

# FRIENDS INDEED

Bicyclists can take in breathtaking views while supporting people with AIDS during the second annual Friends Ride on Aug. 3 along the scenic Historic Columbia River Highway Trail.

Registration is between 8 and 10 a.m. at the Senator Mark O. Hatfield West Trailhead in Hood River. The course closes at 3 p.m.

The ride benefits the Friends of People with AIDS Foundation, which gives direct assistance to people living with HIV. The grassroots, nonprofit organization in Portland helps out with basic living expenses, clothing, furnishings, pet care and other needs.

Riders can choose from easy to challenging routes of differing lengths:

- **Family Fun Ride:** Start at the trailhead and cruise through the Mosier Twin Tunnels for an eight-mile round-trip ride on the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail. This section is closed to automobiles.

least to myself, anyway," he says. "Coming out of the closet at 32 years old, I didn't have many gay friends, and this was a chance to connect with the community in some way."

Although he's lost a few acquaintances to AIDS, no one very close to him has died from the disease. Richard derives satisfaction in raising money for a good cause and in raising people's awareness of the global and personal problems with which HIV has confronted the world.

He says most of his sponsors wouldn't give money to AIDS causes otherwise, simply because they aren't involved in gay or AIDS issues, so he feels he is making a difference. He greatly enjoys the open and caring atmosphere created by the riders and appreciates the varieties of their experience—"gay or straight, HIV-positive or not, family and friends of people with AIDS, people who work in organizations associated with HIV and people who simply want to be involved in some way."


Richard says their spirit is both motivating and touching. He was amazed by the tenacity of the Positive Peddlers, a group of HIV-positive cyclists who ride for different reasons—to raise money, to fight back, to show solidarity, to prove to themselves that they still have time left.

In one of his California AIDS Rides, Richard remembers a group of men in San Francisco who stopped at every yard sale to buy things. It was quite a sight to see them together "wearing garden dresses on their bikes, going down the road."

In another instance, Richard remembers "a woman who had lost a leg—and she kept passing me, all day!" He recalls feeling really tired and taking a break: "I was sitting on the side of the road, nearly passed out, then I see her pass

- **Rowena Crest View Ride (24 miles):** Cruise through the Mosier Tunnels and then continue along the scenic highway up to Rowena Crest for spectacular views. (There is vehicle traffic after you leave the state trail.) Enjoy riding through beautiful orchards as you climb up to the viewpoint. Then enjoy some downhill cruising and a bit of climbing on the way back.

- **Columbia Gorge Discovery Center (40 miles):** Ride to spectacular Rowena Crest, then descend to the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. Then enjoy the challenging climb back up to Rowena Crest. The views will reward you for your efforts.


The registration fee is \$35. Additional donations are welcome. 

For more information about the FRIENDS RIDE call 503-283-8535 or visit [www.friendspwa.org/ride](http://www.friendspwa.org/ride).

me again. And I'm thinking, I have to do this. It was really motivational."

Richard has incorporated cycling into his life, just as he has incorporated his love of the environment into his work. "I decided to be an architect in the third grade," he says. He grew up in the city of Lebanon, where he was involved in environmental activities such as Outdoor School.

Richard now specializes in sustainable design at the Portland architectural and design firm SRG Partnership. He loves his job, in part because he is passionate about minimizing the impact of our lives on the environment. His projects have included celebrity killer whale Keiko's tank at the Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport; marine biological laboratories at University of California at Santa Cruz; the relocation of the Gordon House, the only home Frank Lloyd Wright designed in Oregon; a home for his parents in Lebanon; and, his pride and joy, a visitors center at Tualatin Hills Nature Park.

SRG Partnership is generously supporting Richard with matching funds for the Empire State AIDS Ride. Although most of his fund raising comes from family, friends and colleagues, he still needs donations in order to reach his minimum goal to participate in the ride. 

To support the EMPIRE STATE AIDS RIDE visit [www.empirestateaidsride.org](http://www.empirestateaidsride.org), click on "donate," then type in "Tim Richard." You can also download a form to contribute by mail. Send the check to P.O. Box 984, Planetarium Station, New York, NY 10024-0541.

CAITLIN SMITH is a Portland free-lance writer.

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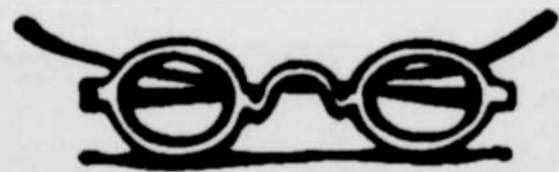
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Peacock Productions, Inc. would like to invite all Peacock in the Park 2003 sponsors, contributors, volunteers and/or entertainers to a thank you party at 2pm on Sunday, August 17th at the Commodore Grill & Lounge, 1601 SW Morrison.



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