

# Summer 2003 Newsletter

## Jefferson County Trails Group

A group of trail advocates for Jefferson County meets the last Thursday of each month at the Port Townsend Post Office Building at 1:00 PM . The group is considering becoming a chapter of the PTC and supports the development of public trails throughout Jefferson County including the ODT (which includes the Larry Scott Memorial Trail), Pacific Northwest Trail and Quimper Trails. Occasional volunteer work parties involve maintenance of the Larry Scott and Quimper Trails, as well as construction of new trails. An "Adopt-a-Trail" group will be forming this year. If you are willing to help support trails as an occasional volunteer, political advocate, or as an avid trail user contact Jan Marts. (360-379-9673 or [janmarts@olympus.net](mailto:janmarts@olympus.net) )

Jefferson County recently received a \$320,000 Land & Water Conservation Grant. They need to match it dollar for dollar. So far they have a match of about \$80,000.

On August 17th Chuck Preble, PTC President will be leading a walk on logging roads and trails that could become parts of the ODT through Jefferson County. Chuck has done extensive mapping throughout the county and is familiar with the best options for connecting the ODT in Jefferson County with the ODT in Clallam County. The plan is to start at 1:00 PM at the Anderson Lake Road/Hwy 20 intersection and either walk from there or car pool to some of the logging roads. The hike will probably be all afternoon so hat, water and snack are advised. Contact Jan Marts if you need more information.

## Wal-mart

There has been some speculation in the papers about the impact a Wal-mart and Sequim Village Marketplace (Albertson's and Home Depot) will have on the Olympic Discovery Trail on Hendrickson Road between Kendall and Priest Roads. The ODT has not been constructed on this segment of Hendrickson but the county has plans for a separated trail similar to that which exists on that portion of Hendrickson within the Sequim City limits.

One could logically draw the conclusion that Hendrickson road would see a lot more automobile traffic as people use the Kendall/Hendrickson/Priest corridor to access the big box shopping area. According to Don McInnes, the County Engineer, the right-of-way on Hendrickson is very narrow in places and if the road has to be widened to accommodate an increase in traffic the ODT will be squeezed into nothing more than a wide shoulder.

The right-of-way situation on Priest Road is similar. Don thinks Albertson's and Wal-mart will not only increase auto traffic but also pedestrian and bicycle traffic to the stores.

How much traffic? Currently there are about 2000 car trips per day on Priest and Hendrickson. The county estimates that volume will triple to about 6,000. (As a point of reference Sequim Dungeness Way has about 7,000 trips per day.) Sequim Village Marketplace says their stores will add about 1,700 trips per day. Wal-mart says their store will add something less than that. But...here is the good news the Wal-mart and the Marketplace developers say that Priest, Hendrickson and Kendall in their current condition are capable of handling 19,000-21,000 cars per day (Highway 101 currently has 14,000) so they don't

have to do anything to improve the roads. Unless the county turns Priest Road into a dead end these stores are going to squeeze bicyclists, pedestrians and many cars into a very narrow corridor.

## **Kiosk**

Kyle Welch, an Eagle Scout candidate, built the kiosk you see at the top of the Morse Creek hill just west of C'est Si Bon. It turns out the location we chose for the kiosk was on top of the old highway and he had to run out and get a jack-hammer to put the posts in the ground. But then, every scout needs a little jack-hammer time to put on their resume. The Port Angeles Garden Club adopted the kiosk has taken the responsibility for landscaping around the kiosk.

## **McDonald Creek**

The McDonald Creek Bridge is sitting at one of Clallam County's gravel pits awaiting a few more modifications before installation. Some of the rusty parts were scraped and painted by a crew of 13 Landmark Volunteers who came to the Peninsula from places across the US this summer to work on trail projects with Kathe Smith. Landmark Volunteers is a national organization that hooks teenagers up with volunteer work opportunities. They broaden the horizons of teenagers by letting them experience first-hand how much volunteers accomplish in this country. (Check out their website) Plans are to have the bridge installed in late September.

## **Siebert Creek**

Modifying the ODT approach on the East side of Siebert Creek will also take place in late September. Instead of crossing Old Olympic Highway on the road the trail will be redirected so it crosses under the bridge.

## **Bob and Claire Rogers**

"Jumping off the Deep End" is the title of the slide show Bob and Claire will be showing when they return to the Olympic Peninsula in September. Last year they left their bike at the dock and went sailing for several months in the South Pacific. They will be telling stories and showing slides of this trip at the Sequim Middle School on September 11th and at the Port Angeles Senior Center the following night on September 12th. Both shows start at 7:30PM and admission is \$3. All the money Bob and Claire raise during these shows is given to the PTC to buy food for volunteers working on trail projects. They raised over \$700 for our food program last year with their slide show from their 12 month bicycle trip in Australia.

## **The Usual Annoying Plea for Money**

Here is how it works; check the expiration date on your mailing label and if it is a date long past you can send us a check!

## **Slide Shows**

We have a 35-minute slide presentation on the history and development of the ODT and are available to show it to service groups, clubs and anybody who wants to get a few people together. Call us if you are interested.

## **For Sale**

The PTC has 1979 F-150 Ford pickup for sale. It was donated to us by long-time trail supporters, Guy and Karin Tauscher, who recently moved to Hood River. They gave it to us and told us to sell it and use the money to finish off the water barrel platforms on the Johnson Creek Trestle. It is purple, has a canopy and a few dents and they used it occasionally to pull a horse trailer. For a 1979 it is in pretty good shape. The first reasonable offer we get will buy this. Contact me at 683-7180 for a test-ride in this fine vehicle.

## **Also for Sale**

We also have fine t-shirts, pins and bandanas for sale (\$10, \$3 & \$3 respectively). They will complement any wardrobe. Each of these items comes attractively packaged in a plastic bag! Call us.

## **Maps**

There is a map of the completed sections of the ODT you can download from our web-site.

## **Trail building**

We have been building trail on the west end –almost building trail that is- and at time can use a few more people skilled in using a chainsaw. What we have been doing is clearing a line on some DNR property so the prospective trail route can be surveyed. We clear brush and cut dead trees out of the way. If you want to get involved in this type of work contact us.

## **Adopt-a-trail**

Our adopt a trail is up and running. We have the trail between Sequim and PA divided into 11 segments all of which have been adopted. If you are interested in knowing more about this program contact Stan Macklow (info on masthead)

## **Second Saturdays.**

On the Second Saturday of each month we get a crew of volunteers together to tackle a project somewhere on the trail. September's work crew will be tackling projects at Railroad Bridge Park. If you have yet to visit Railroad Bridge Park this would be a good time to spend some time there. Contact Stan Macklow for more information

# **Bathroom Opportunities**

The two sanikans on the trail between Siebert a Morse Creeks are being funded for a year by the Port Angeles Soroptimists. If your service group would like to help funding this vital trail service or you would like to fund some sanikans as a memorial (just kind of kidding) for a friend contact us.

## **Sequim**

The City of Sequim has \$230,000 in federal funds left-over from the ODT. They are wondering, and looking for, suggestions as to how to use it. If you have any suggestions on how to use the money contact Harold Anderson (683-7019 ) who is heading up a committee that will make suggestions for using the money.

Since they received the money to build the ODT it would probably be appropriate for them to use it to finish the ODT through Sequim (as in from Carrie Blake Park to Sequim-Dungeness Way and Hendrickson Road. Right now people park in Carrie Blake Park and have to stumble around town until they happen on the trail. Sometimes they don't connect up with the trail until they reach Railroad Bridge Park.

They could also work with the Wayne Family Trust to get an easement and build a trail along Highway 101 from Whitefeather Way east to the county line and they could work on building the trail between Kendall Road and Railroad Bridge Park.

We think getting the trail completed east to the county line will increase the use of the trail and curtail some of the vandalism happening out at the Johnson Creek Trestle.

These past few months on numerous occasions vandals have broken rails at the Johnson Creek Trestle and made attempts to set the rails on fire using something like a cigarette lighter. We don't know if the kids are just screwing around or really want to set the trestle on fire but we are taking it seriously and the PTC has offered a reward of \$1000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the vandal(s). We have also walked adjacent neighborhoods with the fire and police departments of Sequim passing out flyers alerting the neighbors about the problem and asking them to report suspicious behavior. Most of the neighbors we talked to spoke highly of the trestle and used it frequently.

## **Clallam County**

The county is in the process of adding the stretch of trail from the East County line to Sequim to the 6-year road plan. This makes the project eligible for more funding. The county considers the ODT an alternate transportation corridor (it keeps cyclists and pedestrians off Hwy 101) and funds it through the road department. The part of the trail going over the Jimmy Come Lately estuary will be on a bridge separate from Highway 101.

## **Marathon**

Six hundred people from 28 states and 4 countries ran in the first Olympic Discovery Marathon. Larry Little the marathon's organizer felt it was extremely successful. The hotels in Port Angeles were full and the runners liked how the trail worked. Since the marathon Larry has received about 80 emails from runners offering up accolades for the event.