Valley Chapter because the Chapter Chair is interested in becoming our new OET President. Since, these are two board positions, an individual can hold only one.

We encourage you to connect with your officers to discuss the vital roles they play and why their contributions matter. Don't hesitate to reach out to your state officers as well.





Renew your OET 2026 Membership Now!

The printed *Riders' Roundup* will cost $28 for the year.

Renew at
www.oregonequestriantrails.org/membership/registration/

Tech Corner — Renewing Your OET Membership Online: It's Safe and Easy!

By Marty DeVall, OET Web Master

As many of you know, OET now offers a convenient way to renew your membership and pay your dues right from our website. We know that using your credit card online can feel a little bit uncertain, and we want to help you feel confident and secure when you do. This article will explain exactly how our online payment system works and what you can do to make sure your information is safe. You'll be happy to know that paying your dues online is one of the safest and quickest ways to support OET.

Why Pay Online?

Paying your dues online is a wonderful way to save yourself a stamp and a trip to the mailbox! It also helps our volunteer treasurers a great deal by instantly recording your payment, which makes their job much easier. It's a quick, easy, and modern way to support OET, and it allows us to receive your membership renewal instantly so you can stay a valued member of the herd.

How Our Online Payment System Works

Our website, **www.oregonequestriantrails.org**, uses a special system to handle payments. When you enter your payment information on the membership form page, https://oregonequestriantrails.org/membership/registration/, it is not stored on our website. Instead, your credit card details are immediately sent through a secure, protected digital pathway directly to **PayPal**, a company that specializes in handling online payments for millions of businesses around the world.

Think of it like this: Our website is like a simple mailbox where you drop off your payment details. But the credit card information is sealed in a special, invisible envelope that only PayPal can open. That envelope is then instantly sent to PayPal's highly secure payment center. **This means that your sensitive credit card number never sits on our website's computers, and no one at OET ever sees or stores it.** This is a very common and trusted method used by countless websites because it puts your payment information in the hands of a global leader in online security, not a small non-profit like us.

Three Simple Steps for a Safe Payment

You have the power to protect yourself with a few simple checks.

1. **Look for the Padlock.** Before you enter any information, always look at the address bar at the very top of your web browser. You should see a small padlock icon () right next to the website address. This padlock is your best friend when paying online. It means the website has built a secure, encrypted tunnel for your information to travel through, protecting it from prying eyes. You should also see the website address start with https:// instead of just http://.
2. **Check the Website Address.** Take a moment to make sure you are on the official OET website: **www.oregonequestriantrails.org**. Scammers sometimes create fake websites that look almost identical to the real one, but they might have a slightly different web address (for example, oregon-trails.org). To be extra safe, you can even save the correct link in your browser's "Favorites" or "Bookmarks" to make sure you always go to the right place.
3. **Complete Your Payment with Confidence.** Once you have entered your information on our membership page and click the "Pay Now" button, our system sends your data directly to PayPal for processing. You will then be safely taken to a PayPal screen to finish your payment. Follow the steps there to complete your transaction. If you see the padlock icon and the correct web address, you can feel confident that your payment is being processed safely and securely.

Do I Need a PayPal Account?

Many people wonder if they need a PayPal account to pay. The answer is **no!** PayPal allows you to pay with a credit or debit card without needing to sign up for an account. Just look for the option to **"Pay with Debit or Credit Card"** on the payment screen. It's that simple!

Tips for Keeping Your Payment Safe

- **Use a Secure Wi-Fi Connection:** Avoid making payments over public Wi-Fi networks, like those at a coffee shop or a library. These networks can sometimes be less secure and leave your information exposed. It's always best to use your secure home Wi-Fi or your cellular data connection (if you're on a phone).
- **Keep Your Browser and Computer Updated:** Make sure your web browser (like Chrome, Edge, or Firefox) and your computer's security software are always up-to-date. These updates often include important security improvements that protect you from online threats.
- **Pay from a Trusted Device:** Only use your own personal computer, tablet, or smartphone to make payments. Never use a friend's PC or Smartphone and always avoid using public or shared computers, as you don't know what kind of software they might have.

By taking these simple steps, you can feel completely at ease paying your OET dues online. You'll be able to renew your membership in just a few minutes and get back to what you love—hitting the trail!

If you ever have any questions or feel uncertain, please don't hesitate to reach out to our OET Membership Committee at membership@oregonequestriantrails.org. We are here to help you every step of the way!

Renew today at: https://oregonequestriantrails.org/membership/registration/

2025 Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Chapter	Event	Location	Information
November					
1 Nov		North Coast	Ride	Fort Stevens State Park, Hammond	Time TBD, weather dependent. northcoast@myoet.org
3 Nov	6:00PM - 7:00PM	State	Meeting	Virtual. Google Meets or call in to 601-688-3254 PIN 290189192#	OET Field Service/Public Lands Call. https://meet.google.com/swn-imhr-ioz
15 Nov		Mid-Valley	Ride	Elijah Bristow State Park, Pleasant Hill	Fun Ride and Potluck. midvalley@myoet.org
15 Nov	12:00PM - 4:00PM	Northwest	Special	Springhill Farms 415 SW Vandehey Rd	Bring your horses and play in the indoor arena and round pen. All are welcome! Park along the road at the front of the house -do not block vehicles in the driveway please.
19-Nov	10:00AM - 1:00PM	Mt. Hood	Ride	Sandy River Delta https://maps.app.goo.gl/YLGsQksZcXwyjw7x5	Foot in stirrup by 10:00 AM. Lunch to follow. Bring lunch and a chair. Contact Sara Faulkner, (971) 274-6516
22 Nov	10:15AM - 2:00PM	State	Meeting	Oregon City Library 606 John Adams St. Oregon City	Q4 2025 Board Meeting. Everyone Welcome! Meeting available virtually.
December					
1 Dec	6:00PM - 7:00PM	State	Meeting	Virtual. Google Meets or call in to 601-688-3254 PIN 290189192#	OET Field Service/Public Lands Call. https://meet.google.com/swn-imhr-ioz
2 Dec	5:30PM - 8:00PM	North Valley	Party	Tamarind Ranch 19665 S. Lyons Rd Oregon City	Holiday Celebration!
2 Dec	5:30PM - 8:00PM	Central Oregon	Party	Pleasant Ridge Hall 7067 SW Canal Redmond	Christmas Party! Info: Gayla centraloregon@myoet.org Silent auction, canned food drive for people and critters.
4 Dec	6:00PM	West Valley	Party	American Legion Hall 126 NE Atlantic McMinnville	Christmas Party! Questions: westvalley@myoet.org oy drive, white elephant gift exchange plus potluck, turkey dinner
6 Dec	4:00PM	Roseburg	Party	Lynda's House 1160 Brockway Rd Winston	Holiday Celebration!
6 Dec		Mid-Valley	Ride	Oregon Horse Center	Mt Trail fun ride. Ride then tea/cookies Reservations needed

6 Dec	5:30PM - 7:30PM	Eugene	Party	Sizzler Gateway Eugene	Holiday Celebration! Gifts for Charity! Raffle Prizes! Games!
10 Dec	6:00PM - 7:00PM	Mid-Valley	Party	Sizzler 2148 Santiam Hwy SE Albany	Join the chapter for a holiday celebration!
11 Dec	6:00PM - 7:00PM	Mt. Hood	Party	Gresham Golf Course, 2155 NE Division St, Gresham 97030	Join the chapter for a holiday celebration!
13 Dec		North Coast	Party		
15 Dec	6:00PM	North West	Party	Prime Time 4450 Pacific Ave. Forest Grove	No host dinner, dessert provided, gift exchange and Toy Drive
17 Dec	6:30PM - 8:00PM	South Coast	Party	Dave's 740 Kooz Bay Blvd Coos Bay	Holiday Celebration!
17 Dec	10:00AM - 1:00PM	Mt. Hood	Ride	Sandy River Delta https://maps.app.goo.gl/YLGsQksZcXwyjw7x5	Foot in stirrup by 10:00 AM. Lunch to follow. Bring lunch and a chair. Contact Sara Faulkner, (971) 274-6516
January 2026					
1 Jan		Mid-Valley	Ride	McDonald Forest Peavy Arboretum	Fun Ride and lunch at Restaurant midvalley@myoet.org
1 Jan	11:00AM - 12:00PM	Eugene	Ride	Elijah Bristow State Park, Near Eugene, Dexter	Come ride! We will have a warming fire and hot chocolate from 10Am til 1PM at Equestrian Pavilion.
21 Jan	10:00AM - 1:00PM	Mt. Hood	Ride	https://maps.app.goo.gl/YLGsQksZcXwyjw7x5	Ride the trails and fields at the Sandy River Delta/Thousand Acres. Foot in stirrup 10:00 AM. Bring lunch and a chair. Contact Sara Faulkner, (971) 274-6516
February					
18-Feb	10:00AM - 1:00PM	Mt. Hood	Ride	https://maps.app.goo.gl/YLGsQksZcXwyjw7x5	Ride the trails and fields at the Sandy River Delta/Thousand Acres. Foot in stirrup 10:00 AM. Bring lunch and a chair. Contact Sara Faulkner, (971) 274-6516
21-Feb	10:00AM - 6:00PM	State	Meeting	Roth's Fresh Markets 1130 Wallace Rd NW, Salem	All membership meeting. Continental breakfast, lunch and dinner! Bar 4pm.
22-Feb	10:00AM - 4:00PM	State	Meeting	Roth's Fresh Catering 1130 Wallace Rd NW, Salem	Q1 2026 Board Meeting. Everyone Welcome! Meeting available virtually.

Please visit OregonEquestrianTrails.org/calendar for more details of scheduled Events.

East Eagle; A High Value Pack Trip

By Carol Miller, Roseburg Chapter

Things that require a lot of effort have more value. Our pack trip up East Eagle Creek in the Wallowa Mountains had lots of value.

We invited dozens of people to join us. Fortunately for them, they all said no. Hiking alone behind our pack mules held little appeal for me, so when Kyle found a been-there-done-that, little riding mule for sale, we added Pedro to our remuda. On a trial ride around the pasture, I discovered that when stung by a bee, even rock-solid mules buck.



Carol resting and enjoying a late lunch at Moon Lake in the Wallowa Mountains.

Our mules' hooves are tough enough to go barefoot on the rugged Wallowa Mountains granite; not so our borrowed horse, Blue. The night before leaving, Blue lost a shoe. Not good. Because our trailer's running lights shorted out over the Labor Day weekend, we left at dawn. As we rumbled north, Kyle mused, "I could probably tack that shoe back on." Unfortunately, the shoe was sitting in our pasture. At the next exit, we turned back. Our 10+ hour trip just lengthened by 40 minutes.

Turning southeast at LaGrande, freeway turned to highway, to back road, to one-lane gravel – 30 miles of gravel. To prevent the transmission from overheating while pulling our heavily loaded horse trailer up the long grade, Kyle shifted into low-range four-wheel drive. At Conundrum Creek, we pulled over to cool the transmission and puzzle over whether or not we were lost. A half hour later, Kyle waved a local down. The man assured us that we were on the right road, but the downgrade ahead was six miles of one gnarly road.

Lumbering along at 5 miles per hour, we had plenty of time to stare over the drop-off and wonder just how far it was to the bottom we couldn't see. Once we reached Eagle Creek, we were able to cruise at a thrilling 15 miles per hour!

Arriving at the trailhead with an hour of dwindling daylight, we stared in dismay at rotting, broken-down corrals. Not wanting to leave the animals tied to the sharp-edged trailer, Kyle quickly set up a high-line while I laid sleeping bags on cots. It was fully dark by the time the stock was watered and secured to the high-line. With no rain predicted, we decided to sleep under the stars. That worked great until 11:00 PM, when we awoke to huge drops pelting us. Pulling our beds under a thick tree (closer to noisily munching mules), we resumed our rest. Attempting to get comfortable, my wriggling caused the head of my cot to collapse. Fortunately, my Knight in Shining Long Johns rescued me. At midnight, a tree came crashing down, triggering a rockslide. That sort of thing is difficult to sleep through. Too tired to worry, we snoozed until a ruckus by the animals jerked us wide awake and running.

The mules' high-line had come loose; we had four giant fish on the line. Of course, Kyle's headlamp was nowhere to be found, so I held a flashlight while Kyle frantically freed the animals before they injured themselves. For our mule Jesse, he was too late. A rubbed raw hock shone white in the glaring light. Kyle groaned in despair, "This means our trip is over." After the animals were recaptured and secured to the trailer, we attempted to rest once more.

By the light of day, Jesse, although clearly injured, did not seem unduly bothered by it. Deciding to go for it, Kyle methodically tacked on Blue's shoe, saddled, and packed. After our tumultuous night, Kyle declared, "There is no hurry left in me." Although we did not hit the trail until 12:30 PM, we weren't worried; if all went well, we could easily cover the eight miles to the campsite in three hours. All did not go well.

My experienced little mule confidently took the lead. It was obvious Pedro had ridden this trail before. I was grateful not to be in the back when we stirred up a wasps' nest. Jesse, in the back, was not so grateful. Kyle reattached the breakaway line, and we soon reached the hiker's trailhead. Behind the sign, a steep trail went straight up the hill. I self-confidently followed the trail until it petered out, trapping us in a snarl of thick timber and downed trees. Maybe I should have read the guidebook's directions more carefully. We got off, let the mules loose, then Kyle led the horse back to the hiker trailhead while the mules picked their way out of the mess.

Foolishly, Kyle let me take the lead again. The instructions directed us to take an easily followed jeep road. It was a little too easy to follow. After we realized we were traveling the wrong way on the wrong side of the creek, we again retraced our steps. Watching carefully, we concluded that a dilapidated sign that might have once said, "Pack it in, pack it out," was located at the beginning of our elusive trail. Trail signs are apparently considered unnecessary in this less-used part of the Eagle Cap Wilderness.



Kyle Miller happily doing dishes. We had to wrap our campsite in hot wire to keep the marauding mules and nosy horse out.

The trail was easy to follow — much of the time. Again and again, I hopped off my little steed searching for the correct route. Just as frequently, Kyle hopped off Blue to retie Jesse's breakaway line. When we reached a massive landslide of basketball-sized boulders, things looked grim. Kyle held the stock while I searched for a route feasible for hooved animals. At last, down near the end of the slide, just above the creek ravine, I found a possibility. Now the tricky part was working our way back up through the alder trees to the trail.

We were exceedingly grateful someone had cleared the first seven miles of the trail. The uncleared last mile was a very long mile. Pedro obstinately made it clear that he was done, so we got off and led our mounts until Kyle decided he, too, was done. The tilted meadow had plenty of feed and promised an ample supply of bugs, but sleeping at a slant is no fun. Once again, I left Kyle with the critters and searched. Our guidebooks extolled a campsite at the Frasier and Horner Passes trail junction. Joy of joys, only 1/3 mile and one stretch of horse-sucking boggy ground ahead was a very nice (and flat) campsite.

Spending six hours on a three-hour ride left us with one hour of dwindling daylight. We scrambled to set up camp before dark. Too tired to enjoy a campfire, we were in bed before 8:30 PM.

Day two was our designated rest day. Although necessary, letting the horse and mules loose to graze doesn't always go well. After Blue drank our hand-washing tub dry, we ringed our camp with fake hot wire. We leisurely fortified ourselves with fluffy pancakes slathered with peanut butter and topped with reconstituted fruit leather laced with brown sugar, then headed back down the trail to clear the four log jams with a one-man misery whip saw. Kyle is one tough old coot. When a huge stump with large broken roots had us stymied, Kyle grabbed a 15-foot log to use as a pry bar. While we grunted and heaved, I mused this was not quite the restful morning I had envisioned. Then Kyle sagely pointed out, "Things that are hard are far more valued."

The afternoon found us sweltering over the two-mile, 1,200-foot ascent to Moon and Hidden Lakes at 7,300 feet. A thunderstorm pinned us down at Hidden Lake, so instead of fishing, Kyle napped while I wrote and occasionally peered through the curtain of rain, trying to see the lake. By 4:00 PM, it cleared, allowing us to stagger the three miles back to camp. Once again, that last mile was one long mile, and we arrived with only an hour of dwindling daylight. Again, we were too tired to enjoy a campfire. We crawled into the tent and listened Eagle Creek rushing noisily past us with undertones resembling a jet flying nonstop overhead. I thought about all the people who turned down this terrific trip. You just can't get good servants these days.

Day three was climb day. The achievable goal was to hike four miles from our 6,500-foot campsite to 8,500-foot Horton Pass. The dream was to continue another two miles to the 9,572-foot Eagle Cap summit. When we arrived at Horton Pass at 11:30 AM, we looked at each other and cheered, rested, then resumed climbing.

Non-technical mountains like Eagle Cap are just a matter of taking it one step at a time. It's just a lot of steps. After having seen nobody for three days, we enjoyed chatting with the climbers coming in from the Two Pan trailhead to the north. The East Lostine is a very popular trail that is almost as magnificent as the one we came in on. Most people do the trip in two days, but one lithe trail runner drove 3½ hours from Moscow, Idaho, then ran up and down the mountain in one day. Another wiry woman had backpacked into Mirror Lake and, at age 76, was climbing the mountain. Her knees were complaining vociferously, but she chirped cheerfully, "Use it, or lose it!"

After a late lunch on the mountain top spent peering at the view through thickening forest fire smoke, we resumed hiking. Six miles to the summit was no problem; the difficulty was that we now had no choice but to hike another six miles back. Because there was no hurry left in us, we arrived at camp with an hour of dwindling daylight. Without a doubt, this pack trip had lots of value.



Alpine cliffs encircle the headwaters of East Eagle Creek on the south side of the Wallowa Mountains.

Public Lands/Field Services Meeting Notes

October 2025

In attendance: Bianca Chevalier (South Coast), Della Webb (Eugene), Gloria Rice (Columbia County), Barbara Smith (Central OR), Cindy Albrecht (Silver Falls), Brett Branch (North Valley), Kim McCarrel (Public Lands)

Eugene

The Equestrian Friends of Mt. Pisgah is working with the County to improve/protect equestrian access to Mt. Pisgah. Ry Wagner is on the Parks Committee, and Sonja Majoram is on the Trails Committee. The County is proposing unrealistic requirements to improve 75 feet of tread that ices up in the winter. In other news, the chapter is moving its meeting to the EPUD building.

Columbia County

The chapter has built a new off-road trail as part of the 5-Mile Loop. They're getting great feedback about it. They're holding a Trick or Treat ride at Dibley Beach, and riders can collect candy as well as get prizes for the best costumes.

South Coast

The chapter's work party at Bullards Beach was postponed until October 15th because the ranger had a scheduling conflict with the original date. The chapter will have a presence at the upcoming Sheriff's Posse ride on the North Spit Trails. The North Spit trails are open but could use some clearing. Chapter members will work on it this winter.

Silver Falls

They're having a work party at Santiam Horse Camp on October 18th to close the camp, install longer lag screws on the chain gates, and reinforce the manure bin. ODF is creating three more "people" campsites at Santiam and would appreciate it if OET would publicize the horse camp and its need for a camp host. At Silver Falls State Park, the chapter has asked if any work is needed, but hasn't heard back.

North Valley

The chapter continues with general maintenance at McIver State Park. Mt. Hood chapter helped with some repairs around the McIver arena.

Central OR

The water was shut off at Cyrus Horse Camp in early October. Dry Creek Campground in the Ochocos is closed for at least a year for a vegetation management project. (In Forest Service-speak, that means they're thinning and brushing to reduce fire danger, and the public would risk injury from the heavy equipment used.) Mud Springs Campground in the Ochocos should be open next year, but the trails aren't in good shape because of a fire. Chapter volunteers are installing signs on the trails at Corral Flat in the Ochocos. They're celebrating the completion of a new horse trail at Cline Buttes, built by the Central Oregon Trails Alliance and paid for with a Recreational Trails Program grant. They're also starting work on a big project to create new trails in the Sisters area.

November 2025

In attendance: Ashley Lertora (North Coast), Gloria Rice (Columbia County), Cindy Albrecht (State Secretary and Silver Falls), Della Webb (Eugene), Kim McCarrel (VP Public Lands and Central OR), and Bonnie Depriest (Silver Falls)

Silver Falls

Conducted a work party on October 18th at Santiam Horse Camp focused on fixing chain gates for horse corrals and reinforcing a deteriorating manure bin using L brackets. Some chain gates remain unfinished — plan to complete next spring. Chapter approved ordering about $300 worth of quarter minus gravel, which a prison crew will distribute.

Recently completed officer appointments. Difficult to organize a Christmas party due to low interest among members; may forego the party this year. Considering an informal event, such as a bonfire, as an alternative.

North Coast

Preparations are underway to host open arena rides during winter (December through April). These open-arena rides are public, typically attract 1-12 riders, and serve as a recruitment tool for OET. A local vet matches donations for each rider, generating about $200-$225 per season. The arena is located at the County Fairgrounds on Highway 202.

Eugene

The Equine Friends of Mount Pisgah successfully engaged the county in hauling gravel with county equipment, improving trail maintenance. Awaiting report from the Watershed Council regarding proposals for trail management and invasive species control. Volunteers participated in trail mapping at Mildred Kanipe. Chapter Christmas party planned for December 6th at Sizzler in Eugene; will replace traditional white elephant gift exchange with donations to local charities (e.g., Bags of Love, Toys for Tots). New officer nominations announced; formal vote pending.

Continued next page...

RTP Grant

Kim is working on RTP grant with Roseburg and Eugene chapters to eradicate invasive species (blackberries and hawthorn) and poison oak along trails using mowing and herbicides.If the grant is awarded, they'll hire youth and veterans crews for trail clearing and a professional applicator for herbicide spraying. Recent volunteer trail mapping supported these efforts.

Central Oregon

Working to complete the signing of about half of the trails at Corral Flat before winter.Planning to test reflector trailblazer diamonds to improve trail visibility. Coordinating with Sisters Ranger District on a new trail project involving trail realignments and additions near Sisters Cow Camp and Whispering Pine Horse Camp. Organized work parties are underway to build trail segments to create loops. Plans for the Christmas party and officer elections are upcoming.

Columbia County

No trail work is ongoing currently. Can Drive fundraising has been highly successful, generating over $1,000. The holiday dinner includes a silent auction and raffle, being hosted at a restaurant that will return part of the proceeds. Working to finish the last two corrals at Camp Wilkerson, pending grant funding. Discussing strategies to hire local trail maintenance help due to an aging volunteer base. A recent successful trick-or-treat event and scavenger hunt raised over $500. They plan to split these events into summer (scavenger hunt) and fall (trick-or-treat) next year.

General Discussion

Discussion of upcoming meeting about horse camps with the ODF Forest Grove office; date not finalized, but local chapter attendance emphasized.

Next OET Public Lands/Field Services meeting scheduled for December 1st at 6 pm.

OPRD Leadership Honored

Reprinted from OPRD news alert

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Director Lisa Sumption received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of State Park Directors this month for her exemplary leadership and service to Oregon.

Sumption was nominated by staff, volunteers and partners for her steadfast and humble leadership and her constant focus on creating a strategic vision for OPRD that centers sustainable fiscal decisions, transparency, trust and welcoming.

The association surprised Director Sumption with the award at their annual conference earlier this month.

Ten years ago, Director Sumption became the first woman to lead Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) as its director. She guided the agency through multiple challenges ranging from the pandemic to historic wildfires. Recently, she launched a campaign to Reimagine Oregon State Parks to build a more sustainable financial future.

Oregon Equestrian Trails is proud to be a partner with Director Sumption and OPRD staff throughout Oregon.



Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Director Lisa Sumption

SOUTH WILLAMETTE VETERINARY CLINIC
Dr. Wes Violet
www.swvetclinic.com
255 Emerald Parkway, Creswell
(541)895-5665

Equine Harmony Connection
Reward Based Clicker Training
Mary Kautz
541 929-2457
www.EarthTreasureFarm.com

Indoor Mountain Trail Competition

By Cathy Springman, Central Oregon Chapter

Is it human to turn every activity into a competition? An exciting and relatively new equestrian sport is competitive mountain trail riding featuring obstacles we trail riders encounter "in the wild". Negotiating as a team the difficult obstacles that might be found on a typical mountain trail is exhilarating for horse and rider. Watching competitors descend a hill into a pond, then over a swinging bridge and then through heavy logs and boulders is thrilling for spectators as well. When done to perfection, the horse moves through these obstacles with boldness and confidence.

Oregon welcomes the mountain trail into the Oregon Horse Center in Eugene for the National Indoor Mountain Trail Championships this month. It begins with clinics and competition for beginner or "greenie" mountain trail competitors, then features the National competition, and then perhaps most interesting to OET members, we're blessed with over a month of opportunities to experience the awesome indoor mountain trail competition course on a haul-in basis.

The Greenie clinics are full, but see the schedule below for the competitions, as well as the non-competitive haul-in dates. More details on haul-in reservations, cost, etc. will be posted on the Oregon Horse Center website National Indoor Mountain Trail. To check out the amazing mountain trail construction, complete with a flowing waterfall you can ride behind, scroll through the Oregon Horse Center Facebook page.

Competition & Haul-in Schedule:

Oct 30-Nov 2 - National Indoor Mountain Trail Championship Greenies 2025

Nov 5- 9 - National Indoor Mountain Trail Championships2025

Nov 10-Dec 21 - Mountain Trail Haul-in



Grateful for Oregon Trail Resources

By Cathy Springman, Central Oregon Chapter

Relatively new to recreational trail riding, my husband and I decided to bring our horses along on our 10 day family trip to Idaho this summer. How hard could it be? We had enjoyed weekend camping and trails in Central and Southern Oregon for 4 years, no problem.

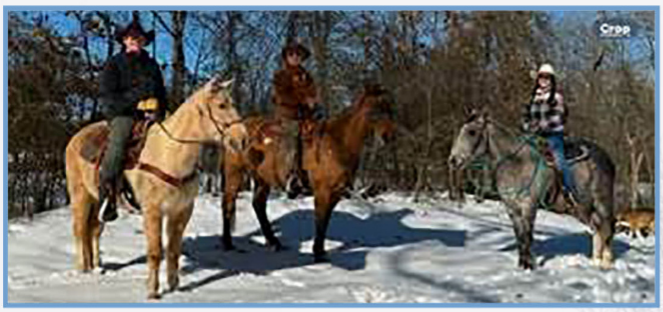
I researched how far a horse can comfortably travel by trailer in one day. Then I mapped out our driving route based on how far we should drive. I figured we could drive 4-5 hours and go for a trail ride each day, then camp overnight. I was surprised to learn that aside from a relatively thin horse motel website, there weren't any books or web sites that detailed trails, trailheads, horse camps, etc. in Idaho like we have in Oregon! I took for granted that there were wonderful Kim McCarrels writing indispensable horse trail & camp "bibles" in other states, and consolidating trail and camp information on one website like NW Horse Trails.

After hours of haunting Idaho horse organization Facebook sites like Boise Backcountry Horseman, asking endurance rider friends for Idaho ride organizer contacts, and combing through Idaho recreation websites only to be steered wrong by erroneous Ai-generated trail sites, we pieced together a plan. I learned about required brand inspection (beware if traveling to Wyoming or Montana, but Idaho is looking the other way currently) and the generosity of the Backcountry Horsemen organizations in the West.

Armed with my new trailer backing skills I learned in a School of Ranch workshop, we remained flexible, learned a lot, and prayed every time we headed to a trail that there would be ample parking and a place to turn our rig around. In the end we had a lovely trip and can't wait to return to try out additional trails we identified along the way but weren't able to ride.

But it all made us so very grateful for the excellent trail information resources we have in Oregon! I encourage you to use this winter to look through the books & website, identify some trails and horse camps to visit, and make plans to do a little riding and camping around Oregon when it warms up. With our wonderful information resources, it couldn't be easier! Check out www.nwhorsetrails.com for books and trail blogs, NW Horse Trails on Facebook and search "horse camp Oregon" online.

SADDLE UP, HORSE LOVERS!





Winter Riding Challenge 2026

From January 1st to March 31st - join the ultimate equine challenge:
30 rides and a grand total of 40 hours of horsemanship
with your trusty steed (or two!)
Remember, it's one horse at a time—no multitasking here!

The Details:

Rides and/or workouts or TLC should be a 15 min. minimum amount of time to be included in the 40 hours total.

Rides can be a lesson, arena riding, trail riding etc.
Each ride, workout, or pampering session (a.k.a TLC) needs to clock in at a minimum of 15 minutes to count toward that glorious 40-hour goal.
Whether you're brushing your horse,mastering ground training, or hitting the trails (or the lesson arena), it all counts—just don't try to sneak in those barn chores!
(Chores don't count.)





Dov Hunt: Winner of the 2025 Winter Challenge
riding with her girls (Sofia, Isabella, Nellie and Amelia)
"We loved this winter riding challenge! Great motivator! We are looking forward to next year's challenge!"

Best part? The Challenge is FREE to OET Members
Your challenge hours will be linked to your name & membership number.

Not a member?
Join OET, a Single Membership is only $40
Family Membership is only $45
(memberships are renewed annually Dec. 31st).
Well, hop on board and join the fun!
Let the horsin'around begin!

to join the Challenge
email: winterchallengeoet@gmail.com
or click on the QR code here:

OET State Board Meetings - All OET Members Welcome

November 22nd — 4th Qtr Board Meeting. Oregon City Library, 606 John Adams St.
February 21st 2026 — Annual Membership Meeting & Banquet. Roth's Fresh Market, Wallace Rd, Salem
February 22nd 2026 — 1st Qtr Meeting. Roth's Fresh Market, Wallace Rd., Salem

Our Mission Statement

OET advocates for recreational access,
partners with land managers to care for trails and horse camps,
and unites equestrians through
opportunities and information related to trail riding.

State Officer Elections this month

Nominees:
Melissa McLaughlin — President
Susan High — Treasurer
Gloria Rice —Secretary



Why Don't We Ride Zebras?

We ride around on horses all the time, so why not their stripy cousins?

Reprinted and condensed from IFLScience.com, by James Felton

We have not always been such good friends with the horse, and in prehistoric times would hunt them down for meat rather than view them as transportation. But at some point in our history, humans began to domesticate the animal, beginning a world-changing era of migration across the Eurasian continent.

We domesticated horses, but why not zebras? Well, it's not through lack of trying. When the Dutch colonized parts of South Africa, they attempted to tame the animals, but with little success. The cantankerous animals resist being domesticated, and would regularly break free of their harnesses. Nevertheless, it is possible to domesticate a few individual animals. Enough to ride around, anyway.

Looking at a zebra, while your brain goes "stripy horse", the two species diverged from a common ancestor 4-4.5 million years ago. The environments the diverged species found themselves in had a big impact on their suitability for taming and transportation.

Unlike the Equids of Eurasia the zebra population of Africa was relatively secure and particularly well adapted to its environment. All equids are herbivorous prey species with a well developed 'flight or fight' response. But to survive in an environment where there is an abundance of large predators including lions, cheetahs and hyenas, the zebra evolved into a particularly alert, responsive animal that flees in the face of danger but also possesses a powerful response if captured.

These responses do not make the animals a good candidate for domestication. They are shaped by their need to escape and have developed a kick that can repel a lion and even break their jaw. They have also developed a healthy fear of humans, and will generally avoid us where possible.

Animals that can be domesticated generally need to be quick to mature, have a calm disposition, and have a friendly nature towards humans. Zebras, with their natural aggression and strong evasion reflexes, lack the characteristics for being tamed.

There have been rare instances of individuals taming zebras for personal use. However, these exceptions do not indicate that zebras can be broadly domesticated or used in the same way as horses. It should be noted that even if we could domesticate zebras, they are much smaller than modern horse breeds, much closer to the size of modern day ponies, and making them less suitable for riding or transporting heavy goods.





O.E.T.

Annual Banquet & Meeting 2026

~Sign up Online today $38~

Please Register by Feb. 10th.

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 21ST

LUNCH BUFFET POTATO BAR

DINNER BUFFET TACO BAR

Roth's Fresh Market



Start time 10am

Lunch noon & Dinner 5pm

9am-10am Check-in

Coffee, fruit, pastries available

Roths Fresh Markets

1130 Wallace Road NW

Salem, OR 97304

503-588-3663

OET Chapters

Chapter	Meeting Time	Meeting Location	Contact
Central Oregon Chapter	First Tuesday Potluck at 6:00 p.m. Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	Pleasant Ridge Hall 7067 SW Canal Redmond, OR	Gayla Nelson centraloregon@oregonequestriantrails.org **(541) 420-1837**
Columbia County Chapter**	Second Wednesday Dinner: 6:00 p.m. Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	Warren Moose Lodge 57317 Old Portland Rd. Warren, OR	Bob Rice columbiacounty@oregonequestriantrails.org **(503) 366-3736**
Eugene Chapter**	First Tuesday Speaker: 6PM Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	McKenzie Feed 4441 Main Street. Springfield	Leslye Wing eugene@oregonequestriantrails.org **(541) 849-9155**
Mid-Valley Chapter	Second Wednesday Dinner: 6:00 p.m. Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	Sizzler 2148 Santiam Hwy SE Albany	Mark Lehnert midvalley@oregonequestriantrails.org **(541) 730-1653**
Mt. Hood Chapter	Second Thursday Dinner: 6:00 p.m. Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	Elmers 1590 NE Burnside Gresham	Mary Blankevoort mthood@oregonequestriantrails.org **(503) 703-1232**
North Coast Chapter**	Second Tuesday Meeting: 5:30 p.m. .	Clatsop County Fairgrounds 4H Clubhouse - across from main complex 92937 Walluski Loop, Astoria	Ashley Lertora northcoast@oregonequestriantrails.org **(503) 325-2733**
North Valley Chapter	First Tuesday Dinner : 6:00 p.m. Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	Jimmy O's Pizzeria 1678 S Beavercreek Rd Oregon City	Brett Branch northvalley@oregonequestriantrails.org **(503) 908-4461**
Northwest Chapter	Third Monday Dinner/Social: 6:00 p.m. Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	Prime Time Sports Bar & Restaurant 4450 Pacific Avenue Forest Grove	Hope Flint northwest@oregonequestriantrails.org **(541) 643-7840**
Roseburg Chapter**	*New Day!* Fourth Thursday Meeting: 6:00 p.m.	Douglas Co. Electrical Co-op 1931 N. Stephens Street Roseburg	Lynda Harding roseburg@oregonequestriantrails.org **(559) 696-7601**
Silver Falls Chapter**	Third Monday Meeting: 6:30 p.m.	Salem Saddle Club Mtg Rm 7005 Lardon Rd Salem	Bonnie DePriest silverfalls@oregonequestriantrails.org **(503) 951-0589**
South Coast Chapter	Third Wednesday Meeting: 6:30 p.m.	Dave's Pizza 740 Kooz Bay Blvd Coos Bay	Kimi Larkin southcoast@oregonequestriantrails.org **(541) 321-2092**
West Valley Chapter**	First Thursday No-host dinner: 6:00 p.m. Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	American Legion Post 21 126 NE Atlantic McMinnville	Melissa McLaughlin westvalley@oregonequestriantrails.org **(503) 560-0771**

Chapters may need to alter meetings or events.
Please contact Chapter Chairs for up-to-date meeting locations and times

**These Chapters have a change for Nov and/or December. Check website calendar.

Chapter Reports

Central Oregon Chapter

Our chapter members made sure October didn't go to waste.

Scott Hills has been recruiting our members for Sawyers with Attitude to Spare (SWATS) work parties, clearing trails with Pulaskis and other tools, including saws. While this is not an OET group, members of our chapter do participate, even though no horses are involved.

Rhonda Marquis has once again organized the OET, BCH, BLM, and FS partnership meeting for February. This coordination with government employees is so important, because it fosters recognition of our labors and understanding of our needs.

Pat Marquis met with the District Ranger and trails planners at the Sisters Ranger Station regarding the Sisters Trails Additions and Realignments (STAR), which he created and worked hard at implementing. Thanks to his persistence, the FS has now officially designated these proposed trails between Cow Camp and Whispering Pine. Because of Pat's efforts, we now have 37 miles of new trails in that beautiful country! As we will need to build some of them, applications for RTP grant money will be written and we will be donning our PPEs in the spring.

Kim McCarrel has spent many hours organizing the Ochoco Mountains horse trails project, including several work parties. At a recent four-day work party and campout at Corral Flat (site of the Bandit Springs Endurance Ride), ten miles of trails were marked as the group rode our newly official trails and gazed at a band of the Ochoco Mustangs.

We've also been discussing the pressure on our camps from non-equestrian users. In September, the Oregon Department of Forestry issued a press release stating that those without horses could bivouac in horse camps. This was misinterpreted and truncated by the media. Since camps must pay for themselves, ODF would like OET to promote more equestrian use and is looking for volunteers to maintain and host them.

We are also concerned about proposed federal changes to the Roadless Rule, which currently prohibits new roads in certain US Forest Service areas, keeping them pristine. The FS is now proposing to rescind the Rule and allowed only 15 days for public comment. We submitted comments opposing this radical change.

Meanwhile, we will be enjoying desert trails in the snow!

Thinking of making a Donation to your favorite Non-Profit?
Consider
Oregon Equestrian Trails!

Columbia Chapter

Things are moving right along with CCOET. At Wilkerson we've installed improved trail markers, added signage in the day-use area, and repaired Cedar Bridge. This bridge will need an overhaul soon, as it is old and rot will become an issue. We plan to work on that next spring. Wilkerson has enjoyed high horse camper use this year, and we are working hard to keep it that way.

We also recently cleaned and cleared trails at Dibblee Beach. Our chapter handles all camp and trail maintenance ourselves, without state assistance, and we're proud to offer multiple trails at Wilkerson. Occasionally we do receive support from County Parks, such as the recent installation of the Alder Grove bridge. We plan to replace the last two corrals this spring, then consider investing chapter funds into purchasing trail maintenance support. We also are exploring volunteer groups we might rely on, such as American military veterans. Planning for support and maintenance of Wilkerson and Dibblee is underway as our members age and the desire to keep these places vibrant is strong.

This Saturday is our annual Trick or Treat Ride, and we are ready and excited! This year we'll also hold a raffle and offer lunch for a small fee. We hope to see lots of riders and walkers. Planning is underway for our annual Holiday Dinner, to be held November 15 at the Moose Lodge in Warrenton. Stay tuned for details!

Eugene Chapter

"The Times They Are A-Changin'…" Bob Dylan said it, and he was so right! New candidates for state officers, new fees in State Parks, new rules for who can camp where, logging changes, the Northwest Horse Expo going away, and in our chapter, some changes in officers, and adjustments to the Holiday/Christmas party. Of course, we will still have the party and continue at Sizzler, but we may switch to a more philanthropic direction by donating gifts to others. It will be fun, and we will devise a new game to play.

We talked extensively about all these changes, rooted in needs and the evolving landscape. Everyone seemed to be approaching them positively. We do need to continue efforts to find new members and support projects we can take on, as well as our work at Elijah Bristow. Box Canyon is good to go for the rest of the season.

We'd like to thank Frank Deweese and wish him well as he prepares to reduce his time commitment to OET and step back as OET President.

Mt. Hood Chapter

We did not meet in September because members attended a wonderful campout at the new Stone Creek Group Camp at Timothy Lake. This camp is close to the lake, and the PGE developers and staff were very welcoming to equestrian campers.

On September 27, volunteers lead by Parade Maven Colene Everett participated for the 16th time in the Gresham Teddy Bear Parade. This fun and worthwhile annual event is always a highlight, and parade — goers love our horses, carts, and stalwart pooper-scoopers!

Our October meeting featured Suzi Cloutier, founder of Zeb's Wish and Conservation Planner for the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District. Suzi gave a very helpful and informative presentation on mud control and pasture management, especially during our rainy season. She also emphasized the health benefits for our equine partners through better pasture management and feeding practices.

Currently, the Department of State Lands, working with other agencies, is relocating people living in homeless camps along the Sandy River to better locations. Contractors are also cleaning and restoring the land impacted by the camps. This effort is ongoing.

Since the Sandy River Delta is a fee site, it will remain open during the shutdown.

Mt. Hood Volunteer hour report for Forest Service fiscal year - Oct. 1, 2024, to Sept. 30, 2025

Mt. Hood Chapter teams with Friends of the Sandy River Delta to complete vital tasks that help keep the SRD visitor friendly. OET handles education, quick response items, and tasks that require a tractor. Friends take care of 18 perimeter trash cans, the parking lot bag restock, litter, and items requiring money.

This year Department of State Lands funded and staffed a huge effort to move the homeless population from the DSL land along the Sandy River on the east side of the SRD. The plan is to rehabilitate the area and eventually add trails that connect to the SRD Forest Service trails.

This year OET and Friends contributed 782 hours at the SRD. Our top OET volunteer is Dave Adams with 136 hours, 48 of those hours running heavy equipment.

The SRD continues to be an extremely popular site in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Only Multnomah Falls attracts more visitor traffic.









Mid-Valley Chapter

There was no speaker for our October Meeting. Mary Ka from Equine Harmony Connection will present Reward Based Horsemanship at the November Meeting.

Perrydale Trails 9/13,2025: A group of five members stayed for 2.5hours. Attendees shared with us their favorite obstacles. Claudia Ingham expressed her appreciation for our group, saying they are the kind of people you want to ride with — patient, checking in with each other, and ensuring everyone is safe.

Nehalem Bay Campout 10/11-12/2025: Canceled due to rain.

There was a general discussion regarding horse trailer parking at Peavy. Arboretum. Since it's a shared parking lot, be sure to park in a way that prevents being blocked by other cars.

South Pyramid maps were shared to show the burn area. All of the trails we use were burned with various levels of damage. The trail entering into the wilderness at the point of entry was damaged to the point of landslide hazards. All the bridges sustained some burns — mostly surface chard — with one bridge in the wilderness area completely destroyed.

Membership Renewal Committee: We received a list of our membership for the past four years from Collette Hayes, our State VP Marketing Outreach. Jodi determined that there were 46 non-renewing past members. Mark Lehnert, Jodi Knutson, Helen Jensen, Greg Brown, and Claudia Ingham agreed to serve on the committee to contact non-renewed members. Phone calls and mailings were discussed.

The dates 1/17, 2/21, 3/14 were discussed for winter events.

North Coast Chapter

North Coast is wrapping up our year with some great presentations and plans for the upcoming year. At our October meeting, we had the privilege of learning about equine parasites from Dr. Stephanie Ramsey, DVM. She artfully described the common external pests such as lice, mites and flies and discussed methods to cope with their effects.To stay relevant, Dr. Ramsey focused only on parasites commonly found in the very wet Northwest corner of the state. Most of her talk covered internal parasites—worms.

The main takeaway is that evidence-based best practices have evolved over the past 20 years. Whereas the old recommendation was to deworm 4-6 times a year and rotate the class of dewormer, that approach has caused more problems than it solved. Worms have grown increasingly resistant to most classes of dewormers and horses have been over treated. She now recommends that most horses be dewormed once, maybe twice a year and that fecal egg exams be used as a tool to assess parasite load. While the exam is not wholly effective, it can help show which horses are shedding worms, which are not, and which type of worm is of greatest concern. The best time to deworm is early winter - late November into December. This helps disrupt the life cycles of most parasites. For more detail, her PowerPoint is available on our chapter's facebook page, under "Files".

At our November meeting, we'll enjoy Chief Joseph Trail Ride stories and photos from Nichole Warwick. Nichole has ridden in the event for nine years and always returns rejuvenated and excited.

Our business included forming a committee to develop a plan for celebrating Northrup Creek Horse Camp's 20th anniversary next year. Although there is pressure to open the camp to non-horse campers, Ashley Lertora will write to the Oregon Department of Forestry and request that ReserveAmerica clarify what already exists: three of the eight horse sites already allow non-horse campers. In addition, there is a tent camping area available to non-horse campers.

We also are making arrangements for this season's public open rides at our fairgrounds. Odin Wolf is the organizer this year,and the group agreed to begin rides in January.

Another ongoing effort is hosting a public trail ride the first Saturday of each month. One member volunteers as trail boss and chooses a local trail that is easy and comfortable for any rider, often at Ft. Stevens State Park. As of the first Saturday in November, we've received two inches of rain, so this may be the only ride we'll need to cancel!

We look forward a holiday party in December and wrapping up another year of good rides, companionship and connection with horses.

Northwest Chapter

Our Northwest Chapter will have a "changing of the guards" for 2026. We look forward to the new year and hope to welcome new members and build new relationships. We will be working with the Boy Scouts in educating about equestrians and trail sharing. They are also willing to help us with our camp cleanup at Reehers Horse Camp in Timber.

It has been a few years since our last big fundraiser, so it is definitely time, and we are working on the logistics now. Stay Tuned! We are considering LL Stub Stewart — great place for an equestrian event.

Our next meeting will be held on November 17 at the same time and location: 7 p.m., with a no-host dinner at 6 p.m. at Prime Time Restaurant 4450 Pacific Avenue Forest Grove. We hope to see an influx of guests that evening, as we purchased a week on the Banks Sunset Park billboard downtown from November 10–16. We'll see if it works—wish us luck!

North Valley

The meeting was held on October 7 at Jimmy O's Pizzeria, Oregon City, OR.

The membership shared highlights from the past month.

Our guest speakers were Faith Roney and Deb Delorenzo. They gave a presentation on their trip to Iceland with Saltirk Riding Iceland, where they rode Icelandic Horses with Landvaettir on the Eagle Tour.

Brett Branch reported on the OET State Meeting.

Marty DeVall reported on recent Field Services events. The parking sign for the equestrian lot at McIver State Park was approved and sent to the "sign guy." There will be no horse camp at McIver in the near future.The balance beam has been repaired.

The Annual Trail Clearing Party was held by the Molalla River Corridor group on Sept. 27.

On October 18, we held a group ride for breast cancer awareness at McIver State Park. The Trail Boss was Tamara Glover.

At our upcoming NVOET Chapter Meeting at Jimmy O's Pizzeria in Oregon City, OR, we will have a presentation on equine dentistry by Dr. Chris Ryan.

On November 28, we will hold a Black Friday Ride at McIver State Park. Trail Bosses will be Shonda Smith and Tamara Glover.

Our Holiday Party will be held at Tamarind Ranch on December 2.

Roseburg

Kelsay Valley Trails Update

Thanks to the Recreational Trails Grant and hard work of many workers and volunteers, 40 of 50 miles at Kelsay Valley were logged out and cleared. Northwest Youth Corps cut out 369 logs and brushed out 10 miles of trails approximately 10 feet wide in most places. Beyond Racing Bicycle cut out about 195 logs, while OET and BCHO together cut out about 351 logs. That is a whopping total of about 915 logs removed! With the work, all volunteer hour requirements of the grant have been met, and about a third of the budget was spent — leaving enough money to fund two more years.

Northwest Youth Corps worked for three weeks on our Kelsay Valley project. Here is a link to a video they made.

https://youtube.com/shorts/als4nA-RxZU?feature=shared.

Mark your calendars for June 19-21, 2026 for a work party at Kelsay Valley with OET and BCHO to prepare for the summer riding season. It will be a good one!



Kelsay Valley Horse Camp Host Availability for Summer 2026

Host volunteers are needed at Kelsay Valley Horse Camp for summer of 2026. The Roseburg Chapter traditionally serves as hosts for July and August. If anyone from another chapter would like to volunteer a week as host (half weeks are available), please contact Janet Miller at trailgaits@gmail.com Two sites are reserved for OET hosts. This is a prime opportunity to ride the newly cleared trails and enjoy this part of the state.

Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park Update

On October 22, 2026, a group from Roseburg and Eugene OET chapters, Emerald Empire Backcountry Horsemen, and Friends of Kanipe rode and hiked the trails with mapping apps. Not only were trails mapped, but landmarks and trouble spots were marked as well. These data were shared with Douglas County Public Works to develop a more accurate map and plan for trail improvements.

Roseburg OET is working with Eugene OET and Friends of Kanipe to request funding from the Recreational Trails Program to install new maps and trail signage, and to remove fast-growing invasive species (blackberries and hawthorn) and poison oak from Kanipe trails.If the grant is awarded, the trails will be widened so they can be more easily maintained using mowers rather than just hand tools.

Silver Falls

Four of us held a work party at Santiam Horse Camp. We fixed chain gates on sites 4, 5, 6 and 7. The chains were installed on the outside of the gate opening with short lag bolts. We will be supplying a load of gravel to fill holes in the corrals, and a prison crew will provide the labor.

We held elections in October since we will have a speaker in November. Officers elected were: Bonnie DePriest – Chapter Chair, Vivian Ang – Vice Chair, Ellen Carter – Treasurer, Roy Albrecht – Field Service, and Jeannie Antonucci – Secretary.

We will host a booth at the spring Canby tack sale. Bonnie will accept donations of clean items in good repair. At some point, we may need to have an afternoon of tack sorting and pricing!

Our November 17 meeting will feature a demonstration on a massage tool called the beemer. It's beneficial for both horses and people!

We will NOT hold meetings in December or January.

South Coast

It was great to see strong attendance at October's South Coast Chapter meeting, with new members signing up as well. This was especially encouraging since August and September meetings had very light attendance. The trail-clearing work party at Bullards State Park on October 18 had a good turnout under blue skies. Park staff cut tree branches while OET members moved them off the trail and cleared Scotch broom and other brush.

Tom Dexter, Field Services, plans to schedule a work party at Wild Mare Horse Camp to fill gravel in the stalls in campsites 10, 11 & 12.There is no hurry, as the Forest Service has closed the camp for the winter months.

The North Spit area, closed to public access for over two years, has reopened. The South Coast Chapter scheduled a trail-trimming party/ride for November 22. Meet at the BLM Boat Ramp at 10 a.m. and bring your lunch for a break at Wild Mare Horse Camp.

Some South Coast Chapter members trim overgrown vegetation on trails outside of scheduled work parties. Please log your volunteer hours performed on trails outside of organized OET group work parties. Turn in your Volunteer hours to Tom at a meeting,or email them to tsdexter5@gmail.com.

Bianca Chevalier, Public Lands, is seeking ideas for recruiting and securing a camp host for Wild Mare Horse Camp and Day Use. All ideas are welcome. Anyone interested in serving on a committee to address this subject is encouraged to volunteer. One suggestion is to post on “What’s Happening Coos County” on Facebook.

Starting October 1, 2025, 21 additional State Parks will require day-use fees or a yearly permit. Obtaining an annual permit is the best way to manage these fees: www.stateparks.oregon.gov

State OET is entertaining ideas to increase horse camp use by the horse community to avoid opening horse camp sites to the general public.How can we promote winter horse camping at Bullards and Cape Blanco? Valerie will write an article for Riders Roundup about “Winter Horse Camping at the South Coast.”

Upcoming Events:

November 19 - South Coast Chapter meeting @ Dave’s Pizza, 6:30 – 8:00 PM.

December 17 - Christmas Party at Dave’s Pizza, 6:30 – 8:00 pm. The Christmas party committee will be led by Michelle Frost with assistance from Tara Cook.









2026 Raffle/ $5 tickets



Saker Saw: Charger, 2 batteries, 6" bar

OET Hard Hat

Safety glasses: clear & smoked

Hi Vis Vest

Heavy Duty Leather gloves

Waterproof garden gloves

ear plugs

anti fog glass wipes

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Pacific Northwest Endurance Rides (PNER) Welcomes New Riders!



Jamethiel Morse; member of PNER and the OET North Valley Chapter riding her mare Tarma at the 2024 Santiam Cascade endurance ride

photo by: Jala Neufeld

If you love trail riding and enjoy the camaraderie of camping & riding new trails with other horse enthusiasts, Endurance Riding may be a sport for you! Many of our PNER Rides are now offering Introductory (Trail) Rides. Introductory Rides are designed for riders who would like to sample the "endurance" experience on a short course. The horse will stand for vet check exams and the rider will follow a flagged course with other riders traveling at various speeds on courses ranging from eight to twelve miles.

www.pner.net • facebook.com/groups/pnerrocks

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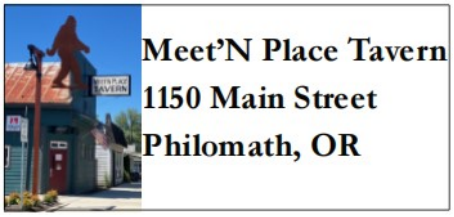











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November-December 2025 - Riders' Roundup

A monthly publication from Oregon Equestrian Trails, a non-profit trail and horse camp organization

Crystal Rilee Park receives generous donation

By Ryann Reinhofer

In partnership with CPRD and through the support of our Crystal Rilee Park Equestrians 501(c)(3) special liaison, we are thrilled to announce the donation of 12 semi-truck loads of footing materials!

With the invaluable assistance of the superintendent and parks manager, not only did we contribute a substantial amount of gravel and bark chips, but we also helped spread the material across miles of trails. This incredible effort brings us significantly closer to our goal of maintaining year-round access for both equestrians and hikers, ensuring that our trails remain open and functional regardless of the season.

Our deepest gratitude goes to all our donors, supporters, and the entire community—especially our dedicated farm owner volunteers. Their manpower, machinery, personal equipment, and skillful dispersal of the materials were instrumental in making this possible. We are truly thankful to everyone who rallied support and showed up to turn vision into reality.

It takes a village to accomplish big things, and our enthusiasm to do more is stronger than ever.





Renew your OET 2026 Membership Now!

The printed *Riders' Roundup* will cost $28 for the year.

Renew at
www.oregonequestriantrails.org/membership/registration/