

# Trail Viewpoints



A publication of the Sisters Trails Alliance

Winter 2011 Number 2

## Pedestrian Corner

by Eugene Trahern

**WINTER IS ALMOST UPON** us and with it brings cooler temperatures, wind, rain and snow. While the Sisters Trails system is technically "open" all year, many of the trails can get heavy snow and ice for some periods of time. It is important to plan accordingly when heading out doors for a little fresh air during the winter months.

- The lower sections of the Peterson Ridge Trail system are great for hiking and running during the winter months. However, these trails often get icy and bumpy when people pack down the snow after a few inches of snow. If snow or ice conditions exist, wear good traction shoes or boots or consider using traction devices such as YakTrax (snow chains for your shoes).
- When the snow is heavy, the upper Peterson Ridge trail system is a great place for cross country skiing. The upper area is relatively flat and there are roads and single track trails. Access can be obtained from Three Creek Road just past the 5 mile mark. The trails are not groomed for skiing, so you will be on your own.
- Be sure to dress appropriately. Layered clothing works best and always cover your hands and head. Most of the body heat is lost through the head, hands and feet so keep warm and well hydrated. Make sure your dogs are checked frequently for snow build-up or bloody paws if that is an issue for your pooch.
- As an alternate to the Sisters Trails, you may consider heading to

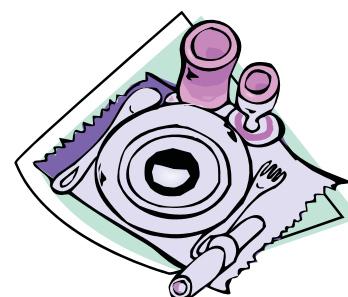
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## Jen's Garden Fun(d)raiser Set for March 12 by Ken Serkownek

**JEN AND TR MCCRYSTAL** have again generously offered to sponsor a dinner at Jen's Garden for the benefit of the Sisters Trail Alliance. Included in the four course dinner will be three wines and gratuity making this a lovely bargain for a fabulous event. This year the dinner will be on Saturday evening on March 12th with doors opening at 6 PM and dinner beginning at 7 PM.

Jen and TR themselves are frequent users of the Peterson Ridge Trail system. Jen loves to go running on the trails and the family likes to take their mountain bikes out and enjoy the beauty that is steps away from their backyard.

**COST OF THE MEAL**, wines and gratuity is \$80 per person. Tickets will be available at Eurosports and Blazin' Saddles. You may also make reservations by emailing Ken Serkownek at kens@cbbmail.com.



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### Special Thanks

The Sisters Trails Alliance would like to thank Swiss Mountain Log Homes for donating a picnic table for the Peterson Ridge trail system. The table is in place at the far overlook, and was installed as part of an Eagle Scout project by William C. of Sisters Troop 188.

### Pedestrian Corner continued...

Camp Sherman and visiting the trails along the Metolius River. The trails generally stay clear of snow a little more than around the Sisters area.

- Finally, make sure you get out and enjoy the winter months. It is a spectacular time of year!

#### Rumble

**THE PETERSON RIDGE RUMBLE** running race will be held April 10, 2011. This year's event will feature 20-mile and 40-mile distances. Both races are held on the Peterson Ridge trail, and the 40-mile distance also utilizes the Sisters Trails system on the west side of Whychus Creek. The event draws nearly 300 runners to the area and benefits the Sisters High School cross-country team. More information can be found at <http://www.gobroncobilly.com/rumble/>

#### Trail Maintenance

**THIS IS THE TIME** of year when we get a lot of damage to the trails from blow-downs. If you find downed trees on the trails that need cut up and removing, please email us at [maintenance@sisterstrails.com](mailto:maintenance@sisterstrails.com). If you find twigs and branches, we appreciate the assistance in tossing them off the trail. We would also appreciate a note if you find damage from ATV use on the trails. Thanks!

## Mountain Bike Festival Organizers OK with first inaugural event

by Ken Serkownek

**THE FIRST SISTERS MOUNTAIN** Bike Festival drew thirty riders from Nevada, Washington and Oregon. Saturday dawned bright and beautiful, not too hot and not too cold, just right for mountain bike riding. The events on Saturday included an epic ride (50 miles) and a mid-epic (38 miles) as well as an all women's ride and a kid's camp. Sunday was a less challenging day where riders were shuttled up to the top of the Peterson Ridge Trail for the Poker Run and picked up playing cards as they descended down the trail system. The finish of the event was a rewards ceremony Sunday afternoon where participants gathered even more booty to take home.

**FINANCIALLY THE EVENT WAS** a bit of a loss, but we gained valuable knowledge by this dress rehearsal for what will surely become an annual event. Participants were elated with the event and promised to come back and spread the word to others. The volunteers at the event were pumped about putting on another more successful festival next year. **WE LEARNED SOME GOOD** lessons. Next year we will move the event forward one weekend to the last weekend of September and coordinate with the Sisters Fresh Hops Festival. We will also have one and two day registration catering to more local participation. We will continue our focus to have "something for everyone".

## Next year's festival slated for September 24 & 25

**PLAN FOR NEXT YEAR'S** Sisters Trails Alliance Mountain Bike Festival 2011 scheduled for September 24 & 25. We need volunteers now to help with advertising, finding sponsors, planning food, organizing aid stations, and coordinating with the Hops Festival, which will be held in coordination with the MBF. If you are interested in helping with any of these tasks, we'd love to hear from you. Please email Ken Serkownek at [kens@cbbmail.com](mailto:kens@cbbmail.com) to sign up.

## Horseback Adventures

### Lazy Z Loop

### Peterson Ridge Horse Trails

By Kim McCarrel

**WINTER IS HERE, AND** the heavy snow that's being forecast may prevent you from riding the fabulous horse trails near Sisters. It can't prevent you from dreaming about where you'd like to ride next spring. And who knows, we may have a stretch of good weather this winter that makes it possible to get out and enjoy this beautiful area from the backs of our trusty steeds.

**ONE TRAIL THAT BELONGS** on your "must do" list is the Lazy Z loop. This route was planned several years ago as a trail for the rental horse rides that used to originate at the Lazy Z Ranch on the southeastern edge of Sisters. When the Peterson Ridge trails were being planned, the Forest Service designated the route an official horse trail and allowed the Sisters Trails Alliance to build the trail. And after riding it, you'll be glad they did.

**THE LAZY Z LOOP** is an easy trail that runs from the rodeo grounds to the south side of Peterson Ridge, where there is a splendid view of the Three Sisters and Broken Top. The trail is a combination of forest roads and single track trails, and is clearly marked with Sisters Trails Alliance signs. The trail is roughly shaped like a lollipop, with the trail leading up onto Peterson Ridge



Margie rides Spook down the Lazy Z Loop trail.

being the stem and the loop on Peterson Ridge being the lollipop itself. The trail is about 7.5 miles round trip, with about 300 feet of elevation gain/loss. There are two seasonal irrigation ditches to cross along the way.

**HORSE TRAILER PARKING FOR** the Peterson Ridge horse trails is just outside the southwest corner of the Sisters Rodeo grounds. From Sisters, take Highway 20 toward Bend for 3.75 miles and turn right on Harrington Loop. In 0.6 mile turn left on Peterson Ridge Road and continue 0.3 mile to the unmarked parking area

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Linda and Beamer pose in front of the Sisters near the Lazy Z Loop viewpoint.



A Sisters Trails Alliance volunteer installs the signs that mark the Lazy Z Loop.

## Lazy Z Loop con't

next to the rodeo grounds flagpoles. From Bend, take Highway 20 toward Sisters for 16.5 miles, turn left on Peterson Ridge Road, and continue 0.5 mile to the unmarked parking area just past the rodeo grounds.

**FROM THE PARKING AREA**, ride west beside Peterson Ridge Road and in 0.3 mile you'll cross Harrington Loop. Continue straight ahead and pick up the trail on the left side of the road. In 0.9 mile you'll cross the wide red-cinder Brooks-Scanlon Road. Continue straight, and in 0.1 mile turn left on FR 190. Follow the Sisters Trails signs on the trees. In 0.5 mile make a sharp left turn and ride up onto Peterson Ridge, crossing an irrigation ditch in the process. Follow the Sisters Trails sign for 0.4 mile to the junction with the Peterson Ridge Horse Trail. Go left toward the Lazy Z Loop, and in 0.2 mile you'll reach the spot where the stem of the lollipop meets the candy. You can ride either right or left around the 2.8-mile loop, and will end up back at this spot.

**ASSUMING YOU TURN RIGHT**, ride 0.6 mile and veer left onto a well-marked single-track trail. Follow it 0.5 mile to the edge of the ridge, where you'll have a great view of the Three Sisters and Broken Top. Continue 0.3 mile to another dirt road and veer left, then ride 1.4 mile to where you entered the loop. Turn right and retrace your steps along the stem of the lollipop to return to the trailhead.

**ONCE YOU'RE SADDLED UP**, ride along Road 220 until you see the Sisters Trails signs pointing you toward the bank of Whychus Creek. Cross the creek and pick up the well-marked single-track trail on the other side. Follow the Sisters Trails signs, which lead on and off roads and single track trails until eventually reaching an old forest road, the old Peterson Burn Road. For a good part of its length the road runs along the canyon rim above Whychus Creek. After about 3.1 miles on the Peterson Burn Road you'll reach the Metolius-Windigo Trail. Turn left on the Met-Win and in 0.2 mile you'll reach Whychus Creek, where you can water your horses. To return to your trailer, retrace your steps.

**ENJOY EXPLORING THIS BEAUTIFUL** area, and Happy Trails!

## Sisters to Bend bike route under study

by Phyllis Lewis

**BPAC (BICYCLE-PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE)**, as requested by the Board of County Commissioners, and after preliminary evaluation, sent the Commissioners a letter, requesting that County staff and resources be dedicated to exploring the feasibility of the proposed paved Ped-Bikeway along the old Brooks-Scanlon RR grade. The proposed paved bikeway is a direct 25 mile link to Bend along the North side of FS 4606, exiting at Aspen Hall in Shevlin Park. Interest and enthusiasm for this proposal continues as it would be the only dedicated bike trail in our area and a great economic boost for our community.

**INDIVIDUAL LETTERS OF SUPPORT** should be sent to: Deschutes County Board of County Commissioners, 1300 NW Wall St., Bend, 97701. Additional updates will appear in subsequent Newsletters.



View photo taken along the proposed B-S Ped-Bikeway

Visit us at [www.sisterstrails.com](http://www.sisterstrails.com)  
[trails@sisterstrails.com](mailto:trails@sisterstrails.com)  
 or write to us at:  
**Sisters Trails Alliance**  
 P.O. Box 2215  
 Sisters, Oregon 97759



**Don't forget to renew your membership!**  
**Application forms are at:**  
[www.sisterstrails.com/membership.html](http://www.sisterstrails.com/membership.html).



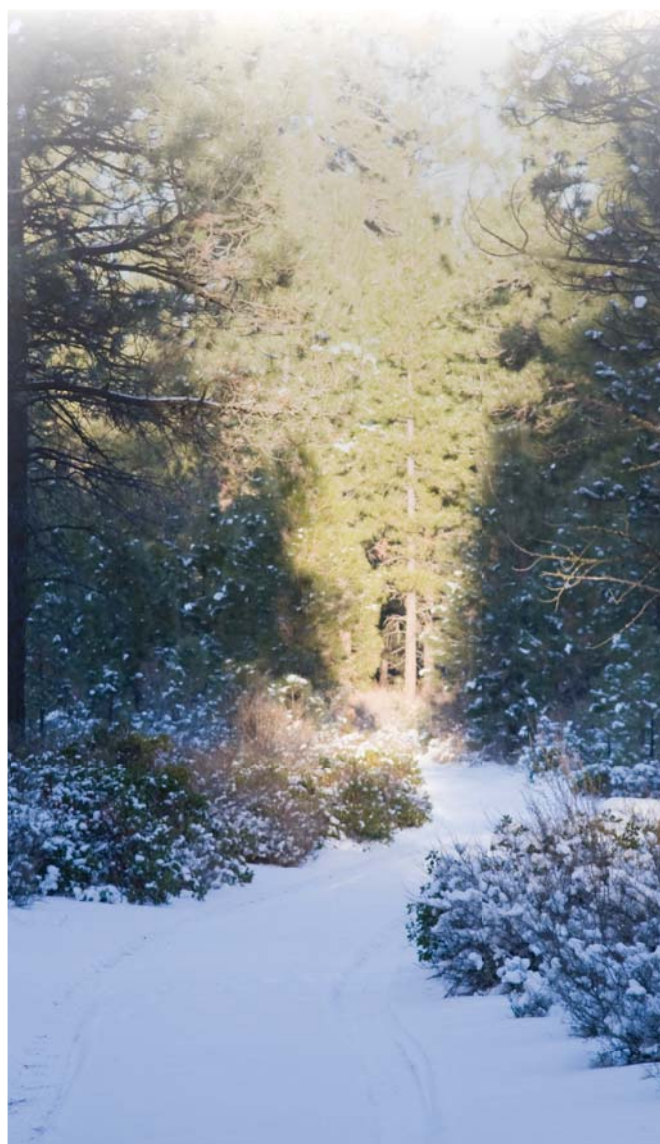
## Annual Meeting

By Ann Marland & Donna Timmerman

**THE SISTERS TRAIL ALLIANCE** will hold it's annual meeting on January 18, 7:00 pm at The Pines Club House, 612 N. Brooks Camp Rd. You'll hear about:

- ☞ Achievements in 2010
- ☞ Crossroads plan
- ☞ Trail work
- ☞ Trail plans for 2011
- ☞ 2011 events
- ☞ Member feedback

Directions: West on McKinney Butte Rd. towards the high school. At the 4-way stop on Brooks Camp Rd. and McKinney Butte Rd. turn right (north) on Brooks Camp Rd which ends at The Pines Club House. From Hwy. 242 turn right (north) on Brooks Camp Rd. Continue until it ends at the Club House.



Fresh snow on the Crossroads to High School Trail