

Recreation hums from hills to beaches

Outdoor Program plans trips

By MARY MASSIE
Of the Emerald

Living in the Willamette Valley sometimes isolates people from the tremendous beauty and variety offered throughout the rest of Oregon.

If you're looking for outdoor recreation this summer, there is an abundance, and some of the most interesting places are not very far from Eugene.

Probably the greatest source of information about outdoor activities is the Outdoor Program, located in Room 23 of the EMU. The program is a center for self-propelled, non-competitive outdoor skills including hiking, camping, white water activities, climbing, sailing, ski touring, bike touring and wilderness photography.

Trips offered by the outdoor center range from day hikes to full-scale expeditions, but all activities are informal, peer-oriented with no official leaders. Expenses are shared, so transportation, food and gear costs are lower. All trips are completely participant-initiated and are posted on a trip board at the center.

This summer the program is providing activities that run a full

range of skills. A skeleton schedule intended to stimulate other activities by participants includes a day hike through the Willamette National Forest, Calapooia river canoeing, hiking in the Cascades, Oregon coast hiking, Three Sisters backpacking and climbing the Husband Peak.

The summer schedule began Friday, June 16, but for more information contact the center at 686-4365 or 686-4364.

If you are a water skiing freak or you just like to camp and fish and watch the day go by, there are several easily accessible lakes located within a short distance of Eugene. The lakes are water projects under the direction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Cougar Lake is located up the McKenzie highway (State Road 126) on the south fork of the McKenzie River in the mountainous Willamette National Forest. The scenery is excellent and the lake has a good reputation for trout fishing.

Blue River Lake is about a 45-minute ride out of town on Highway 126. It is a small but exceptionally beautiful lake nestled among steep mountain slopes of virgin timber.

Fern Ridge Lake is just 12 miles

from downtown Eugene, out W. 11th Avenue. Lack of wind barriers and a wide expanse of water combine to make this lake a great place for sailing.

Fern Creek Lake is located east of Eugene in the rolling, picturesque south hills of the Willamette Valley. It is accessible from either Fall Creek Road or Winberry Creek Road. Here, the scenic shoreline of forest and open grassy spots is a tempting invitation to boaters and picnickers.

Dexter lake is a short drive southeast of Eugene on State Highway 58. The lake is small (only 2.8 miles long) but the fishing is superb.

All of these recreation areas offer picnicking, boat launching ramps, marinas, boat rentals and supplies, fishing, swimming and skiing. All, with the exception of Fall Creek, have overnight camping.

If you are less ambitious and want recreation that requires little if any energy, a drive to the Oregon coast is in order. Just 61 miles west of Eugene is the coastal fishing town of Florence, where the sand dunes and buggies go together.

Ocean vistas continue to delight just north of Florence at Devil's

Elbow beach, the site of the Heceta Head Lighthouse.

Another 45 miles up the coast is rewarded by the colorful beauty of Newport and the Yaquina Bay Front. Recreational eating is a favorite pastime in Newport, where some of the best seafood on the whole planet Earth can be found on the fisherman's wharf.

If you're into optional recreation, be it through your eyes or your camera, some of the scenes on the McKenzie River are bound to please. Its turquoise-green waterfalls are a photographer's dream.

Finally, if you're just into high places and don't have much time, a view from Blanton Heights at the south end of town is very satisfying. Willamette Street up to the KVAL television station will get you there. On a clear day, a fantastic view can be had of the entire southern extremity of the Willamette Valley, Fern Ridge Lake, Mary's Peak (the highest peak in the Cascades), the Coburg Hills and the beginnings of the Cascades. And on a clear night from this vantage point you can see all the lights of south Eugene glow in unison. It's true.



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Who the members of this year's Em squad will be is still uncertain. In fact, the management of the Ems does not even know who will be playing for them until the athletes themselves step off the plane in Eugene.

Most of the rest of the particulars have been taken care of, however. The team will be managed by 31-year-old Greg Riddoch, who was the Ems' manager in 1975 when they posted a record of 54-25 and won the NWL title.

Riddoch will be assisted by John Underwood, 23, who managed the team to a 31-37 record and a fourth place finish in the six team NWL last season.

outside, rebuilt locker rooms, new beams, a new electrical system, new concessions and new seats.

Emerald Baseball Inc. also has a new general manager in Kathy Maks, who last year was the organization's secretary and concession manager.

Maks, who becomes the NWL's third female general manager, was selected for the job by last year's general manager Cordy Jensen, who found that running the club and three restaurants which he owns was too much of a work load.

Working out of a trailer next to Civic Stadium, Maks is responsible for sales, promotions, field

"Last year they sent us a crummy bunch," tells Maks. "So we called them (Cincinnati) this year and said we've been affiliated with you for four years, so you owe us a good team. But we can't be sure."

No matter how good the players are the Reds send, though, one thing is for certain; they will play inspired and exciting baseball. Because the minor leagues are a proving ground, the players are more than willing to give their ultimate, despite the fact that they are paid on the average only \$600 per month.

Another pleasurable aspect of

Ems home schedule

Date	Opponent	July 27, 28, 29	Boise
June 24, 25	Bend	July 30, 31, August 1	Salem
June 26, 27, 28	Boise	August 11, 12, 13	Grays Harbor
June 29, 30, July 1	Salem	August 14, 15, 16	Walla Walla
July 12, 13, 14	Victoria	August 25, 26	Salem
July 15, 16, 17	Bellingham	August 27, 28, 29	Bend
July 24, 25, 26	Bend	August 30, 31	Boise

The Ems will once again be a member of the NWL, which this year has expanded from six to eight teams. Four of the clubs are independent: Grays Harbor, Salem, Bend and Victoria; while Eugene, Bellingham, Boise and Walla Walla have major league ties.

Refurbished Civic Stadium, with a capacity of 5,000, will be site of the Em's home games, all of which except a July 1st afternoon contest with Salem, begin at 7:30 p.m.

The stadium, which faced closing by the city unless it was renovated, has a new coat of paint inside and out, new siding on the

maintenance and hiring.

To attract paying customers (the Ems averaged 1,100 fans per contest last year) Maks has promotions planned for nearly every game of the season. Each Thursday is beer night, the cost of a brew just a quarter. Also in the works are Ladies' Night, Kids' Night, Picture Night, Eugene Sports Program Night and even a night when fans accompanied by a can of food are admitted free.

Of course, nothing brings in fans more than a winning team, but Maks has no guarantee the team's personnel will match that of the 1975 championship squad.

watching minor league baseball, according to Maks, is examining the progression of the players over the years.

"Seeing their development from start to finish is the best part," she says. "If a kid starts out well here, he'll finish up well. It's fun to follow the kids through and see how they do."

And how about Maks? Is she setting her sights toward becoming a big league general manager? "I like my job very much. There is just one thing I'd like better and that would be to own the club. Does that tell you enough?" she asks laughingly.

EUGENE TRAVEL



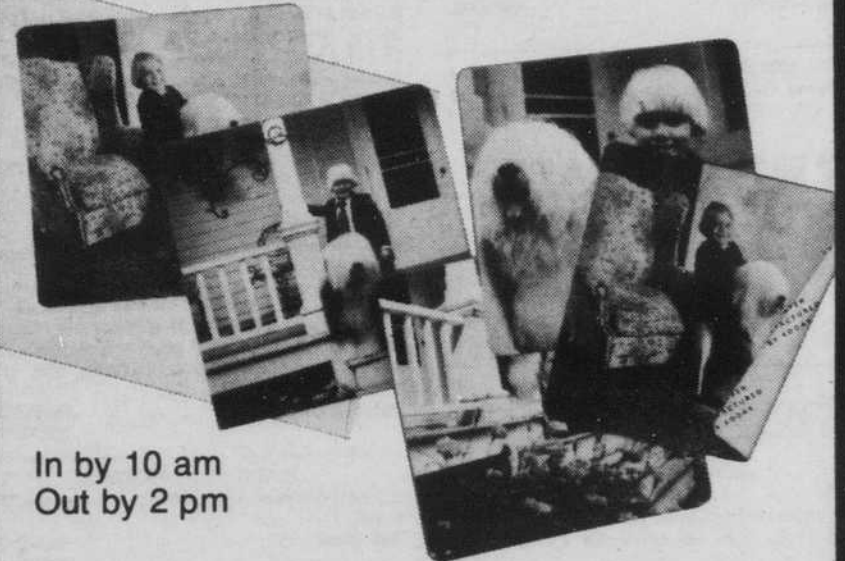
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