

Cyclists stampede over trail

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

“Dusty, dusty, dusty!” That’s how Dyut Fetrow described conditions on the Peterson Ridge Trail as riders headed out to race in the annual Sisters Stampede.

Fetrow was working at the Blazin Saddles tent near the starting line, making last-minute adjustments on mountain bikes as they prepared to hit the course. Casey Meudt, proprietor of Blazin Saddles, concurred with Fetrow’s assessment. He noted that the track had been nicely packed and firm after the long and wet winter and spring, but a spate of hot, dry weather had made things sandy.

That required some adjustments, at least for elite riders, who lowered tire pressure to get a little more traction in soft turns. Sandy conditions also make for more challenges in passing riders than a firmer surface.

“It makes for a different race, for sure,” Meudt said.

And that’s all part of the fun. It’s cross-country mountain bike racing, after all — it’s about getting out on the dirt with fat tires, whether it’s muddy or dusty or... whatever. The challenges of the course — including a little grit in the teeth — are integral to the experience.

Some 500 riders of all ages turned out to test their mettle against the 26-mile course on the Peterson Ridge



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Dyut Fetrow adjusts the position of a shifter for a rider before he headed out on the Sisters Stampede.

Trail network. There was a category for just about everybody, from youths as young as 10 years old to seniors.

Seventy-five-year-old Jack Addison rode the Stampede as his first race.

A military veteran and pilot, Addison said, “I was representing the veterans, honoring the fallen soldiers for Memorial Day.”

He was proud to note that, in the novice 40-plus category, he beat all the other 60+ riders.

“It was more exhausting than I thought,” he acknowledged.

He is, however, hooked. “My goal is set for next year,” he said. “Get under an

hour.”

The Sisters Stampede has become one of Sisters’ signature events and a kick-off to the summer season. Riders came in for the whole weekend and were easy to spot in local restaurants and enjoying live music at Sisters venues. And most of them will come back next year to enjoy the grit and grind of the trail — and the amenities of a welcoming community.

Geologist to lead Central Oregon hikes

Join geology expert Robert J. Lillie for a series of weekend programs June 2-4 that explore the geology of Central Oregon’s state parks and other natural areas.

Lillie will lead two guided hikes and two sunset presentations that draw on his experience as a former geosciences professor at Oregon State University.

Participants will consider the paradox of Oregon’s landscape: the same destructive geological forces that threaten our lives, such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, also form the state’s spectacular mountains, valleys and coastlines. Lillie’s programs are based on research published in his 2015 book, “Beauty from the Beast: Plate Tectonics and the Landscapes of Oregon State Parks.” To make this information come alive, his presentations will focus on the formation of features located within central and eastern Oregon state parks.

Evening campground

presentations are scheduled at 8:30 p.m. Friday, June 2 at Tumalo State Park and Saturday, June 3 at La Pine State Park.

Guided geology hikes are scheduled at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 3 at Prineville Reservoir State Park and Sunday, June 4 at The Cove Palisades State Park. The Prineville hike meets at the Eagle’s Nest Amphitheater across from the registration booth. The Cove Palisades hike starts at the kiosk at the entrance to the Crooked River Campground.

For information, contact Jill Nishball at 503-551-8958 or jill.nishball@oregon.gov.

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