

Winding Trails: by Al Hobart

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Illinois Valley News
Cascades skiing again

Last Sunday for the first time in my short but checkered career as a ski enthusiast, circumstances placed me on a moderate, uncrowded ski slope under a bright sunny sky and with snow conditions perfect for some downhill practice on the light touring skis.

And, also for the first time I found myself able to zigzag down the slope in a series of curves of varying degree and capable of coming to a stop in an upright position, instead of sliding half way across the country or terminating the uncontrolled glide in a snowbank, up against a tree, or coming to a disgraceful halt with my skis wrapped around my neck, my glasses somewhere on the scarred slope 50 yards back and my lowers crosswise in my snow-filled mouth.

On a private ski tour (not a part of our ski club program) the old gang, members of the Pruitt, Latusick, Doty, and Vannice

families, and myself, a dozen of us in all, congregated in one of our favorite winter playgrounds – up on the Crater Lake Rim.

From where we left the cars at the end of the plowed-out road, some distance north of the lodge, a short tour on our skis took us to the ideal slope I’ve mentioned. When we first arrived there was not a track on the snow; when we left, several hours later, the slope looked like the Alpine troops had spent a week of maneuvers there.

Practicing downhill maneuvers on cross-country skis isn’t quite like performing on their regular downhill counterparts; because, whereas the entire boot is securely fastened to the downhill ski to permit easy and fast lifting of the tails of the skis in making sharp turns, in cross-country skiing the heel of the boot is left free to enable the skier to walk freely where the going is on the level or uphill.

Walking any great distance with boot heels fastened to the skis is a blister-producing, tendon-torturing experience – as I learned to my painful discomfiture a winter or two ago. But for the ride-up,

slide down type of skiing, where intricate maneuvering and ski-wrenching stunts are common place heel anchoring is essential.

However, with touring skis equipped with suitable bindings – like the semi-rigid cable type that our gang all use – cutting downhill didoes can be accomplished most satisfactorily, providing you don’t try crowding your luck beyond your unskilled limits. As a matter of fact, expert skiers can mingle with the flying crowd on the resort slopes without being suspected of going through the drill on heel-free cross-country skis.

Two or three of our last-Sunday’s group are pretty hot slat artists, and some are beginning hopefuls. Others (including me) are ski-cavorting question-marks: eager beavers of the twilight zone just getting the hang of things, and chomping impatiently at the bit between ski sessions.

On our private ski slope Sunday, after hitting the bottom of the first short steep pitch (at 90 mph it seemed) I cautiously angled the heel of my right ski outward and put most of my weight on that ski, keeping a slight outward pressure on the heel.

Darned if it didn’t bring me circling around gently to the left. Then I reversed the process, and swung around to the right–and down the 200-yard-long slope I went, maintaining the thisaway-thataway pattern to near the bottom, where I made a shorter turn into the slope and came to a halt, still standing up on my hind legs.

I repeated that performance over and over, making that day of ski-play one of my most satisfying and thrilling ever. And others of the party felt the same way. Charles, for instance, who, like myself, has been jeopardizing his chances of skiing in the sky when our earthly slopes no longer beckon, because of the seemingly endless frustration at getting on to those pesky turns, was as elated as I was at finding that he too is beginning to get the hang of the thing.

That whole sunny, pleasure-packed day was one grand picnic. And for me the time can’t move along too fast to the day when I’ll be doing it again—at the same or as satisfactory a place, and with the same old gang.

Recycle ...

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All three of Southern Oregon Sanitation’s (SOS) transfer stations (Grants Pass, Kerby and Eagle Point) still accept the following items, but items MUST be kept separate:

- *Corrugated cardboard remove all plastic, Styrofoam or other packing materials. Cardboard must be flattened.
- *Tin cans (rinse thoroughly), aluminum pie plates, aluminum foil and cans. No need to remove lids or labels, no need to flatten.
- *Glass bottles and jars, remove food residue, no Corning Ware, Pyrex or sheet glass.
- *Motor oil – please note that it must be poured into non-breakable gallon

containers with tight fitting screw caps. (Plastic gallon bleach or milk jugs work best.)

- *Used cooking oil – (Available at the Grants Pass Recycle Depot only) please note that it must be poured into non-breakable gallon containers with tight fitting screw caps. (Plastic gallon bleach or milk jugs work best.)

Non-accepted items:

- * NO PLASTICS OF ANY KIND. No plastic bags – often people like to put their recycling in plastic bags to help them carry or manage it better. However, the plastic bags are NOT recyclable and ruin the value of the recyclables.
- * Magazines
- * Office paper or junk mail
- * Phone books or paperback books

- * Food (This includes food residue on the insides of glass and cans).
- * Paperboard: cereal, shoe, pantry boxes or any other thin paper boxes.
- * Waxed cartons
- * Plastic or wood furniture
- * PVC pipe
- * Furnace filters
- * Clothing
- * Baling twine

If you utilize SOS’s curbside recycling service they are no longer accepting glass in the cart but you can still bring glass into a transfer station. Place recyclable items freely in the cart, do not bag them.

If you have additional recycling questions, please contact a recycling coordinator at recycle@sosanitation.com or call 1-800- 922-1025.

Hunter chooses Cavenet as local partner for fiber to the home

Hunter Communications announced plans to undertake a fiber to the home deployment in Cave Junction, branching off a high count fiber optic backbone currently being utilized to supply voice and data services to the Three Rivers School District, State and Local Government offices, and other local businesses in the area.

Hunter will be partnering with local internet service provider, Cavenet LLC, who will act as the direct service provider for Cave Junction customers benefiting from the new, widespread fiber optic network. Cavenet will also provide first tier customer service support as part of this partnership. For almost 20 years, Cavenet has delivered internet services to residents and businesses of the Illinois Valley, beginning with dial-up and web hosting services and later expanding to high speed wireless services in 2002. Cavenet and Hunter Communications have been working together in some capacity for years, with Hunter supplying Cavenet’s fiber optic backhaul bandwidth and support services. The two organizations have been waiting for the right time to expand on their relationship and are now looking forward to being able to provide high speed fiber connections for all businesses and residents of Cave Junction.

“We’ve been looking forward to deploying services to this underserved area for quite some time,” Hunter Communications President Richard Ryan stated. “We’re really excited about being able to work with a company with a lengthy history and partner with them to support community growth.”

“Bandwidth services are vital to the community and this partnership with Hunter will allow Cavenet to provide speeds never before available in the Illinois Valley as well,” added Monique Allen, owner of Cavenet LLC.

The project includes plans to not only increase the availability of services within Cave Junction, but also increase the capabilities of the services running into

Cave Junction. To meet these lofty goals, Hunter plans to build enough new fiber plants throughout town to support the current and future needs of Cavenet and its customers, while also building an additional high count fiber backbone connection into town. Hunter has nearly completed building the 30 miles of high count fiber backbone between Grants Pass and Cave Junction, and plans on wrapping up construction activities on that segment early this summer.

“We’ve been building fiber in the Cave Junction community for several years now and are almost complete with our long backbone fiber to provide even more services. It’s been a very difficult build, as all rural builds are, but we’re getting it done.” Richard Ryan added, “It’s much more difficult to build your own fiber than it is to resell others’ services which is what the majority of communications companies do, whereas Hunter has built it’s own fiber network – The largest privately held in Oregon.”

Cavenet and Hunter will begin to offer services over these new fiber connections in Cave Junction starting in late spring or early summer 2018. Interested customers can contact Cavenet or Hunter directly or wait for information to be made available regarding service offerings and prices. New fiber offerings will include voice services and robust internet speeds of up to 10Gb to the premises.

Hunter Communications, a Southern Oregon based Telecommunications Company, CLEC and ISP, was founded in 1992, providing service for local area networks, wide area networks and everything in between. In 2000 Hunter started building an all-fiber network throughout Medford with the vision of a Metropolitan Area Network (MAN) in rural Southern Oregon. Hunter expanded to provide advanced technical support and engineering solutions with the intent of becoming a sole source provider, capable of handling any telecommunications or networking needs.



Join **IVCanDO** for our
Annual Meeting
WHERE: THE LORNA BYRNE
MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA
WHEN: MARCH 21ST 6PM-8PM

We will elect the Board of Directors, vote on bylaws updates, learn about robust programs, hear about the IV’s 20/20 strategic plan, award outstanding community members, and celebrate retiring Executive Director, Menno Kraai. Free refreshments will be served.

To become a member or renew, so as to have eligibility to vote for the Board of Directors at the meeting, or to apply to run for the board, you must fill out an application by 3pm on Wednesday, March 14. To receive the form, contact IVCanDO by email to renerauch@ivcdo.org, by phone, 592-4440, or in person at the IV Visitor’s Center, 201 Caves Highway Cave Junction. Membership is limited to people fifteen years and older who are IV residents, business owners, property owners, or employees working within the Illinois Valley.





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