Riders' Roundup



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

New Members receive a monthly 20 page Newsletter and a Guidebook!



Check out 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.	Chan's Chinese Restaurant 632 OR-99W 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



October always feels like a month of transition. The horses are getting fluffier, the days shorter, the mornings cooler, and our chapters are preparing for another season.

At the chapter level, October is a good time to think about leadership for the coming year. Chapter officer elections will be held soon and reported to the State Secretary in early December. I think of it a little like reseeding a pasture. Healthy organizations, like healthy fields, need renewal. Sometimes that means new people stepping forward, sometimes it means experienced leaders continuing to serve, and often it means a good mixture of both. Either way, this is a chance to invite members into leadership and help grow the next season of your chapter.

Fall camping brings its own reminders. As we talk so often about Leave No Trace on the trail, let's remember that it applies just as much in camp. Pick up hay, manure, bedding, and anything else we brought with us. Leaving a campsite cleaner than we found it is one of the simplest ways we can be good ambassadors for equestrians and good stewards of the places we enjoy.

October and November are the months when trail riders are most likely to encounter deer and elk hunters so make yourself and your horse easy to see. Blaze orange is always a good choice — although October also gives you permission to branch out. You might wear pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, or perhaps you and your horse are headed to a fun and creative costume ride. Either way, visibility is a good thing this time of year!

Enjoy the crisp air, changing leaves and those beautiful fall rides. Be safe, take care of our camps and trails, and think about what seeds your chapter might plant now for a strong year ahead.

"Since 1921"
DC FARMERS CO-OP

October 2026

Chapter Information 2
President's Report 3
VP Public Lands Report 4
VP Marketing Report 4
VP Field Services Report 5
Brett Branch - VP FS Nomination 6
Susie Vroman - VP FS Nomination 7
2026 Calendar of Events 8
Tech Corner- Talk, don't type 10
OET Letter Re: Roadless Rule 11
STAR Project Update 12
Kelsay Valley's New Signs 12
Oregon Trails Summit 13
Herbal Remedies 13
Annual Banquet Info 14
Wild Wilderness 16
Chapter Reports 18
Working Equitation 22
Teaching Youth Cyclists 23
Horse Packing 24

Riders' Roundup

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

Oregon Equestrian Trails

10117 SE Sunnyside Rd. #F 101
Clackamas, Or 97015
OregonEquestrianTrails.org
Facebook.com/OregonEquestrianTrails

President
Melissa McLaughlin
president@oregonequestriantrails.org
(503) 560-0771

Vice President of Field Service
Matt Dolphin
vpfieldservices@oregonequestriantrails.org
(503) 332-2711

Vice President of Public Lands
Kim McCarrel
vppubliclands@oregonequestriantrails.org
(541) 410-4552

Vice President Outreach
Collette Hayes
vpoutreachoet@gmail.com
(503) 270-7167

Secretary
Gloria Rice
secretary@oregonequestriantrails.org
(503) 366-3736

Treasurer
Susan High
treasurer@oregonequestriantrails.org
(503) 539-0147

Membership Services
Micheline Black
membership@oregonequestriantrails.org
(503) 724-2111

Webmaster
Marty DeVall
web@oregonequestriantrails.org
(503) 650-5398

Riders' Roundup Editor
Leslye Wing
newsletter@oregonequestriantrails.org
(541) 849-9155

Guidebook Distribution
Della Webb and Ann Moser
guidebook@oregonequestriantrails.org
(541) 741-8074

Advertising Coordinator
Lynda Harding
advertising@oregonequestriantrails.org
(559) 696-7601

VP of Public Lands

Kim McCarrel



I'll bet you can't read this month's column without getting alarmed.

Last month, I wrote about the Forest Service's proposal to eliminate the Roadless Rule, which protects certain National Forest lands from road building, logging, and mining. In Oregon, Roadless Areas are mostly adjacent to Wilderness Areas. Many of you wrote letters to the Forest Service to offer your views on this proposal. We expect a decision on the future of the Roadless Rule in early 2027.

Now the Forest Service is proposing a partial rollback of the Travel Management Rule. This administrative rule identifies which forest roads are open to motorized use and which are not. Like the proposal to eliminate the Roadless Rule, rolling back the Travel Management Rule will increase motorized recreation opportunities. Specifically, it will designate most forest roads as "open to motorized use unless specifically closed," give local forests more authority to expand motorized access, and eliminate criteria that require the agency to locate trails to minimize resource damage and user conflicts.

And here is the best part: buried in this extensive proposal is a provision that would remove class 1 e-bikes from the definition of motorized vehicles and allow them on any trail where mountain bikes are allowed. Yikes!

Supporters of the rollback say the rule revisions will increase recreational access for ATVs, motorcycles, side-by-sides, and e-bikes, as well as cars and trucks. It will also make it easier for local forests to allow limited off-route motorized access for big-game retrieval, firewood cutting, dispersed camping, and other activities.

Opponents say the rule will:

- Increase the number of encounters between motorized and non-motorized users, resulting in more conflicts
- Make it easier for motorized users to encroach on non-motorized trails
- Fragment wildlife habitat, making it harder for deer, elk, and other creatures to get far enough from human activity to feel safe
- Worsen the road maintenance backlog, which already amounts to several billion dollars
- Increase conflicts between non-motorized trail users and e-bikes

OET submitted a letter (See page 12) to the Forest Service urging them to carefully consider the impact of the proposed rule change on non-motorized recreation, wildlife, and our natural resources. We pointed out that while the proposal will provide more recreational opportunities for motorized users, it will come at the expense of more conflicts with non-motorized users, more wildlife disturbance, and more erosion.

We also pointed out that allowing e-bikes on non-motorized trails endangers equestrians and other trail users. The speed differential between an e-bike capable of traveling 20 mph and hikers and horses traveling 3 mph is too great to safely share trails. E-bikes will not only compromise non-motorized users' safety, but also add to bike traffic on the trails, forcing other trail users to constantly watch for potentially dangerous encounters and diminishing the quality of our recreational experience.

We hope our comments will help the Forest Service determine which issues to include in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) they will prepare. We will continue to monitor the Travel Management proposal and will urge all our members to submit a comment letter when the EIS is released for public comment in early 2027. Stay tuned…

VP Marketing Outreach

Collette Hayes



Hello All!

I hope everyone is ready to make their nominations for your chapter's 2027 Chapter Officers. What an exciting time....so many are stepping up with the vision of helping OET continue to thrive. Thank you!

We are all seeing and feeling the pinch with fuel prices, camping fees, and overall costs. Many of us still got out there camping, riding, and participating in work parties, but we certainly saw the difference from the past seasons.

The Oregon Trails Coalition Summit is coming up and I hope to see many of you there. It is a great time to learn about trails and what all is going on throughout our beautiful state.

We are pulling together our Annual OET Membership Meeting & Banquet. Same great price - $38/per person - upstairs at Roth's Fresh Market, Salem. January 30th 2027.

We are looking for a couple of speakers so let me know what you would like to see or hear! There are a couple ideas on the table now. Sign up as soon as you can and don't forget to buy a raffle ticket as well!

Have a fabulous fall!

VP of Field Service

Matt Dolphin



Why I Chose to Serve

People have occasionally asked why I volunteered to serve over the past three years as Vice President of Field Services for Oregon Equestrian Trails. There isn't really one reason. It's a combination of family, a love of the outdoors, the satisfaction that comes from service, and a lesson I learned from someone I miss every day.

My sister passed away far too young, in her thirties. She loved horses. More importantly, she loved people. She was a special education teacher who spent her career helping children who often needed an extra measure of patience, encouragement, and compassion. She was always trying to teach kids the importance of being kind.

Today, a small sign that once belonged to her sits in my office. It simply reads:

"Kindness Matters."

I see it every day.

My own primary way of enjoying the outdoors is hiking. I own a bicycle, but I wouldn't call myself a mountain biker. I don't own horses today, although my family had horses when I was younger, and perhaps we'll have them again someday.

What I do have is a deep appreciation for trails, public lands, and the people who volunteer their time to take care of them.

That's what drew me to Oregon Equestrian Trails and particularly to Field Services. There is something incredibly satisfying about spending a day with good people doing tangible work—clearing brush, removing fallen trees, improving a trail—and knowing that when you're finished, you've left that place a little better for everyone who comes after you.

For the past three summers, my family has spent a week helping clear roughly 20 miles of trail around Quinn Meadow Horse Camp. My kids have hauled branches, cleared brush, worked alongside equestrians, and learned firsthand what it means to take care of places we all enjoy.

Those weeks have become something our family values. We've worked hard, laughed a lot, learned new things, and made some really great friends. And along the way, I've come to appreciate something else about service: it creates opportunities to find common ground with people who may experience the outdoors differently than you do.

That has particular meaning for my family because of our experience closer to home. For years, Bob & Crystal Rilee Park was a place where we walked and rode bikes together. My kids have been exploring that park since they were little enough to be learning on balance bikes. Then bicycles were excluded from the trails.

My youngest recently pointed out that three years is almost a third of his life. That's how long he has been respectfully following the rules and waiting for the park district to once again provide kids and families with a place to ride.

As a father, it has sometimes been difficult to explain why they can't ride there anymore, particularly when they've encountered people who strongly believe kids on bicycles don't belong in public parks. I'm looking forward to the day when I can ride those trails with my kids and other families again.

But I don't want those disagreements to define how my children see equestrians—or anyone else.

Our experiences with Oregon Equestrian Trails have helped demonstrate why they shouldn't. My kids have met generous equestrians who welcomed them, taught them, worked beside them, joked with them, and thanked them for their work. They've learned that being passionate about horses doesn't mean you can't appreciate hikers or cyclists. They've experienced being of service alongside people who love something that may be different from what they love.

That's a lesson I want them to carry through life.

Every community contains people with different personalities and opinions. A few difficult experiences shouldn't become our definition of an entire group. Sometimes the best response is to seek out the good people, spend more time and energy with them, and find something worthwhile you can accomplish together.

And, to be honest, maybe I needed that reminder too. There have also been moments when the lesson on that little sign in my office has been tested.

On one occasion, someone publicly shared an unflattering part of my past and made personal attacks against me. It would have been easy to respond in kind or let resentment determine how I treated that person.

I chose not to. I believe we cannot ask others to show kindness if we're unwilling to extend it ourselves, especially when doing so is difficult. Kindness doesn't mean pretending disagreements or hurtful words don't matter. It means deciding that they won't determine the kind of person we choose to be.

That's one of the things service continues to teach me. When you're carrying tools together, clearing brush, removing a fallen tree from a trail, or sharing lunch after a long day's work, labels start to matter a lot less. Horseback rider. Hiker. Cyclist. Parent. Kid.

You're simply people working together to take care of a place you all value. I've been fortunate to find a lot of those people in Oregon Equestrian Trails.

Serving as Vice President of Field Services has allowed me to work with dedicated volunteers across Oregon who give tremendous amounts of their time and energy to trails and

Continued on page 6...

VP Field Services Nomination: Brett Branch



Greetings from Brett Branch, current North Valley chapter chair and nominee for state VP of Field Services. As a teenager in the 80s, my family used to spend weeks riding and camping in the Three Sisters and Jefferson Wilderness areas. I used to say I know those trails well enough to be a guide. And I was raised with the knowledge that much of what we enjoyed was made possible by OET, but my family didn't really participate or provide much support. I've had horses my entire life, but as an adult working a very demanding technical marketing role in tech, some years my horses were little more than pasture pets, but we rode whenever we could. When I finally decided to leave that demanding career, I decided it was time to give back to OET. I became a certified Sawyer, and somehow found myself in chapter leadership. My heart is in maintaining the campgrounds and trails that we love and making sure that we continue to have access to them and the ability to enjoy them. When we had a state board meeting discussion about needing nominations for a new VP of Field Services, I was very excited at the possibility of serving in that role. When Susie's nomination came out, I told people I didn't want a nomination because I think Susie is a GREAT candidate with a LOT of VALUABLE EXPERIENCE. Even though I've agreed to accept a nomination, I still think Susie is a great candidate. But I also was encouraged, and strongly believe that serving OET is a privilege and an honor. The impact we make is worth fighting for and working for. I think we need more members willing to step up and step out, so I want to set that example.

If I am elected as VP of Field Services, I want to not only support the work that we do by meeting with all our chapters and learning what projects you all are passionate about and what your resourcing gaps and needs are, but I also want to shine a light on all the good work and accomplishments we have completed and have ongoing. And I want to help. I love being on the trail and I love putting my Sawyer skills to work. The main skills I have to offer (besides passion and enthusiasm) are leadership skills and my background in marketing. I want to see more of our trail riding public be involved with and supporting OET, and fewer families like the one I grew up in where people take the wonderful trails and facilities for granted. More support means more resources and more resources means that we can accomplish even more! I want more friends working beside me and having a great time giving back and just the enjoyment of being outside with a meaningful purpose. Let's go OET!!!

...continued from page 5

VP Field Services

public lands. I'm proud of the work we've done together, grateful for the friendships my family and I have made, and grateful that my kids have had the opportunity to serve alongside these people.

Maybe someday our family will own horses again. Either way, I expect we'll keep hiking, occasionally riding bikes, clearing trails, and looking for opportunities to leave the places we love a little better than we found them.

And I hope my kids remember something else from all of this. You don't have to enjoy the outdoors in exactly the same way to care about the same places.

You don't have to agree about everything to work together.

And when disagreement gives you a reason to pull away from people, sometimes choosing instead to show up, help out, and get to know them can lead somewhere much better.

My sister understood that.

Her little sign doesn't say kindness matters only when people are kind to you. It doesn't say kindness matters only when you get something in return. It doesn't say kindness matters only when we agree.

It just says:

Kindness Matters.

I'm still working on living up to that.

VP Field Services Nomination: Susie Vroman



Melissa McLaughlin posted on trail mail: As you may know, Matt Dolphin declined his nomination for VP of Field Services for the 2027-2029 term. Susie Vroman has accepted the nomination for VP Field Services, and her name will be on your November ballot. I'm happy to introduce you to Susie in her own words here:

"My name is Susie Vroman; I am a native Oregonian having lived my whole life in the Polk County farming community of Perrydale. As a founding member of the West Valley Oregon Equestrian Trails Chapter and past chapter chair, I arranged for the adoption of the Sheep Springs Horse Camp in the Sisters Ranger District. Over the past 25 years, I have been a volunteer with the Yamhill County Sheriff's Posse and a state of Oregon certified search and rescue member with Marion County SAR. I continue to camp and ride all over Oregon and understand the challenges today's equestrians face in the field.

As Vice President of Field Services my goals are to work with chapter field services persons to understand the status of their projects and needs in order to support their future goals and plans. I am excited to work with governing agencies and other user groups to improve the resources we enjoy. The future of our recreation depends on building relationships with these groups so we can work together developing and maintaining the forest resources we collectively enjoy. With respect to the use of our public lands, I will continue to advocate for the OET goal of promoting LNT and equestrian etiquette in the places where we recreate so our presence is seen as a benefit.

As V.P. Field Services, I will bring years of outdoor experience, knowledge, enthusiasm, organizational skills and dedication to promote OET values at the state level."

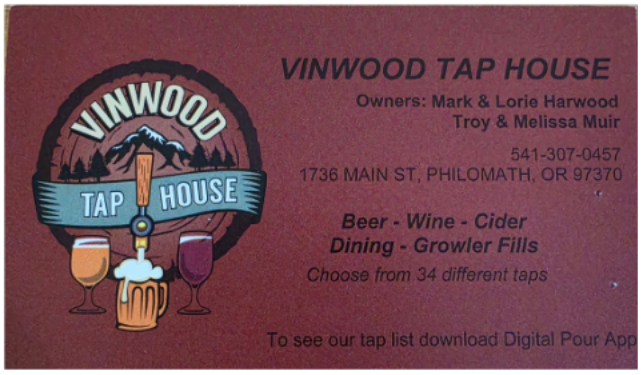
Park Host Opportunity

Have you or someone you know always wanted to be a Park Host?? Well here is the Opportunity!!

Douglas County Parks Department is recruiting for a Park Host position at Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park and Campground!! Bring your horses.

You can find details and more about the application process at https://www.douglascountyor.gov/819/Volunteer

The Park is just a few miles east of beautiful Historic Oakland, Oregon. Miles of horse trails.









2026 Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Chapter	Event	Location	Information
October					
Oct 3	8:00AM - 1:30PM	Columbia County	Ride	Dibblee Beach, Rainer	Trick or Treat Ride. Costumes and Scavenger Hunt. Info: hauntedlodge@hotmail.com
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 Estracada	Trail Boss: Tamara Glover. Contact: northvalleyoff@myoet.org
Oct 17	12:00PM - 2:00PM	Mid-Valley	Ride	Elijah Bristow State Park, Wheeler Rd, Dexter	Chapter Ride. Contact: midvalley@myoet.org
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
Oct 22-24		Public	Special	Ashland	Outdoor Recreational Summit. Visit Oregon Trails Coalition website.
Oct 24	11:00AM - 2:00PM	Northwest	Ride	L.L. Stub Steward Park Clayhill Staging	Boots in Stirrups 11AM!
TBD		Central Oregon	Ride	Wildwood Ranch	Halloween Ride.
Oct 31	4:00PM - 6:00PM	Eugene	Ride	Elijah Bristow State Park, Wheeler Rd, Dexter	Halloween Twilight Ride. Before or after your ride enjoy donuts and cider. Dress up as your favorite Twilight Character.
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 14	10:00AM - 12:00PM	Mid-Valley	Ride	Sulphur Springs	midvalley@myoet.org
Nov 14	5:00PM - 8:00PM	Columbia County	Special	Warren Country Inn Restaurant	Holiday Dinner. Raffle. Bring a dessert.
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
Nov 21	10:00AM - 4:00PM	State	Meeting	Emerald People's Utility District, 33733 Seavey Loop Rd, Eugene	4th Quarter Board Meeting

December					
Dec 5	11:00AM - 1:00PM	Mid-Valley	Ride	Oregon Horse Center, 90751 Prairie Rd, Eugene	Mountain Trail fun ride, then Tea
Dec 5		Roseburg	Party	Lynda Harding's Home Winston	Holiday Party
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
Dec 21	6:00PM - 7:00PM	Northwest	Party	Rustic Ridge Arena 24241-47, Gaston	Holiday party! Contact: northwestoff@myoet.org
January 2027					
Jan 1	10:00AM - 11:00AM	Mid-Valley	Ride	Peavy Arboretum, 8392 NW Peavy Arboretum Rd, Corvallis	midvalley@myoet.org
Jan 4	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
Jan 30	10:00AM - 3:30PM	State	Meeting	Roth's Fresh Markets, 1130 Wallace Rd NW, Salem	Annual Banquet
Jan 1	10:00AM - 3:00PM	State	Meeting	Roth's Fresh Markets, 1130 Wallace Rd NW, Salem	First Quarter Board Meeting

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

Upcoming Dates & Locations - OET State Board Meetings

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

January 30, 2027 — Annual Membership Meeting & Banquet. Roth's Fresh Market, Salem

January 31 2027 — 1st Qtr Meeting. Roth's Fresh Market, Salem

SEVEN FEATHERS CASINO RESORT

TOKLAT®

BEGGS TIRE & WHEEL
Brian Beggs
Albany, OR 97321
1315 SE Pacific Blvd.
P.O. Box 2761
(541) 967-8473
www.beggstire.com
The valley's best place for tires & wheels!

CASCADIA EQUINE VETERINARY CLINIC, LLC
CHRISTOPHER WICKLIFFE, DVM
KELSEY PALSGAARD, DVM eVMA
SERA MORAN, DVM
541-207-8308
CONTACT@CASCADIAEQUINE.COM
31730 SPORT HORSE WAY,
TANGENT, OR 97389
WWW.CASCADIAEQUINE.COM

kw PORTLAND PREMIERE KELLERWILLIAMS REALTY
Brett Branch
Oregon Real Estate Broker
503-913-2943
bbranch10@gmail.com
https://brettbranch.kw.com
Your Equine and Rural Property Expert serving areas around the Greater Portland Metro area

OET Tech Corner

Talk, Don't Type - Using Voice Dictation

By Marty DeVall, OET Web Master

Whether you're riding through a scenic section of trail, noticing a downed log that needs work party attention, or keeping track of horse camp observations, taking notes on the trail is incredibly handy. But let's be honest: typing on a small phone screen while wearing riding gloves or holding reins with stiff fingers can be frustrating.

Luckily, your smartphone already knows how to listen! Instead of tapping away on tiny plastic letters, you can simply speak out loud, and your phone will turn your spoken words into written text instantly. It's a game-changer for staying safe while documenting the trails we love.

Why Speech-to-Text is a Trail Rider's Best Friend

- **Works with Gloves On:** No need to pull off your riding gloves just to send a text or make a note.
- **No Tiny Keys to Miss:** Forget hunt-and-peck typing or dealing with pesky auto-correct mistakes from big thumbs.
- **Hands-Free Speed:** Speaking a sentence takes three seconds, whereas typing it out on the trail can take a minute or more.
- **Great for Trail Reporting:** You can easily dictate exact locations or maintenance needs while standing right next to the hazard.
- **Offline Reliability:** This works even in many areas with limited cell service when you use your native Notes app, ensuring your observations are saved until you return to service.

How to Use Voice Dictation

You can use voice dictation anywhere you would normally type—whether you're writing a text message to a riding buddy or taking notes in your phone's **Notes** app.

Step 1: Open Your App & Tap to Type
Open your preferred app (such as your **Text Messages** or **Notes** app) and tap inside the text box where you want to write. This brings up your standard onscreen keyboard.

Step 2: Find the Little Microphone Icon
Look at your keyboard—**do not press the microphone icon used for sending voice audio messages**, but look for the small **keyboard microphone icon**:

- **On iPhone:** It sits near the bottom right corner of your keyboard.
- **On Android:** It usually appears near the top right bar of your keyboard layout (on the Gboard toolbar).

Step 3: Tap, Speak, and Watch It Type!
Tap that microphone icon once. You'll usually hear a soft chime or see a small listening prompt. Speak clearly at a normal talking speed, keeping your phone relatively close to your mouth if it's windy, as high winds can sometimes interfere with transcription. Your phone will transcribe your spoken words onto the screen in real-time! Tap the microphone icon again when you are finished speaking to stop.

Pro-Tip: Adding Punctuation by Voice

Want to add periods or start a new line? Just say the word out loud! Modern smartphones understand punctuation commands:

- Say **"Period"** $\rightarrow$ adds a **.**
- Say **"Comma"** $\rightarrow$ adds a **,**
- Say **"Question mark"** $\rightarrow$ adds a **?**
- Say **"New line"** $\rightarrow$ drops down to the next line

Example: If you say out loud:

"Tree down across trail near mile marker four period New line Needs chainsaw crew period"

Your phone will write:

Tree down across trail near mile marker four. Needs chainsaw crew.

Give it a try at home before your next ride—tap the microphone icon on a draft text message and tell your phone about your day. You'll be amazed at how quick and easy trail note-taking becomes! With just a little practice, you'll be able to send detailed, accurate trail reports back to our OET coordinators in seconds, helping us keep our trails clear and safe for everyone.



OET's Comment Letter regarding Travel Management Rule Rollback

The Forest Service proposal described below is in the Scoping phase, which means the Forest Service is looking for answers to questions about their proposal, such as "What have we missed?" and "What studies should we consider as we analyze this proposal?" The Environmental Impact Statement they prepare will include an analysis of several Alternatives, including one that examines the impacts of keeping the current rule, adopting the proposed change, and various alternatives that may include parts of the current situation and parts of their proposal. The Forest Service is supposed to use the best available science to guide its decision-making, and it has asked the public to point out any studies relevant to its proposal. Here is OET's comment letter.

These scoping comments are submitted on behalf of Oregon Equestrian Trails, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose members volunteer thousands of hours a year to maintain non-motorized trails on public lands.

The proposed rollback of the Travel Management Rule will certainly benefit motorized users by increasing their access to our National Forests. But this access comes at a considerable cost. As you prepare the EIS, we urge you to fully consider the negative impacts the proposed changes will have on non-motorized users, wildlife, and our natural resources. Specifically, the EIS should:

1. **Include an Alternative that continues to define e-bikes as motorized vehicles.**

As the 2024 Federal Highway Administration announcement, "The Future of E-Bikes on Public Land," states, "there is a dearth of data or research to support science-based management of e-bikes." However, the equestrian community can provide armloads of anecdotal evidence that allowing e-bikes on non-motorized trails is a bad idea. We have myriad examples of horses shying or bolting when spooked by an e-bike hurtling toward them, potentially throwing the rider to the ground and causing serious injury.

While e-bikes can travel up to 20 mph (both uphill and downhill), hikers and horses travel at about 3 mph. This speed differential endangers non-motorized users on shared trails. And if e-bikes are allowed, non-motorized trail users must constantly watch for them, significantly diminishing our enjoyment of the recreational experience.

In addition, allowing e-bikes on non-motorized trails will increase the sheer number of bikes on the trails. Horses and hikers have already been displaced from many trails by the presence of so many mountain bikes. Adding e-bikes will increase conflicts even more. Since every encounter puts the slower-moving, less-mechanized user at risk, allowing e-bikes will inevitably displace horseback riders and hikers from even more trails.

This Alternative should consider the impact that an e-bike reclassification will have on the safety of non-motorized users and the quality of our recreational experience. We challenge you to show that the benefits of reclassifying e-bikes outweigh the negative impact that this decision would have on other trail users.

2. **Include an Alternative that retains the current requirement for staff to actively minimize user conflicts and protect sensitive resources like wildlife, soils, and water. This Alternative should also omit the proposed requirement for forests to annually re-evaluate non-motorized areas for motorized access.**

As the Starkey Project (Wisdom, M. J., technical editor. 2005. The Starkey Project: a synthesis of long-term studies of elk and mule deer. Lawrence, Kansas: Alliance Communications Group) clearly demonstrated, motorized vehicles have a significantly greater negative impact on wildlife than do non-motorized users. This effect is magnified by motorized vehicles' ability to travel farther in a day than non-motorized users, allowing incursions deeper into wildlife habitat and exacerbating their negative impact on forest creatures.

Numerous scientific studies have analyzed the impact of motorized vehicles on soils and vegetation. Even a casual comparison of motorized and non-motorized recreation areas vividly shows the increased erosion and vegetation loss that motorized vehicles can cause.

This Alternative should evaluate the impact of favoring motorized access over wildlife, forest health, and other trail users. It should also examine the costs associated with additional route maintenance, erosion control, enforcement, restoration, signage, and resource damage. **We challenge you to show scientific evidence demonstrating that eliminating or weakening the existing national minimization criteria would provide adequate protection against the environmental impacts and recreation conflicts those criteria were intended to address.**

Summary

Our members depend upon accessible public lands, and we also invest thousands of volunteer hours a year helping maintain those lands and their trail systems. Long-term access depends upon managing recreation in a way that protects the resource on which all recreation depends.

We therefore encourage the Forest Service to retain strong, science-based minimization principles while allowing local managers enough flexibility to respond to site-specific conditions.

Thank you for considering our views.

27 Miles of New Riding: The STAR Project Is Expanding Trails Near Sisters

Did you know the STAR (Sisters Trail Additions & Realignment) project work has already cleared trails, completed trail bypasses, and begun construction on a new trail?

Starting at Whispering Pines Horse Camp, the loop that includes the Scott Pass Trailhead and the Millican Crater Trailhead has been cleared of snow brush and several new sections of trail have been created so roads aren't included. New white diamonds have been posted along the equestrian portion of the trail and temporary signs installed.

A brand new trail has been flagged that will connect to the Trout Butte summit trail, and construction crews are scheduled to work on it soon. Recently Pat and Rhonda Marquis led riders along the trail. **Eventually the STAR project will add approximately 27 miles of NEW equestrian trails in the Whispering Pine and Cow Camp areas.**

Whispering Pine Horse Camp is just ten miles from Sisters, Oregon, and the last 3 miles of gravel road are in good condition. Day riders can park along road 1520 near the campground.

Huge thanks to volunteers Scott Hills, Pat Marquis, Kathryn Godsiff, Gayla Nelson, and - all the way from Sunriver, - Julie Irwin. Many more volunteers will be needed this fall and next year to continue work on the project!



Kelsay Valley Trails receive new Signs



On Saturday, October 3 Roseburg OET members installed about a dozen new trail signs. There is a couple dozen more signs to install. Thank you to Al Alexander for material and labor to create such attractive signage.





Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE 10TH YEAR OF THE OREGON TRAILS SUMMIT

TRAVEL OREGON

October 22-24, 2026, Ashland, OR

OREGON TRAILS COALITION

The 2026 Summit will take place Thursday-Saturday, October 22-24, in Ashland, Oregon and surrounding areas. The summit combines fun and high impact in-person networking opportunities with conference programming on the important issues of the day, educational content (learning credits available!), trails stewardship work parties, and in-field tours and workshops.

Oregon's trails, mountain ranges, scenic rivers, valleys, and canyons, high desert, and iconic coast are treasured by Oregonians and visitors alike. Access to nature and outdoor recreation is foundational to our health and happiness. The outdoors can simultaneously be our refuge to get away from it all and a gathering force to build lifelong, joy-filled connections with each other and with the ecosystems that sustain us. Oregon outdoor recreation is foundational to our communities: driving our state's tourism economy, nurturing a thriving web of local businesses and community partnerships, building understanding of our relationship with the natural world, creating a foundation for a shared sense of identity and belonging.

Register Here >>>

Or visit Oregon Trails Coalition website

Chapters are encouraged to pay for the Summit Registration and possibly one night's lodging to send a member to this meeting.
Let's have a great equestrian turnout!

Home-made Essential Oil Recipe

Abscess Drawing Clay

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

10 drops Lavender
10 drops Frankincense
10 drops Myrrh
2 drops Cypress
10 drops Tea Tree
200 g bentonite clay or green clay
50 mL Calendula infused oil
150-200 mL Witch Hazel
50 mL Fractionated coconut oil

To use: Mix the oils and clay together, then add the witch hazel while stirring to desired consistency. Apply liberally to affected area, cover with a clean bandage for 20 minutes to 3 hours.

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



Annual Banquet & Meeting 2027

O.E.T.

-PRESENTATION: BUYING AND SELLING A HORSE

-CHAPTER PRIZE RIDES AND FUNDRAISERS: HOW TO

SATURDAY | JANUARY 30TH

LUNCH BUFFET POTATO BAR

DINNER BUFFET TACO BAR

~Sign up Online today $38~

Please Register by Jan. 15th

Continental Breakfast & Full Bar!



Start time 10am

Lunch noon & Dinner 5pm

9am-10am Check-in

Coffee & Tea available all day!

Roths Fresh Markets
1130 Wallace Road NW
Salem, OR 97304
503-588-3663

Make your reservation for your night stay during Annual meeting

Holiday Inn Salem
3301 Market Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/salem/slems/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=GoogleMaps-_-HI-_-US-_-SLEMS

Our Board of Directors meeting will be there on Sunday January 31st 10am-3pm. Attendees will choose their lunch menu in advance.



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

Coastal
"Just What the Country Needs!"

THE FEED PALACE
541-609-8647
PHILOMATH, OR



TK CONSTRUCTION LLC
Travis Greiner
TK Construction LLC
CCB#240208
PHONE: 971-716-8033
69310 Souther Ln
Rainier, OR 97048
TeeKayconstructionllc@gmail.com

McKENZIE FEED & PET SUPPLIES
Dani Wright
4441 Main Street
Springfield, OR 97478
phone 541-726-2951
fax 541-726-4397
daniwright@mckenziefeed.com
monday - friday 9-6 saturday 9-5 sunday 10-4

We own and enjoy different types of dogs, cats, pets, livestock and horses and specialize in customer service and problem solving.

The products in our store are carefully chosen with consideration to quality and value.

We carry many different kinds of feeds, toys, treats and nutritional aids to satisfy the many needs of dog, cat, pet, livestock and equine owners.

Let us help you make the right choice.

Wild Wilderness

By Carol Miller, Roseburg Chapter



Three Sisters Wilderness. Eileen Lake and Middle and South Sister.

Packing ten miles into the Three Sisters Wilderness via Foley Ridge Trail was a bit overwhelming for Elena Linberger. Originally from Belarus, then Norway, and Germany, she has done plenty of hiking, but in Europe there is a bit of civilization at the end of every trail. Hiking for hours through a burned forest without seeing a single person (including our husbands, her 11-year-old son, Lian, and the pack string) made her a tad uneasy.

I wasn't concerned. It takes hours to get a string of horses and mules saddled, packed, and moving. I was a little jealous of Lian, though. To ensure the boy could make it all the way to Linton Meadows, we put him on my little mule, Pedro. Elena had to be coaxed even to touch the mule, but Lian had no qualms about hopping on for his first "horse" ride. Pedro is an even-tempered, vastly experienced mule; with Lian's dad, Rusty, holding onto the lead rope, I knew Lian would be fine. His mother was not as confident.

Five miles in, the string finally caught up with us. Grinning from ear to ear, Lian greeted his mother. Because his hips were sore, Lian decided to finish the trip hiking. The string resumed its trek whilst I gazed longingly at my riderless mule disappearing in the distance. I was hot and tired, but there was no way I would leave Elaine and Lian to finish the hike on their own. I am a rather sketchy guide, but a sketchy guide with a hand-drawn map (we forgot the actual maps at home) who has done the trail once 25 years ago is better than no guide. Maybe.

A mile from our destination, we encountered a Forest Service employee. Elena was delighted and launched into an enthusiastic conversation while I cringed and wondered just where I had tucked our permit and which of their multitude of rules I should be worrying about. It turned out Elena's new friend was one of the good guys. He was part of a contract trail-clearing crew. Not only had he cleared our trail, but he didn't even ask to see our permit!



Rusty Lininger watering stock in Linton Meadows with Husband Mountain in the background.

When we finally caught up and found our horses and mules peacefully grazing by our campsite, I commented to my husband, Kyle, "Well, that was an uneventful day." He retorted, "You weren't on the horse when it sat down on its haunches and broke all the straps on my new saddlebags." He continued, "Later, when my horse slipped on a slick boulder and fell on his chest… I was sure that my foot in a stirrup should not be resting on the ground."

That night, the sky was brilliant with stars. Because a Perseid meteor shower was predicted, we left the rainfly off. When I awakened at dawn, I thought we were fogged in. Kyle sniggered, "That's not fog, that's a heavy frosty dew clinging to our tent screen." My reward for enduring a cold night? Seeing a total of one shooting star.

Our friends were not expecting freezing temperatures. In fact, they brought an extra, light sleeping bag, just in case Elena was too warm in the down sleeping bag her husband, Rusty, loaned her. She used the little sleeping bag all right, but not to sleep in; instead, she wrapped it around Lian and herself as a coat. The next night, Rusty not only used a canvas pack tarp to supplement his sleeping bag, but he topped it with a horse blanket. It is just so hard to envision being that cold when temperatures are in the 90's at home while you are packing.

As the sun soon rose and burned away the mist, we hiked to nearby Eileen Lake with her fabulous views. Puffy clouds rode through the sky while the spectacular South and Middle Sisters Mountains played peek-a-boo with us. To our delight, even the North Sister peeked out and winked at us before pulling her cloud blanket back over her head. The last time I was at Eileen Lake, the mountains all kept themselves veiled behind a curtain of rain. However, thousands of grasshopper-sized frogs hopping along the lake's edge kept us entertained. Apparently, some things don't change. Eileen Lake's shoreline was again moving with the tiny creatures.

Continuing on to Husband Lake at the base of Husband Mountain, we gave Lian the choice of walking with the women or riding Pedro in the dust behind the men. Lian rode. Every time. Despite being partly burned in 2017, Husband Lake is still very beautiful. In fact, fires open up mountain views.

Back at camp, I took full advantage of a husband who wants to keep me happy so that I will continue to go on these trips with him. Like a good Louis L'Amour character, Kyle always cares for his animals first. Not this time. I coerced him into hanging our solar shower up for me in a dense copse of trees. The late afternoon sun slanted through the branches while I fully enjoyed the decadence of a warm wilderness shower.

Another advantage of horse packing is the luxury of a table and chairs. Imagine our dismay when we discovered we had packed in a broken chair.

On day three, Kyle plotted an easier alternative to my planned eight-mile round trip hike to Obsidian Falls. Nothing doing, I had waited 22 years for the opportunity to go back to Obsidian; our friends would just have to be tough.

The stretch north of Linton Meadows of the internationally famous Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) is one of Oregon's prettiest sections. It boasts expansive alpine views of all three Sisters on one side and the Husband on the other. Hiking the PCT was a dream come true for a woman from Europe. To Elena's delight, she even saw a late-season through-hiker striding by, trying to make it to Canada before the snows.

Thirty-foot-high Obsidian Falls aren't much to see, but obsidian rocks, prized by Native Americans for arrowheads, are scattered in reckless abandon everywhere. Plus, astonishingly, large boulders laced with broad layers of obsidian litter the landscape.

God blessed us near Obsidian Falls; Kyle had just tied up the horses and mules so we could eat lunch when Casey, Kyle's friend who is a commercial packer, came around the corner with seven mules and two horses all strung out and moving fast. Coming face to face with another pack string on a narrow trail with no place to pass is the sort of situation that gives packers nightmares. When Casey didn't even pause for a howdy we understood; it is difficult and dangerous to stop a moving pack string.

By late afternoon, back at camp, thunderheads piled and growled. Mountains make their own weather, and we were at their feet on the wet west side. Were we in for rain? Yep. Lightning cracked deafeningly at the far end of the meadow, then the sky opened up. Fortunately, no one was on a horse. We all ran for the tents, while Kyle ran to check on his critters. For the next hour I enjoyed my novel and kept Kyle's oilskin coat dry for him in the tent while he huddled with the horses under a thick spruce tree in shirtsleeves.

The next morning, I was puzzled to find the bar of soap we keep by the handwashing station missing. Who would have guessed Dove soap would be a hot commodity in the wilderness? In the past, birds have pecked our soap, but never has the whole bar vanished! We dug out another bar of soap and put it on the handwashing station rock. After



Lian Linginer riding the mule, Pedro.

going for a stroll, we came back to discover the new bar of soap had also disappeared into thin air! I suspect there is going to be one disappointed squirrel when he tries to dig up his dissolved treasures this winter.

The next day, before leaving for our planned day hike, we climbed up to view Linton Spring where it gushes out of a lava wall. When we saw Linton Spring 25 years ago, we were totally impressed. What we didn't realize was that we only saw a fraction of it. From the south side of the creek, only one spring is visible. From the north side, a dozen springs are revealed! I was mesmerized. This rarely spied marvel was worth more than a mere glance. We ditched our day hike.

After lunch, we picked our way down an abandoned trail to explore lower Linton Meadows. At one point, Lian and I found ourselves waiting for the rest of the group. To entertain ourselves, I introduced Lian to the infinitely satisfying pastime of popping pitch pockets on Pacific silver firs' smooth blistered bark. Exploding pitch pockets–while a bit messy–are simply splendid!

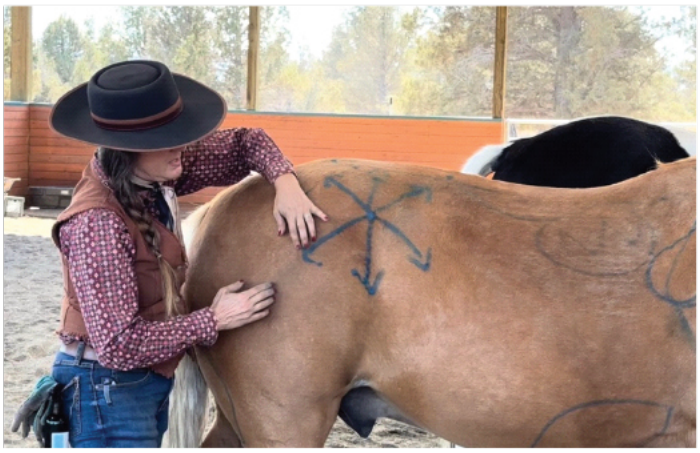
On Saturday, when Elena and I hiked out together, we encountered a few backpackers coming in. One group enquired, "Did you hear an odd cry?" We hadn't, but we soon did. While reassuring Elena that there was no way the weird scream was a cougar or a bear, privately, I uneasily wondered, "Are we hearing Bigfoot?"

Hours later, at the trailhead, the mystery was solved. A couple of bear hunters paused to chat while Kyle and Rusty unloaded the animals. The weird scream was just bear hunters with predator calls. Disappointing. Not only are there no German sausage stands at the end of our trails, but there was no Bigfoot out there either.

Chapter Reports

Central Oregon Chapter

On Saturday, September 19, our chapter sponsored a full-day massage clinic by Andria Watson-Massie, from Massie Equine Veterinary Clinic and Healing Center in Central Point. At Tracy Stout's Wildwood Ranch outside of Sisters, every attendee practiced Andria's techniques on the five demonstration horses after an educational slideshow and hands-on demonstration of each technique. We all learned a great deal about how to make our equines more comfortable, feeling much the richer from a very well-spent day.



Kim McCarrel reminded us that the Forest Service has proposed rescinding the Roadless Rule, which protects wild areas from intrusion by motorized vehicles. Our chapter has sent a letter to the Forest Service opposing this proposed change, as it would impact our wildland experience.

Thanks to our fabulous historian Camille Wood, we gained 91 new followers this month on our chapter's Facebook page, and our social media exposure continues to expand.

One of our chapter members reported that she recently camped at Kelsay Valley Horse Camp, maintained and hosted by the Roseburg OET chapter, and that 50 miles of trails have been cleared there. She enjoyed the wonderful camp and trails and recommended that we support our fellow OETers' work by camping and riding there.

We look forward to our Hallowe'en ride at Tracy Stout's Wildwood Ranch.

Cyrus Horse Camp water is OFF! We had a plan to pull the tank & float the first of October, but unbeknownst to us the rancher has shut the water OFF and didn't tell us. No water for camp.

Columbia County Chapter

Rain is has arrived early this year. We still need to put mats on the Oak Grove bridge at Camp Wilkerson, but need to have dry weather to do so. Hopefully we'll get them installed on Sept 19. Fishpond Loop is scheduled to have logging on the east side of Apiary coming back to camp, and Gloria has created a map to show users the closure and a detour. Dave and Fran will check the Dibblee Beach trails to see if we need a work party there before our Trick or Treat Ride on Saturday October 3. We need member volunteers for the event, and Bob will check with OHSET to see if they have a volunteer to hand out candy.

Our Holiday Dinner is planned for November 14, 5-8 pm, at Warren Country Inn Restaurant on Hwy 30 in Warren. We had such a good time and great turnout last year and look forward to the event this year! Dinner will be $20. Our chapter will earn $2.50 per dinner, and 10% of the bar tab. We will be having Fiesta Bowls, a make-your-own creation to include beans, rice, quinoa, shredded chicken and pork. veggies, and toppings/salsa. Cassandra is donating a $300 Yeti ice chest, and we need more raffle items. Members are asked to bring desserts (plate included) to donate for the dessert raffle, always popular.

Our last 2 meetings have been at the St. Helens Elk Lodge and the accommodations are wonderful. However, we have a long history of meeting at the Moose Lodge in Warren. They are under new management and ask us to give them another chance at food and accommodations. We plan to meet there for our next meeting in October.



Bob & Gloria Rice attaching rubber flooring to a wooden bridge at Camp Wilkerson

Eugene Chapter

The travelogue continues! We started our meeting seeing the sights and hearing about a riding tour in Tuscany, Italy that Mary Kamm and Robin Keaton enjoyed. Mary followed up with a report from the State Board Meeting at the beautiful Santiam Horse Camp. Regarding Elijah Bristow we talked about the increased lack of manure cleanup in the parking lot. With no current camp host it might be up to us to encourage other riders to be sure to clean up before they leave. Robin, Mary, and a few others have been trying to clean up when they are there but every week it seems there is a new layer. Do we need more reminder signs?

Summer fun is wrapping up so we need to get busy planning some new events, rides and work opportunities. Maybe we can rev everyone up with a Halloween ride with a Twilight theme. We are looking forward to hosting the state Board meeting in November.

Mt. Hood Chapter

Mt. Hood members had a lovely summer of riding and camping. Campouts and rides included Reehers, Willamette Mission, Crystal Rilee, and Horning Seed and Tree Farm in Colton. Chapter member Patti Barnes led weekly rides at McIver, until the equestrian area was designated as a Fire Camp, whose occupants are battling nearby fires. We were happy to turn over our favorite site for this critical effort.

Several members participated in an obstacle course at Tamarind Ranch in Oregon City.

Thanks to the continued dedication of Barb and Dave Adams, Mt. Hood Chapter is committed to keeping the Sandy River Delta an area that can be enjoyed by all visitors, including equestrians.

Our recent Chapter meeting was held on the lawn at the McIver Scenic Overlook instead of the equestrian parking area. It was a beautiful evening for a picnic and gathering.

The next Chapter activity will be our annual participation in the Gresham Soroptimist's Teddy Bear Parade. Expect photos to follow!



North Valley Chapter

The meeting was held September 1 at Jimmy O's Pizzeria, Oregon City OR. Introductions were made and favorite rides were offered.

Brett Branch, Chapter Chair, reported on the OET State Meeting. There are new liability forms for volunteers. Riley Park, now managed by Chehalem Parks and Recreation, is allowing e-bikes. OET is advising CP&R on safety and etiquette. The Roadless Rule has been rescinded on public lands. There are 200 million acres around wilderness areas in Oregon. VP of Field Services – Matt Dolphin, VP of Field Services, is leaving this position. Oregon Trails Coalition Summit will be in Ashland on October 22-24. OET officers attending get registration and one hotel night paid. Chapters should send a representative. We voted to pay two nights for Brett Branch to attend, due to the distance.

Marty DeVall reported that membership renewals are available. The November Riders Roundup will have information. Renewals after September 1, 2026, are for 2027. The end of January is the membership cutoff if not renewed.

Deb DeLorenzo is getting estimates on costs to replace the corrals at Graham Corral Horse Camp.

DATES OF INTEREST

September Group Ride was canceled.

Group Ride at **McIver State Park** – Pink Out Ride – October 17 - 11:00 am. Contact Tamara Glover, by text, at 559-696-4165.

2027 Planning Meeting at Tamarind Ranch – November 7. 19665 S. Lyons Road, Oregon City OR.

Holiday Party and Potluck – December TBD

Northwest Chapter

Northwest has been working diligently on supporting OET's Mission Statement to "be advocates for recreational access, partners with land managers to care for trails and horse camps, unites equestrians through opportunities and information related to trail riding."

This fall, we are delving deeper into a potential day use shelter at LL Stub Stewart for hiker, biker, and equestrian use while also supporting our ODF campgrounds by pre-planning our spring clean-ups well in advance for potentially better attendance!

Striving to meet both current and future member personal growth goals for their own trail riding, we are hopeful for increased attendance at our monthly meetings so we can plot and plan opportunities to meet everyone's needs while supporting OET's mission statement.

NW Chapter Camp Out to Winterize Reehers. Work party on Saturday 10/10 at 10am.

South Coast Chapter

Tom Dexter, South Coast Field Services, headed multiple work parties through the summer months. This year focused on Wild Mare Horse Camp and trails on the North Spit. Tasks included: Clearing connector trail from the North Spit sand road to forest trails. Work Party tasks also included hauling and placing wood chips in corrals and trail clearing in and around Wild Mare Horse Camp.

Bianca Chevalier, South Coast Public Lands, made a request to the South Coast Chapter members to purchase a plaque that recognizes the PNER funding for the metal corral at the Wild Mare Horse Camp host site. The unanimous supporting vote approved up to $100 for the plaque.

Further discussion was about proposing that the USFS extend the camping season at Wild Mare Horse Camp to October 31 . A survey via Facebook may indicate support for this proposal.

Kellie Beaston and Cathryn Hammond, the South Coast Outreach team and other South Coast Chapter members attended the August 4th Neighbor Night Out at Hauser, Sheriff Posse Arena. Kellie Beaston, Tom & Sandy Dexter, Valerie Lantz, and Beverly Quackenbush visited with families attending the event. Kellie and Cathryn also participated in a public outreach event at Tractor Supply on September 20th.

The South Coast Chapter held rides and campouts through the summer:

- SoCoOET camp out at Horse Creek campground 7/10-7/13.

- SoCoOET planned to host an OET campout 8/8-8/9. However, camp sites were reserved by non-OET campers. Only one campsite was occupied by an OET member.

- A scheduled OET South Coast Chapter camp is for 10/2&3/26 @ Wild Mare Horse Camp. No Fees for OET members on these dates.

Debbie Newcomb reported cases of EPM in horses in Coos County. See DVM de Paulo webpage for info.

Member input/additional information:

On October 17 @ CCMSP Riley Arena, 1:00 PM, 69520 Wildwood Drive, North Bend, OR A Celebration of Life for Mildred A. Bryant. December 21, 1931 – September 2, 2026.

Raffle : Prize provided by Sandy Dexter and Kellie Beaston won! $35 collected from the raffle.

Next meeting: Stay in touch via email, FB and texts. Wednesday, October 21, 2026, 6:30 PM, Dave's Pizza, Coos Bay

Tools and equipment for:
FARM • HOME • Business
www.philomathrental.com
Philomath Rental
432 Landmark Dr.Philomath, OR 97370
Located behind Landmark Reality
Main: 541-929-4929 • Fax: 541-929-4934



New trail at Cape Blanco for equestrian access to the beach. Built by State Park staff.



Bianca Chevalier and friend riding Bianca's horses at Wild Mare horse camp.



South Coast Chapter ride at Cape Blanco.



Kelli Beaston and Sandy Dexter at Neighbors Tuesday Night Out at the Riley Horse Arena. A pony and miniature horse were a big hit with families.

RP REALTY PARTNERS, LLC
Real Estate Acquisition, Finance, Management and Leasing
RITA BOWNE
Property Manager
RBowne@rprp.com
3188 N. Hwy 97 | Suite 110 | Bend, OR 97703
OFFICE: 541-388-3644 FAX: 541-388-9832 CELL: 541-815-9639
www.rprp.com
Bend River Promenade · Oak Hills Mall · Lacey Market Square

Tires LES SCHWAB
Caleb Holmes
Assistant Manager
LES SCHWAB TIRE CENTER
838 MAIN ST
PHILOMATH, OR 97370
(541) 929-8473 TEL
caleb.r.holmes@lesschwab.com
PRIDE IN PERFORMANCE SINCE 1952

Hiatt Farm
Bakery-Produce-Preserves
Katie & Josh Gonzales
HiattFarm@Gmail.com
541-609-8201
www.HiattFarm.com

PHILOMATH, OR
DIRT ROAD
BREWING

DOUGLAS FIR / WESTERN RED CEDAR / WEST COAST HEMLOCK
HAMMER LUMBER CO.
399 GARFIELD STREET / P.O. BOX 2550
EUGENE, OREGON 97402-0204
PAUL HAMMER
PRESIDENT
PHONE (541) 687-1400
FAX 485-4724

HORSEPOWER REAL ESTATE
Licensed in the State of Oregon
541-510-4601
CountryProperty@gmail.com
Farms & Ranches
Horse Properties
Rural Residential
Timber Ground
@HorsepowerRealEstate
WesternOregonHorseProperties.com

Willamette Hose & Fittings, Inc.
Derek Neuman
1214 Main St.
P.O. Box 1407
Philomath, OR 97370
Business 541-929-2930
Fax 541-929-3132
willamettehose@comcast.net

From Oregon Trails to the World Stage

By Melissa McLaughlin,OET President

If you spend much time riding trails, you may already have some of the skills needed for a sport called **Working Equitation**. In September, some of the best Working Equitation horses and riders in the world gathered in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain, for the 7th World Association for Working Equitation World Championship. The competition was held September 8–13 at the beautiful Real Escuela Andaluza del Arte Ecuestre — the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art. Twenty-two nations were represented by 70 individual horse and rider pairs.

And this year Oregon had a special reason to pay attention. **Kimberlee Barker of Corvallis was one of four riders selected to represent the United States — the first U.S. team to compete at the WAWE World Championship.** Kimberlee is a Masters-level Working Equitation rider and Grand Prix dressage rider who has taught and competed regularly here in Oregon. In Jerez she rode Paquirri MTE Negro, a seven-year-old Lusitano stallion. Two other US competitors brought their Oregon Mustangs to Spain for a fantastic showing of their Spanish blood! Matt French on his Mustang Navarro came in 6th in the speed trial and 3rd in cow trial.

Working Equitation grew out of the traditional skills needed by people who worked cattle and livestock from horseback. At the World Championship, horse-and-rider teams competed in four phases: **Dressage, Ease of Handling, Speed and a Cow Trial.** It is the Ease of Handling portion that may look particularly familiar to trail riders.

Horse and rider negotiate a course of obstacles that can include a gate, bridge, poles, barrels, a jump and other challenges based on things a working horse might encounter. At the upper levels, the obstacles aren't simply about getting through them. Kimberlee describes the judging as looking for how harmonious, balanced and relaxed the horse appears while performing the obstacles. We may not be carrying a lance (no, just a chainsaw) or trying to shave seconds off our time when we're riding an Oregon trail, but we regularly ask our horses to solve similar problems. Open and close this gate. Cross that narrow bridge. Step over a log. Go from a walk to a trot and back again without losing balance. Notice the strange stump beside the trail and then listen when your rider says, Yes, I see it too. We can do this.

Good trail riding requires much more than a horse willing to go forward. It requires communication, body control, confidence and trust. The "dressage" part of Working Equitation isn't so far removed from trail riding either. Being able to move a shoulder or hip, make a balanced transition, bend around a turn, back softly or adjust a stride can make the difference between simply getting down the trail and negotiating it safely and comfortably. The obstacles give us a way to practice useful skills in a controlled environment before we need them out on the trail. You certainly don't have to aspire to a World Championship to benefit from them.

A few poles, cones and barrels, a safely constructed bridge or a gate at home can become opportunities to improve communication with our horses. The goal doesn't have to be speed or perfection. It can simply be, Can we work this out together?

Watching horses and riders from around the world performing these skills at an extraordinary level is impressive. Knowing that one of the riders wearing the USA colors came from **Corvallis, Oregon** makes it even more fun. Congratulations to Kimberlee Barker and the entire U.S. team for carrying American Working Equitation onto the world stage.

As of this writing most of the videos are on Facebook, and worth searching working equitation world.





Matt French (California)on Navarro (barefoot Mustang) at WAWE, Spain. September 2026.

Teaching Youth Cyclists the Power of a Friendly "Hello"

By Melissa McLaughlin, West Valley Chapter



Isn't it great when you meet bike riders on the trail and they stop, say hi and ask if it's ok to pass? It can feel like a lottery ticket when you see a bike in the distance- will they bomb on by, like the faster they go, the easier it will be? Or do you get lucky and they stop and say hello?

Wouldn't it be great if someday in the future ALL bikers use proper trail etiquette? This summer a couple of West Valley members, Matt Dolphin and Melissa McLaughlin, participated in a youth bike training with Lily Lowery, her friend Dallas, and their two solid mounts. Lily came up through this bike club so she has seen both sides of the picture. The kids were members of of a local branch of NICA (National Interscholastic Cycling Association).

They were excited to learn that when you meet horses on the trail - stop your wheels, put a foot down on the ground, and say "Hi! What's the best way to proceed?" Sometimes the equestrians had them wait for the horses to pass and sometimes the horses waited and the bikes went on ahead. When the coach asked the group who does a cyclist yield to, they all chanted "Everyone!" Music to my ears. This is the upcoming generation of trail bike riders who will hopefully influence their friends in a like manner. It also represents an opportunity for acclimating horses to bikes. Seeing calm horses is very different from seeing wall-eyed, spinning horse-kites; who certainly would make an impression on any bystander.





10117 SE Sunnyside Rd. Ste. F
PMB 101
Clackamas, OR 97015

October 2026 - Riders' Roundup

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

Horse Packing Notes from the Trail Meister

Condensed and Reprinted from Trail Meister Newsletter Oct. 2022
https://www.trailmeister.com/horse-packing-the-romance-vs-the-reality/

I think that visiting the backcountry on horseback is one of the best things you can do if you can. It's a privilege. The least exciting parts of my trips are also some of the most notable; some make for great tales years later, and there are a few that I would rather forget because they were rather grim. Sure, most of the time, it is spending quality time with friends and the ponies. And that's great! But can we stop pretending that it's always perfect? There are bad days, challenges, and of course, the hard parts you weren't expecting.



The Trail Meister leading a short string under the Chinese Wall in Montana. Not shown are the years of preparation to learn the skills required for such a trek; the months of planning and several long days in the saddle just get here. The trip was worth every minute of all of them.

Of course, there are different types of backcountry excursions, and many people may opt for an organized or luxury vacation. Still, it's different for those who are more into a DIY experience.

In the reality of horse packing, the positives outweigh the negatives 100 to 1. After all, you're riding horses! However, I'm going to be blunt here. If you're a prima donna, packing probably isn't for you. Of course, you can still travel by horse and experience new places by choosing an alternative option, but the reality of packing isn't necessarily pretty.

There are days when you long for your shower because you know just how far to turn the tap to get the perfect temperature, and the days when you want the comfort of your bed, not sleeping on the ground.

There are times you want just to be able to go to the kitchen and eat whatever is available. But I think the thing most people miss (I know I do) is the endless supply of clean clothes that home offers.

The struggles of the average backcountry packer are real. But that's what makes the experience authentic. I wouldn't trade a nearly sleepless night watching the stars with my wife for anything in the world.

The reality of horse packing is that it'll improve your life: It will also leave you poor in money but rich in memories, experience, and life. Home is not where your belongings are; it's where you unpack your heart; for me, that's a remote wilderness area.

Riders' Roundup October 2026 24