Riders' Roundup



Central Oregon Members participate in 2026 Sisters Rodeo Parade.

Ride with Us - Protect Oregon's Trails

Oregon Equestrian Trails (OET) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, maintaining, and expanding access to horse trails and horse camps across the state. We are the unified voice for equestrians in Oregon.

Join a Community That Keeps Oregon Riding Strong

Across Oregon's forests, mountains, beaches and open spaces, equestrian trails and camps don't stay open by accident — they stay open because people like you speak up, show up, and ride together.

Protect What You Love. Be Part of Something Bigger

We advocate at the state and local level to keep trails open and accessible. When decisions are made about land use, we make sure equestrians are heard.

Ride More, Worry Less. Join other passionate riders

From trail clearing to campground improvements, our volunteers work year-round to maintain safe, enjoyable riding spaces.

Your Voice Matters

Public lands are constantly changing. Without a strong and organized equestrian presence, access can be reduced or lost. Together, we ensure that doesn't happen.

More Than Just Advocacy — It's Fun, Too!

Being part of OET means more than meetings and maintenance. It means:

- Organized group rides across Oregon
- Campouts and social events
- Trail challenges and recreational programs
- Volunteer projects that make a real impact

Ride with us! Campouts last month included:

Big Meadow
Whitefish
Kelsay Valley
Wild Mare
Joe Graham
Quinn Meadow
Stub Stewart State park
Reehers
Nehalem Bay
Cape Blanco

More ride details & current activities:
OregonEquestrianTrails.org/calendar

Sign up and Join us at:

OregonEquestrianTrails.org/membership/registration/

OET Chapters

Chapter	Meeting Time	Meeting Location	Contact
Central Oregon Chapter	First Tuesday Doors Open: 6:00 p.m. Meeting: 6:30 p.m.	Pleasant Ridge Hall 7067 SW Canal Redmond, OR	Gayla Nelson centraloregon@oregonequestriantrails.org **(541) 549-9177**
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	*New Day!* Third Tuesday Speaker: 6:30PM Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	EPUD Meeting Room 33733 Seavey Loop Rd. Eugene	Mary Kamm eugene@oregonequestriantrails.org **(607) 434-5295**
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) 913-2943**
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	Melissa Wolf northwest@oregonequestriantrails.org **(503) 550-2048**
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) 981-8124**
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	Kim Grabill westvalley@oregonequestriantrails.org **(503) 538-0679**

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

President

Melissa McLaughlin



Thank goodness for people who love politics and legislation!

I know it is important to stay informed and use our voices to help create change, but I have to admit that I don't particularly enjoy the political process. This week, however, I was reminded that some people are energized by the opportunity to create change through government and are willing to do that work for the greater good—or at least for their vision of what will serve the greater good.

I'm talking about Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley. Kim McCarrell, and I recently joined a Zoom call with the senator to discuss issues concerning public lands. Read Kim's VP Report for some of the details of that conversation.

What stood out to me was the importance of simply being present and participating. Public-land decisions can feel distant from our everyday trail rides, work parties and horse-camping trips, but those decisions directly affect where we can ride, how trails are maintained, and what access will look like for future generations.

OET has members who understand legislation and can follow proposed changes and speak thoughtfully on behalf of equestrians. I am deeply grateful for them. Just as some of us are happiest clearing brush or organizing events, others are willing to read complicated documents and build relationships with decision-makers. Every one of those contributions matters.

We do not all have to serve in the same way. Being the change might mean speaking with a senator, submitting a public comment, joining a work party, or welcoming a prospective member at your chapter meeting. The important thing is that we each find the place where our interests and abilities can serve something larger than ourselves. OET's strength has always come from people who care enough to show up.



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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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VP of Public Lands

Kim McCarrel



If you had a chance to talk with a U.S. senator about our public lands, what would you want to tell him? Melissa McLaughlin and I had a chance to participate recently in a call with Senator Jeff Merkley, one of Oregon's two Senators. We were joined on the call by representatives from a variety of recreation groups from across the state, all of which are actively volunteering on public lands.

We Oregonians are very fortunate to have elected officials in Washington who care deeply about defending our public lands. Both of our Senators and all but one of our Congressmen have very strong track records in support of recreation on public lands. And Senator Merkley is one of our most outspoken advocates.

The call started off with Senator Merkley talking about the importance of public lands to all of us. In his words, "Oregon is an outdoor paradise that restores our souls." He talked about recreational experiences he had growing up in Oregon and about the importance of taking his kids back to those same places today.

Merkley then went on to recap what has been happening in Washington to undermine our public lands and land management agencies, as well as legislation introduced in Congress to address these actions.

One of the biggest threats to our public lands is efforts to sell or privatize them. For example, part of the One Big Beautiful Bill that passed in 2025 included a proposed amendment to sell large tracts of public land to offset tax cuts for corporations and the rich. This amendment was eventually withdrawn due to public outcry against the proposed sell-off. However, efforts to privatize public land continue in Washington today.

Another thing that jeopardizes our public lands is the huge staffing cuts at our land management agencies. The Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service have lost thousands of employees, severely hampering the agencies' ability to do their jobs. And the Forest Service headquarters is being moved from Washington, D.C. to Salt Lake City, resulting in a significant loss of senior staff who are unable to relocate.

Other recent actions that could impact recreation on public lands include:

- a proposal to rescind the Roadless Rule, which would allow road construction to open these areas to mining, drilling, and logging
- efforts to rescind the Travel Management Rule, which would open thousands of miles of closed roads on federal land to motorized use
- an executive order that reduces the size of several national monuments that are important to recreational users and tribes, so the formerly-protected areas can be mined

Merkley talked about actions he has taken to address these issues, including:

- Introducing the Public Lands Integrity Act, which would prevent Congress from using a simple majority vote to authorize the sale of public land.
- Co-sponsoring the Roadless Areas Conservation Act, which would provide lasting protection for Roadless Areas on our National Forests.
- Sponsoring legislation (which passed!) that provided funding for five signature trail projects here in Oregon.

After Senator Merkley made these introductory remarks, he fielded comments from the volunteer groups on the call. They raised issues like:

- The proposed repeal of the Roadless Rule and the Travel Management Rule is touted as "increasing recreational opportunities," but benefits only motorized recreation. Non-motorized recreation is put in jeopardy.
- Changes to the federal contract-approval process have made it much harder for recreation groups to enter into agreements with land managers. For example, when a group receives a federal grant for a major trail project, it must enter into a Challenge Cost Sharing

Continued next page.....

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.

Agreement with the land manager. These grants usually require the group to contribute a certain number of volunteer hours as "matching funds." Independent Sector has historically calculated the dollar value of those hours, but the federal government now requires each volunteer group to justify the value itself. Groups with paid staff can estimate the value of volunteer time based on staff salaries. But for all-volunteer organizations like OET, calculating and justifying the value of volunteer labor is much more difficult.

- The reorganization of the Forest Service has led to layoffs and mass firings, and its move out of D.C. will result in a significant loss of senior staff. The resulting loss of expertise and institutional knowledge will cripple the agency for years to come. Moving the Forest Service headquarters to Salt Lake will reduce communication between the agency and Congress and will make it much harder for recreational groups to meet with both groups.
- Climate change is having a big impact on recreational users. For example, winter activities like skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling are hampered by lower snowpacks and shorter seasons, and summer activities are impacted by heat, smoke, and the closure of burned areas.
- The land management agencies are moving away from using measurable standards and guidelines to make decisions. In many areas, they are no longer using the best available science to address issues.
- Funding for land managers has been severely cut even as recreational use of public lands has skyrocketed. This puts tremendous pressure on our natural resources and the land managers who are supposed to be stewarding them.
- The government needs to recognize that recreation supports local economies – in many cases, it provides more economic value than extractive uses like mining, drilling, logging, and grazing.

We thank Senator Merkley for discussing public land issues with the recreational community and for listening to our concerns. But most of all, we thank him for all he does in Washington, D.C. to protect our public lands.





VP Marketing Outreach

Collette Hayes



Summer is in full swing, and what a wonderful time of year it is! Across Oregon, our members are out camping, riding scenic trails, exploring new places, and enjoying everything the great outdoors has to offer. While our meeting calendars slow down during the summer months, the fun certainly doesn't.

A few quick updates from around the state:

Joe Graham Horse Camp (Mt. Hood): I'm working on getting the camp sign rebuilt and reinstalled, and it will be wonderful to have visitors welcomed with a fresh new sign. In the meantime, my husband and I will be pitching in with manure removal while our dedicated camp volunteers are away helping fight Oregon's wildfires. A heartfelt thank you to everyone answering that important call.

Graham Corral (near Sisters): Our amazing trio—North Valley Chapter members: Debbie D., Shonda S., and Faith R.—are hard at work moving plans forward to build new corrals at Graham Corral, about six miles northwest of Sisters. Keep an eye out for opportunities to lend a hand or contribute—we'll be sharing more details soon!

Wherever your summer adventures take you, ride safely, enjoy the journey, and thank you for helping keep Oregon's horse trails and horse camps thriving!



Joe Graham Horse camp sign to be replaced.

OET Tech Corner

Your Phone's Silent First Responder

By Marty DeVall, OET Web Master

Whether you're embarking on a solo afternoon trail ride, packing into a remote horse camp for the weekend, or volunteering at an OET trail maintenance work party, safety is always our top priority. We double-check our cinches, pack trail-side first-aid kits, and make sure a family member or camp neighbor knows our planned route. But there's one powerful, built-in safety tool sitting right in your pocket that takes less than three minutes to set up: **Emergency Medical ID**.

What Is It and Why Does It Matter?

Smartphones today are kept locked with a passcode, PIN, or thumbprint to protect your personal privacy. That's great for security, but in a medical emergency on the trail, it poses a challenge: if you are injured or unable to speak, a riding partner or paramedic cannot open your phone to call your family.

To solve this, both iPhone and Android smartphones include a special, secure feature that lets anyone view critical health and contact information directly from your lock screen—**without needing your passcode, and without opening the rest of your phone.**

If you ever experience a horse refusal, a fall, or a sudden medical issue while out on the trail, anyone who finds your phone can instantly see:

- **Your primary emergency contacts** (your spouse, trail riding partner, or close family member).
- **Critical medical conditions or severe allergies** (such as penicillin allergies, diabetes, or heart conditions).
- **Blood type and current medications** that paramedics should know before treating you.
- Rest assured, this feature is completely secure. Anyone viewing it can only see the specific emergency card you choose to create—they **cannot** look through your photos, read your text messages, or access your personal data.

How to Set It Up in 3 Easy Steps

Grab your phone, sit down with a cup of coffee, and follow these simple steps to set up your silent first responder:

For iPhone Users:

1. **Open the Health App:** Look for the white icon with a small red heart on your home screen.

2. **Open Medical ID:** Tap your picture (or initials) in the upper right corner, then tap **Medical ID**.

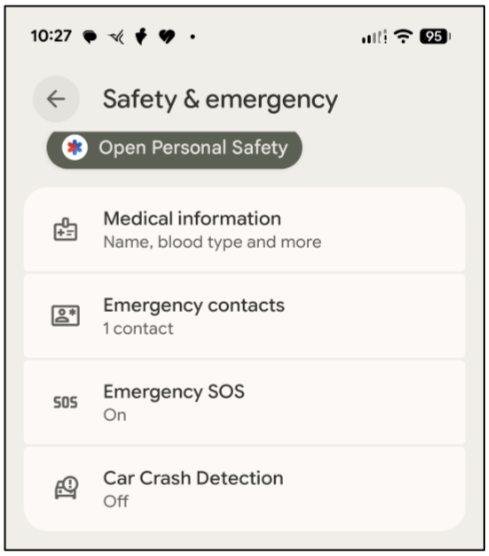
3. **Fill in Details:** Tap **Edit** in the top corner. Enter your emergency contacts, allergies, and blood type. Most importantly, make sure the switch for **"Show When Locked"** is turned **ON** (so it shows a green toggle). Tap **Done** to save.

For Android Users:

1. **Open Settings:** Tap the gear-shaped **Settings** icon on your screen.

2. **Find Safety Info:** Scroll down until you see **Safety & emergency** (on some older phones, this may be listed under **About phone**).

3. **Add Emergency Info:** Tap **Medical info** or **Emergency information**. Fill in your details and emergency contact numbers, and verify that **"Show on lock screen"** is checked or enabled.



How Someone Reads It in an Emergency

It's also helpful to know how to check someone else's phone if a fellow rider needs help!

If you pick up a locked phone, simply swipe up on the screen as if you were going to type a passcode. At the bottom left of the number pad, tap the word **Emergency**. On the next screen, tap **Medical ID** (or **Emergency Information**). The medical card will pop right up on the screen.

Taking three minutes today to fill out your Emergency Medical ID gives you and your trail companions immense peace of mind every time you step into the stirrup!

Meet Susan High – OET State Treasurer



I would like to introduce myself as your new OET State Treasurer. I have been a member of the North Valley chapter for several years and enjoy the friendships and associations I have developed over the years.

My incentive to join OET began with my love of trail riding and the desire to find not only trails but people to share experiences with. OET delivers this and so much more because I am learning things all along that I never anticipated, and that has greatly enriched my experiences in the horse world.

My love of horses began when I was a child. Riding was limited to rental stables because we lived in the LA area and could not afford a horse or board. I still vividly remember our Brownie Troop riding sessions, and Mom taking my brother and me to stables for the occasional 1 or 2-hour rides. After graduating from the University of Oregon and getting a job, the first thing I bought was a horse! Most people would get a car, or maybe a house, but my dream was my first horse.

Over the years I have been blessed with several wonderful trail horses, from my first one, Lady, a Morgan, to now, Katie, a quarter horse Paint.

I live in the Carus area just south of Oregon City with my 2 cats and horse, plus a boarder horse. My husband passed in 2024. My son and family live close to Beavercreek. I have 3 grandchildren. They also have 3 horses, and we get together to ride when the stars align.

I am still working as a tax professional with my business Clackamas Income Tax & Accounting Inc. My office is in Gladstone. I started doing bookkeeping many years ago and became intrigued with preparing taxes when I was hired by a tax preparation business. I loved the progression from bookkeeping to tax preparation because of the challenges with applying tax law to tax returns. I received my Licensed Tax Preparer certification in 1998, progressed to Licensed Tax Consultant and Enrolled Agent and went into business for myself. Now I am working towards retirement and having more time for riding!

Thank you for your confidence in me to serve as your State Treasurer. I look forward to working with the state board and chapters providing financial and tax information for smooth operations and decision making with this wonderful organization.





2026 Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Chapter	Event	Location	Information
August					
Aug 3	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/iqw-kjtu-tuc
Aug 8-9		South Coast	Campout	Wild Mare Horse Camp North Bend	
Aug 12		Northwest	Ride	Reehers Day Use Timbers	Contact Don, Trail Boss 503-704-6038
Aug 16	10:00AM Start	Silver Falls	Ride	Williamette Mission	silverfalls@myoet.org
Aug 17	6:00PM	Northwest	Special	Gaston	Emergency Roadside Clinic Contact Hope Flint 541-643-7840
Aug 19		Northwest	Ride	Reehers Day Use Timbers	Contact Don, Trail Boss 503-704-6038
Aug 19	10:00AM - 1:00PM	Mt. Hood	Ride	Sandy River Delta https://maps.app.goo.gl/YLGsQksZcXwyjw7x5	Foot in stirrup 10:00 AM. Lunch to follow. Bring lunch and a chair. Contact Sara Faulkner, (971) 274-6516
Aug 22	10:00AM - 2:00PM	State	Meeting	Virtual. Google Meets or call in to 628-400-8556 PIN 573 588 208#	State Board Meeting. Santiam Horse Camp.
Aug 27-30		Northwest	Campout	Nehalam Bay	reserveamerica.com for reservations
Aug 29	10:30AM Start	Columbia County	Ride	Camp Wilkerson	Contact Trail Boss Nancy 503-875-4699
September					
Sep 7		North Coast	Campout	Northrup Creek Horse Camp 87644 Northrup Creek Rd Clatskanie	Celebrate 20 years of NCHC! Woodland camp with water, no electricity. Trails include hills and gravel roads, boots or shoes recommended. A scavenger hunt will be offered this weekend!
Sep 7	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/iqw-kjtu-tuc
Sep 16	10:00AM - 1:00PM	Mt. Hood	Ride	Sandy River Delta https://maps.app.goo.gl/YLGsQksZcXwyjw7x5	Foot in stirrup 10:00 AM. Lunch to follow. Bring lunch and a chair. Contact Sara Faulkner, (971) 274-6516
Sep 19	10:30AM Start	Columbia County	Ride	Ft. Stevens, Delaura Bech	Contact Trail Boss Nancy 503-875-4699
Sep 26-27		Columbia County	Campout	Stage Coach Campground	Contact Trail Boss Nancy 503-875-4699

October					
Oct 5	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/iqw-kjtu-tuc
Oct 17	8:00AM - 1:30PM	Public	Special	Clackamas Co. Fair & Event Center 694 NE 4th Ave, Canby	Clackamas County 4-H Tack Sale. New and used tack & other horse-related items. Parking $5, admission $1 per person.
Oct 17		North Valley	Ride	McIver State Park	Trail Boss: Tamara Glover
Oct 21	10:00AM - 1:00PM	Mt. Hood	Ride	Sandy River Delta https://maps.app.goo.gl/YLGsQksZcXwyjw7x5	Foot in stirrup 10:00 AM. Lunch to follow. Bring lunch and a chair. Contact Sara Faulkner, (971) 274-6516
November					
Nov 2	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/iqw-kjtu-tuc
Nov 7	6:00PM - 8:00PM	North Valley	Potluck	Tamarind Ranch, 19665 S Lyons Rd City 97045	Contact: northvalleyoff@oregonequestriantrails.org
Nov 18	10:00AM - 1:00PM	Mt. Hood	Ride	Sandy River Delta https://maps.app.goo.gl/YLGsQksZcXwyjw7x5	Foot in stirrup 10:00 AM. Lunch to follow. Bring lunch and a chair. Contact Sara Faulkner, (971) 274-6516
December					
Dec 7	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/iqw-kjtu-tuc
Dec 16	10:00AM - 1:00PM	Mt. Hood	Ride	Sandy River Delta https://maps.app.goo.gl/YLGsQksZcXwyjw7x5	Foot in stirrup 10:00 AM. Lunch to follow. Bring lunch and a chair. Contact Sara Faulkner, (971) 274-6516

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





SEVEN FEATHERS
CASINO RESORT

Upcoming Dates & Locations - OET State Board Meetings

August 22, 2026 — Santiam Horse Camp, Gates, Highway 22

November 21, 2026 — Emerald People's Utility District (EPUD) Meeting Room, Eugene

January 23, 2027 — Annual Membership Meeting & Banquet. Roth's Fresh Market, Salem

January 24 2027 — 1st Qtr Meeting. Roth's Fresh Market, Salem

July 2026

Public Lands/Field Services Meeting Notes

In Attendance: Ashley Lertora, North Coast; Bianca Chevalier, South Coast; Collette Hayes, Northwest; Cindy Albrecht, Silver Falls; Gloria Rice, Columbia County; Bonnie DePriest, Silver Falls. Mary Kamm, Eugene, submitted comments via email.

North Coast

The chapter held a campout at Northrup Creek horse camp to celebrate the camp's 20th anniversary. They had eight riders, who filled the camp and enjoyed the trails. The event was a big success.

They'll do potluck meetings in August and September, and a campout at Nehalem Bay in September.

All the trails at Fort Stevens have been cleared, so riders can enjoy several loops plus riding on the beach.

Northwest

Bob and Crystal Rilee Park has endured lots of turmoil on social media since the board decided to allow bikes back on park trails.

The May event at Stub Stewart State Park was a big success, so they'll do it again.

The chapter will have a booth at the upcoming Tuesday night farmer's market in Hillsboro to promote OET to the public.

Mid-Valley

Collette went to the MidValley poker ride and was delighted to see that half of the attendees were first-timers. The ride has been on private land in Philomath for 26 years.

South Coast

The chapter held a work party at Wild Mare and placed a dump truck load of wood chips in the corrals.

They're holding a campout at Horse Creek campground and would love to have members of other chapters join them. Come escape the Valley heat and enjoy Taco Night with margaritas.

Unfortunately, the host at Wild Mare quit. It apparently wasn't what she expected. The chapter will advertise on Trail Mail for a replacement and emphasize the amenities the Forest Service has provided for the host site.

Columbia County

The chapter hasn't had any work parties lately.

On July 11th, they'll spend 3 hours washing the Columbia County Utility District's vehicle fleet as a fundraiser for the chapter. The utility district will pay the chapter $500 for its volunteer services.

Central Oregon

The signing project on the Corral Flat trails in the Ochocos is done! More than 50 miles of trails have been signed and marked with diamonds on the trees.

The chapter received a $10,000 grant from the Deschutes Trails Alliance to hire a youth crew to help build and sign new equestrian trails as part of the Sisters Trail Additions and Realignment (STAR) project. Additional funds will soon be available from a Recreational Trails Program grant, again for hiring youth crews. The work under these grants will be done this fall and next spring.

Silver Falls

The chapter held several work parties at Santiam Horse Camp to clear the trails and get the camp and corrals in good shape.

They held a summer solstice ride at Willamette Mission that was a huge hit with attendees.

They'll be doing their monthly Willamette Mission on July 19th, and will involve some non-riders by having yard games (cornhole and a large scrabble board, maybe) while the riders are out, and then snacks and watermelon afterward.

In early August, they'll participate in the Homer Davenport Days parade in Silverton. They'll carry the OET banner and have horses and minis.

On the 3rd Sunday in August, they'll do a BINGO event involving things you might find on the trail or at a trailhead.

Membership/Outreach

Collette was planning to have a booth at the upcoming horse expo at the Clark County Saddle Club. But she hasn't gotten a call back from the organizers, so she's unsure whether it's really happening.

Eugene

The trail crossing over Lost Creek at Elijah Bristow State Park has suffered significant erosion. The chapter reached out to the park staff and is working on a plan to repair the water crossing. They recommend avoiding this crossing until the repairs are complete. A repair date hasn't been set yet, but they're working on it.

Instead of it's regular meeting, the chapter will meet at Elijah Bristow at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, July 21, for a luau-style potluck and an informal ride before or after the potluck. There is a Hawaiian theme…so wear your favorite Aloha shirt!

Famous Last Words: "You Don't Need Another Horse"

By Rebecca Herron, West Valley Chapter

Oh my, what horse to ride? All three of my geldings were at the gate, eager for me to choose them. It wasn't Harley's turn. But for some reason, I had a strong feeling that he was the one for today's ride. It wasn't until after he was saddled that I glanced at the tack room calendar. It was Harley's 10th birthday! It made me smile, because that's the way we've shared these past years - we have a "thing" for each other!

I bought Harley as a six-month-old colt. At the time, I was 63, not a prime age for a horse trainer. But there was something unique about his personality that drew me like a magnet: "You MUST buy this colt; he will be your last best horse!"

The ad was on Craigslist. I wasn't looking or needing another horse, but hey, it's fun to peruse the ads. And what do you know, on that particular day - only five miles away - there was a bay roan colt for sale. Let's go! I talked my husband into accompanying me. "It's just down the road. It's a great ad. It won't hurt to look." Famous last words spoken by horse people.

Mike agreed to go, but reminded me multiple times, "Beck, you don't need another horse." Famous last words spoken by spouses of horse people.

The owner called Harley out of a pen of other colts, and he willingly left the herd. He stood calmly as she picked up his feet, then was obedient as she led him here and there. He was quiet, friendly, and curious. His conformation was correct. I liked him ... a whole lot.

The owner also had a sweet donkey wandering free around the barn area. He watched us with great interest.

Remembering Mike's words, I was on the fence about buying the colt. I asked to see the colt's dam, so the owner turned the colt loose with the donkey and we walked out to the pasture. Mike stayed by the barn.

While checking out the mare, I peeked up the hill to see where Mike was.

There were three figures silhouetted: the donkey, the colt, and ... my husband. I knew then the decision was made. Mike had one arm draped over the donkey and the other over the colt.

That wonderful Sunday, I came home with my last best horse. Good thing I'd already married my last best husband, and also on a Sunday. 52 years now, and enjoying our last best marriage!



Rebecca, Harley, and Andy Herron



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Chapter Reports

Central Oregon Chapter

Good news from Central Oregon! The 27,307-acre Akawa Butte fire, between Lake Billy Chinook and Sisters, has not crossed west over Green Ridge to Sheep Springs Horse Camp. Our beautiful trails out of camp and around Camp Sherman have been spared, thanks to the massive labor of firefighting organizations.

All Corral Flat trails in the Ochocos are now signed and, at Quinn Meadow, all trails out of camp have been cleared. As Pat Marquis reported, trail clearing continues on the Sisters Trails and Realignments (STAR) project that officializes existing and new user trails between Whispering Pine Horse Camp and Sisters Cow Camp. The USFS has now issued the Notice to Proceed, which gives us the go-ahead to hire youth groups to work on these trails in September. Also, the Deschutes Trails Coalition awarded $10,000 to our chapter to build small trail projects, which will happen next spring on STAR trails. Thanks to years of Pat's unrelenting efforts, our trail system is expanding.

After two pre-parade desensitization clinics hosted by Cathy Springman, 26 of our chapter members represented our OET chapter in the Sisters Rodeo Parade, with 19 riders. Seventy-five riders enjoyed a bright, sunny day on our Poker Ride out of Cow Camp.

Our historian, Camille Wood, has been diligently posting on our Facebook page, which now has an amazing 3,746 followers. Her work has resulted in a notable increase not only in online awareness of our organization, but also in chapter membership. Twenty-first century technology is garnering good results for OET.

Eugene Chapter

Our meeting for July was supposed to be a Hawaiian Luau themed potluck ride but the 90* temperature convinced everyone to leave their horses at home. Okay, well, next time! The food was delicious and it is always fun to get together and hear stories from our everyday. We did take an official moment to pass a motion to make money available to Roseburg Chapter for clearing away obnoxious hawthorn and poison oak from the trails at Mildred Kanipe Park. Yay! Better trails down there. Next month we will be meeting at the Posse Arena at Buford Park/Mt.Pisgah. Another potluck ride. Maybe the weather will be kinder.

B Enterprises

Mid-Valley Chapter

Our Mid Valley Chapter had their 26th annual Poker Ride at the end of June. This event takes place on private lands in the Philomath area. The ride had all types of terrain and was quite enjoyable.

There were many great prizes! Approximately 70 people attended which about 1/2 of them had never been before.

Thanks to all the hard work and the great coordination of Meg Weiss as well as many MV Members, it was a hit!

Mt. Hood Chapter

On July 4, fifteen of our members, including one grandson and one sister, participated in Estacada's Annual Independence Day Parade. As usual, we were organized and inspired by Colene Everett, who provides the bulk of the decorations. The crowd loved us, and we were awarded the coveted 1st Prize! Our animated pooper scoopers, Sue Gillilan and Suzanne Cathey, added to the fun.

Members are camping and participating in clinics, as well as meeting at McIver State Park every Thursday at 11:00 for a ride/drive.



Mt. Hood members enjoying Estacada Independence Day Parade.

TOKLAT®

North Coast Chapter

North Coast celebrated Northrup Creek Horse Camp's 20th anniversary on 4th of July. Inviting all campers to share our good fortune of having such a beautiful camp in our area, we had a lovely potluck and a fun parade through the campground during the weekend. The weather was excellent and allowed all riders to traverse the ridges in sunny but not hot conditions. The June rains did make some hills a bit slick so we all stayed safe and stuck to the routes that offered forested shade and open vistas, but got us home safely.

The camp was full of horse folks and non horse campers who co-existed in fine form. We had more food than could be eaten at the potluck and though our parade was quite tiny, those who participated had a blast!

We held a quick business meeting while up there, mostly reviewing June's work party. Ashley Lertora, Anna Borges, and Odin Wolf spent a morning at Ft. Stevens State Park clearing grass and scotch broom along the DeLaura Beach trail. Huge thanks to that trio! The group will use its Facebook page to announce any day rides that members may initiate. Pick a day and time and hope that others may rendezvous with you. There was talk of spending a day and/or night at Nehalem Bay State Park in September. No dates were chosen so stay tuned.

We hope to have our Labor Day campout at Northrup in early September, weather and fire danger permitting. Meanwhile, hope all riders and horses are taking advantage of the wonderful summer opportunities!!



North Coast members with horses in hand and under saddle, mid parade.



Fancy and Lisa Clapp staging for parade, celebrating Northrup Creek's 20 years.

Northwest Chapter

Several of the Northwest members are volunteering to help at the Smith Homestead Summer Concert on Monday July 27th. This is a fun event out in the coast range at the Tillamook Forest Center. The concert goers will enjoy music in a beautiful forested setting. This concert is organized by the State Forest Trust.

We are having a Road Emergency clinic on our next meeting date August 17th at one of our member's homes. We will have a potluck and learn about changing a tire on the road as well as other important emergency information. This will be a hands-on clinic.

Next chapter rides are Reehers from the Day use area August 12th and August 15th, boots in Stirrups 11am.

We have planned a chapter campout at Nehalem Bay the last few days of August. Always fun at the beach!

A few members rode at Rilee Park for the monthly ride. It was overcast and cool but a good day ride. We rode 3.6 miles in two and a half hours, several loops.

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South Coast Chapter

South Coast Chapter members turned out for the Horse Creek Camp-out and rides on Cape Mountain July 9 - 12. Perfect weather and a mostly full camp with beautiful trails to ride made for a great weekend.

The Wild Mare Camp host exited in July. The USFS Siuslaw District is seeking a camp host to finish out the summer until late October. South Coast Chapter volunteers placed wood chips in several corrals as the drain rock needed "softening." Inland heat sent a group from Idaho to stay a week at Wild Mare in cool fog. The August 7 - 9 Camp and Ride at Wild Mare is full as all sites are reserved. South Coast members will host the visiting riders.

A few members went to Cape Blanco Horse Camp during the last week of July, enjoying the beautiful horse camp, trails, and beach.

No meetings this summer as members focus on riding, camping, and some trail clearing. Usual monthly meetings will restart on September 16, 6:30 PM, @ Dave's Pizza, 740 Koos Bay Blvd., Coos Bay



August OET Board Meeting

Saturday Aug. 22, 10AM

Santiam Horse Camp

If you want to camp, reserve a site at ReserveAmerica

Online via Google Meet

Meeting ID:

https://meet.google.com/dsc-uujv-viy

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Small Task, Big Impact: Web Volunteer Needed

We would greatly appreciate a team member who can take the initiative to keep our Home Page updated on the OET Website. www.oregonequestriantrails.org

Whether it's just 10 minutes a month or more, the time commitment is entirely up to you. If interested, please email: vpoutreach@myoet.org

Just go and make your Memories

Reprinted from Facebook, by Monica Wellington

Forgive me if I tell you all a story…. I've been reflective lately and just finished 7 days of riding in our beautiful state.

Why do I, an aging women, head out into the forest with only my horse, my dog and my lovely little camper? During the week I was out there, I came up with several reasons.

My mother is dying. I'm watching her die a little every few weeks. She has Alzheimer's, as did her mother, and older sister who have passed. Her younger sister also has it, and I'm afraid. Not only do I painfully watch her decline every few weeks when she comes to stay with me, but it's scary, it's sad, and it's overwhelming. I needed to lower my cortisol levels and remember what feeds my soul.

The trees have called me. On this trip I started at Big Meadow Horse camp in the foothills of the Willamette National Forest. What a beautiful camp, in a gorgeous spot. It's lush with huge hemlock, spruce, and firs. Then moving on to the Sister's area I was welcomed by giant ponderosas, scattered aspens, grand firs, and even some cedars. If you pay attention, you can smell the different trees, and appreciate them individually.

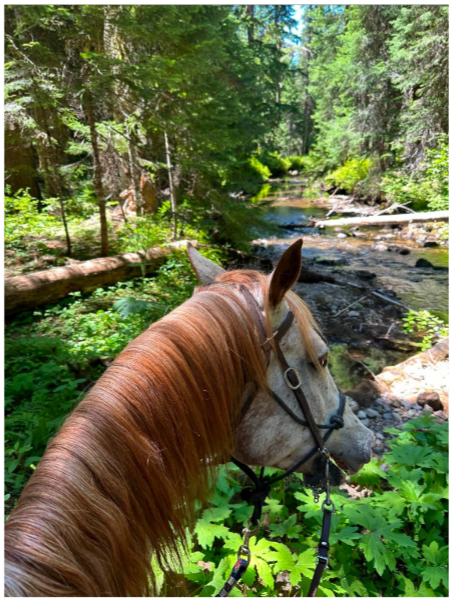
The Met-Win is a magical trail. It was created in the 80's especially for horseback riders. It's 152 miles long and is perfect in its diversity. Trees, creeks, mountain views, wildlife, hills, valleys, lakes, meadows, wildflowers, lava rock formations, ridges, and elevation. It literally has everything you want when you go on a trail ride. This trail is my passion. Riding the whole thing is a challenge, and something I yearn for each year. I've completed the whole thing once, in sections and decided to start again this year. On this trip I decided late to restart it, and had to do out and back rides, so it was slow going, but I still felt the Met Win glow.

As a solo-trail rider, you have lots of time to reflect. Lots of hours to breathe deep the velvety sweatiness of your horse, listen to the ASMR-inducing (relaxing) squeak of the saddle, feel the rhythmic rocking to and fro on the back of a horse, and the wonderous surprise of turning a corner to see a lake, a set of bachelor bucks, or the most perfect wildflowers growing out of a log on the Metolious River. I am trying to burn these experiences into my brain, forever. Please brain, don't forget.

Am I scared out there on my own? Sure….a little. My first two days at Sheep Springs (the Northern Terminus of the trail), a bear kept coming into camp. I forgot my bear spray at home. I rode anyway. My horse Clancy should really be named Spooky. He's a pain. He's afraid of everything. Despite the fact we have ridden hundreds and hundreds of miles, he still spooks randomly (sideways BIG moves) at flowers, his shadow, chipmunks, me clanging my water bottle on the pommel, and anything else you can think of. I have a pretty solid seat, but I did come off one day this trip—no big deal, I wasn't hurt, so I got back on and moved forward anyway. When I need to disperse camp to be closer to the trail, it can be a little "lonely". There's no camp host to help if something goes wrong. My high-tie system on my horse trailer works great, but I still stress a bit about my horse getting tangled or doing something stupid as horses do while I'm out there alone. When he wiggles at night, it wiggles my camper and wakes me up to check on him. I camped anyway.

I've been riding since I was 9—that's 50 years of riding now. Sheesh! Riding through the forest, especially on the Met-Win trail, is the one thing that can always bring me peace. I know I am doing something that some people think is nuts—I love that. I know there are risks, but when I look at my mother, and wonder if I'm looking in a mirror, I am unwilling to end up there without fighting for each and every memory. I ride my dork of a horse, we spook our way down the trail, I cherish the big views and the little moments. The forest brings calm, clarity, and rewards that real life can't seem to compete with. I will continue my trek this season, trying to get further down the Met Win, which is the epitome of an epic trail. Don't wait, don't make excuses, don't be afraid.

Just go and make those memories that you will hopefully have forever.





Monica and Clancy

Home-made Essential Oil Recipe

All-Natural Healing Salve

By Mary Kamm as learned from webinar by Janet Reark DVM.

- 8 oz. (225 g) Cold-Pressed Unrefined Organic Coconut Oil
- 1.25 oz. (35 g) Beeswax
- 3 drops Vitamin E oil or Lanolin
- 5 drops Helichrysum Essential Oil
- 10 drops Myrrh Essential Oil
- 15 drops Frankincense Essential Oil
- 10 drops Copaiba Essential Oil
- 10 drops Lavender Essential Oil

Directions: In a double boiler, heat coconut oil and beeswax until melted. Remove from heat and wait until mixture starts to cool (just a few minutes) before adding the other ingredients. mix and pour into glass jar(s). Store in a cool place where it will not melt. Apply directly over the areas of concern.

Watch for more home-made essential oil recipes in the next issues of *Riders' Roundup.*











Deschutes Trails Coalition Small Project Grant Program Awards Funding to Support Trail Stewardship and Recreation Infrastructure

Reprinted from The Source – Bend, Oregon; Bend's Daily Independent Voice Dated July 6, 2026

The Deschutes Trails Coalition is thrilled to announce our Small Project Grant Program awardees for five projects totaling $30,000 that will enhance trail development, maintenance capacity, and recreation opportunities throughout Central Oregon. These investments support local organizations dedicated to improving access to public lands, maintaining sustainable trail systems, and expanding volunteer stewardship efforts.



The following projects have been selected to receive Small Project Grant funding:

Oregon Equestrian Trails – Sisters Trail Additions and Realignments (STAR): New Trail Construction by OET

Funding will support the construction of new trail segments and strategic trail realignments in the Sisters area. The project will improve trail connectivity, enhance user experiences for equestrians and other recreationists, and promote sustainable trail design practices that protect natural resources.

Central Oregon Trail Alliance – Skid Steer Equipment Upgrades

Dirty Freehub – Dirty Freehub Tools Request

Sisters Trails Alliance – STAR Trail Building & Maintenance Tools

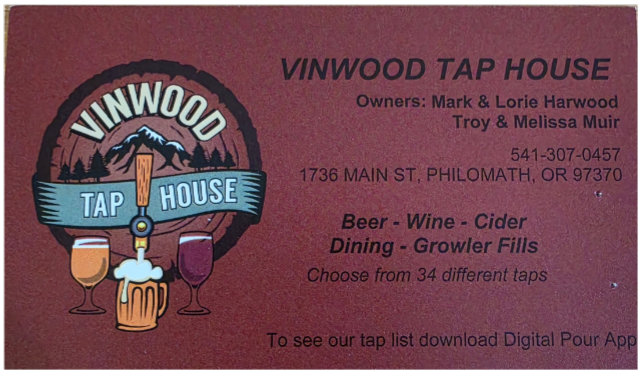
Friends of the Central Cascades Wilderness – Additional Trail Tools to Increase Trail Crew Capacity



"These projects demonstrate the dedication of local organizations and volunteers who work tirelessly to maintain and improve our region's trail systems," said Jana Johnson, Executive Director of the DTC, "By investing in tools, equipment, and trail infrastructure, the Small Projects Grants help ensure that residents and visitors can continue to enjoy safe, sustainable, and accessible outdoor recreation opportunities."

Collectively, the funded projects will strengthen trail stewardship efforts, support volunteer engagement, and contribute to the long-term sustainability of Central Oregon's recreation assets.





Having fun at Horse Camp

Beautiful Silver Falls

This was our first trip to Silver Falls state park, started July 20. The trails were perfectly maintained but serious elevation changes. Trails are shared with mountain bikers and hikers with dogs (supposed to be leashed).....all hikers and bikers quickly and nicely yielded right of way to us which was outstanding, because the drop-offs were significant wherever we encountered folks.

Absolutely stunning park. The photo of Dave with Logan is also there....same trip. We just got back yesterday, a day early, as we were concerned hwy 20 would close due to Akawa fire.

Ann & Dave Wolf



Getting a drink at Silver Falls State park trails.



Big Meadows

"I camped at Big Meadows Horse Camp last week," reports Rhonda Marquis. "This is a beautiful horse camp located among large evergreen trees. It was very easy to get my LQ pulled around the camp road and backed into my site, #6. Water was available via a hand pump right across from my site, and there are 2 manure pits. You might want to bring a wheel barrow with you. The trails offer good mountain riding and and had just been cleared by Back Country Horsemen of Oregon (BCHO). They had some really big trees to cut!" Located just 55 miles from Bend, Big Meadows Horse Camp offers a wonderful camping and riding opportunity.



Wild Mare

Several members of the South Coast chapter OET showed up at Wild Mare horse camp in North Bend to fill stalls with wood chips that were previously covered with gravel. As always, we had a really good time with each other doing this.

The weather is absolutely divine on the coast during the summer. Currently, Wilder camp is fairly empty. We've made some great improvements to it and there's hundreds of acres of trails to ride on.

Come on down to the southern Oregon coast, get away from the heat, and have a beautiful weekend of camping with your best friend, your horse

WILDLIFE SAFARI

Whitefish Horse Camp Brings OET Chapters Together

Our North Valley Chapter scheduled a campout at beautiful Whitefish Horse Camp, and it turned into a wonderful gathering of OET members from across the state. While we were there, four different OET chapters were represented—North Valley, Northwest, West Valley, and Mt. Hood. It was great to see so many members enjoying the trails together.

We logged plenty of miles in the saddle, with surprisingly few bugs to contend with. The tradeoff? Lots of dust! Then Mother Nature decided to shake things up with a torrential two-hour downpour one evening. By the time the rain stopped, many of the corrals and campsites were flooded.

Five of us happened to be enjoying dinner at Mandley's Restaurant up the road while the storm rolled through. We stayed nice and dry while the rain poured outside, making for a memorable evening and a good story to tell back at camp.

I drove up on Saturday and was pleasantly surprised by how light the traffic was. Heading home on Wednesday was a different story, with much heavier traffic—but it was well worth the trip.

Whitefish Horse Camp once again proved to be a fantastic destination for riding, camping, and connecting with fellow OET members. If you haven't had the chance to camp there yet, be sure to add it to your list!

Collette Hayes



Posing at Crescent Lake near Whitefish Horse Camp.





Riding dusty trails near Whitefish Horse Camp.

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August 2026 - Riders' Roundup

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

OET Trail Talk

The latest from the trails, camps & OET family!

SUMMER IS IN FULL SWING!

The horses are getting miles, the trailers are rolling, and OET members are enjoying Oregon's beautiful trails and horse camps!

From campouts and trail rides to work parties and good old-fashioned campfire visiting, summer is when our OET family really gets out and enjoys what we work so hard to protect.





