

Spring 2003 Newsletter

Annual Meeting

On Wednesday, May 28 from 6:30PM-8:30PM we will be holding our Annual Meeting. Like last year it will be in the Audubon Center at Railroad Bridge Park. The meeting will start at 7 but come early and have some coffee and desserts. This meeting will be a good time to find out what is planned for the Olympic Discovery Trail in both Clallam and Jefferson Countys. Commissioner Steve Tharinger will be at the meeting representing Clallam County. Commissioner Dan Titterness and Nick Worden will be representing Jefferson County. Between the three of them you should get a good idea of how the trail is progressing and what they have planned for the trail.

Railroad Bridge Park was PTC's first trestle and bridge project. If you haven't visited the park yet this would be a good time to do it. You can take some coffee desert and walk out on the bridge and trestle. The bridge is 150'long and the trestle is 500' long. It will also be a good time to look at some of the natural history display in the center. They have done a nice job of collecting and arranging.

You can get to the park by following the signs at the west bypass exit to Sequim. If you are coming from the west by car you can leave your car in the Park's parking lot on the west side of the Dungeness River at Runnion and Sawmill Road and walk the trail to the center.

And of course since this is all about the Olympic Discovery Trail you could ride your bike, ride your horse or walk to the center using the trail. Anybody arriving on foot or bicycle or by horse will receive a Olympic Discovery Trail lapel pin. If you arrive by horse you will need to ford the Dungeness River because the trestle and bridge were not designed for horses. Some cautionary notes: depending on the rain or run-off the river is not always fordable and there are no hitching posts at the center.

Port Townsend Cross Country Run

PTXC 2003 will be held Saturday May 31st at 10:00AM in Old Fort Townsend State Park. This is the 4th year for this 4 mile trail run/walk and is a fund raiser that benefits both the PTC and the Friends of Old Fort Townsend. Entry costs \$8 if you preregister and \$10 if you sign up the day of the race. There are lots of awards and prizes -not all the spoils go to the victor.

This is a fun event that Live Productions has been organizing and developing for the past four years. They have donated generously to the PTC with the proceeds.

If you want to help with this production or participate contact (514) 521-5050, (360) 301-3470 or livepro@olyphen.com .

Jefferson County

Jefferson County just applied for a federal Land and Conservation Grant to build another 3.4 miles of trail from SR 20 out the near the Chevy Chase golf course. The county owns about 90% of the proposed route and is working on picking up 4 small pieces of land to complete the route.

Recently the county held a public workshop to update people on the status of the Land and Conservation Grant and on the status of the trail in general. There were about 50 people in attendance and one of the topics raised was the condition of the trail surface between Mill Road and SR 20. The consensus was that something needed to be done to make the gravel surface safer but different users want different surfaces. Some users want the surface paved while others want to retain a softer, but rougher, surface. The first thing the county may try is brushing the rough gravel off the trail. Contributing to the problem is the fact that the county only had enough space in this stretch to make a narrow trail and horse riders, cyclists and pedestrians are crowded together.

A group of interested trail advocates for Jefferson County have been meeting in the Post Office in Jefferson county at 1:00PM on the fourth Thursday of each month. This is an informal meeting of people who are exploring routes and options for getting the ODT to the county line. If you are interested in helping or need more information contact Jan Marts. (360-379-9637 or janmarts@olympus.net)

Clallam County

McDonald Creek

The last link between Port Angeles and Sequim has been purchased. The county now owns land on both sides of McDonald Creek just west of Robin Hill park and can now put in a bridge. A railroad flatcar bridge has been ordered and will be put in late this summer. We will need help to install handrails.

Siebert Creek

A new trail on the south side of Old Olympic Highway from Lewis Road down to Siebert Creek will eliminate a crossing of Old Olympic Highway. Trail users will soon be able to stay on the south side of the highway and cross under the road bridge to reach the trail bridge. This is a great safety improvement.

West of Port Angeles

The county recently submitted easement applications to DNR proposing trail through about 30 miles of DNR property west of Port Angeles. This is an important step in extending the trail out to Forks. The trail from PA to Forks could fall into place quickly because much of the route proposes to use existing logging roads. Some of the route is on land owned by timber companies and they want to see the type of easement arrangement DNR is using before jumping into the process. They have signaled a willingness to help with the trail placement.

Jimmy Come Lately Estuary

The Jimmy Come Lately Estuary, which runs through Highway 101 at the south end of Sequim Bay, is in the process of being reestablished so the creek can follow the original streambed. A half mile of trail using 3 railroad flatcar bridges is planned for this area. The trail through this area will be a great birding platform.

Port Angeles

There are plans to put a hard surface on the trail between the Rayonier Mill site and Morse Creek. The city has a grant to surface the trail but is unsure of how far they can pave with the money they have. They will probably pave until they run out of money. Short stretches of the trail along the water may never get paved because the winter storms are so hard on it.

Hurricane Ridge

Olympic Peninsula Bike club is organizing a work party to put a fresh coat of paint on the bicycle safety stripes in the tunnels up to Hurricane Ridge. Meet at 6AM on June 8th at the Visitor Center with painting materials. These hours will count toward earning a free annual park pass. Contact Cynthia Isenberger for more info. (417-0360 or isenberg@olypen.com)

Johnson Creek

Art Work/Jerry's Platforms

The artwork for this area along the trestle has been complete and as soon as we finished the water barrel platforms we will install the artwork and have a ceremony to unveil it. The platforms were rebuilt with donations to a memorial fund established by friends of Jerry Williamson who died last fall. We still need about \$500 to complete the platforms and make a sign. Send your contributions to the PTC at P.O. 1836, PA 98362. Note on your check that the donation is for "Jerry's Platforms".

For those of you who have visited the trestle and walked on the platforms you may have noticed they are not level. The trestle is not level. It is banked for stability and we decided to stick with the original slopes.

Questions?

If you have questions about anything in this newsletter call or email one of us on the masthead of this newsletter.

Slide Show

We have a half-hour slide show we present to service organizations and clubs. If you are interested in having one of us give a presentation to your organization give us a call.

Second Saturdays

We have started a monthly work party on the second Saturday of each month. It is a 3 hour affair that runs from 10-1 at various locations along the trail. We often work on areas of the trail that our Adopt-a-Trail volunteers bring to our attention. We have also been working on new trail routes west of Port Angeles.

If you want to help on a Second Saturday or get involved in our Adopt-a-Trail program contact Stan Macklow. (smacklow@tenforward.com, 582-1447)