

Winding Trails: by Al Hobart

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Skiing Crater Lake Rim – 2-day Trip – Part 1

No one can deny that one of winter’s most attractive manifestations is the formation and display of icicles, those transparent, often colorfully translucent, cold, brittle, sometimes fantastically shaped structures of frozen water. Being normally imaginative and appreciative of natural phenomena, I have always been fascinated by icicles. Always, that is, until last weekend, when Nature so far forgot herself as to hang a bevy of her precious icy stalactites on my gale-numbered chin and nose. But being occasionally blizzard-whipped, with icicle-draped face and with fingers stiffand cold in spite of heavy protective mitts—all of the temporary discomfort of being exposed to the battering of the periodically rampaging elements

is a minuscule price to pay for the privilege of being exposed to the unbelievable beauty of Crater Lake’s winter-locked Rim, a privilege granted to only a lucky few. The 30-mile journey around the crater’s 7,000 feet high rim on skis, although no casual pastime for the faint of heart or physically unfit, is an inspiring, priceless experience for those capable of appreciating nature at its fantastic loveliest. Hardy, experienced skiers can make the rugged trip in a single long day, but a more leisurely 2-day trip is endurance-testing enough, and much more productive of enjoyment of the out-of-this-world scenery on all sides of the tortuous undulating way. To make this trip, especially in foul weather, without theleadership of a competent, experienced guide would be extremely hazardous and foolhardy. On our 7-man round-the-Rim ski tour last weekend we were led by Bill Pruitt,the Rim’s own tour guide, whohas made the winter circuit on skis seven times, either guiding a group on a 2-day tour or making a record one-day run. Early Saturday morning we started our ski tour from the lodge, on the Rim. The temperature was

slightly below freezing, snow was falling and a moderate wind was blowing. Visibility at times was limited to the near canyons, rocky prominences along the rim-top, and the gnome-like snow-loaded conifers that decorated the slopes. Our destination for that day was a little snow-bound cabin on the far side of the crater, about 14 miles distant. Our skiing that day was done in falling snow, except for a period of little more than an hour, when the sun broke through and gave us a view of the crater’s captive lake and the Rim’s wintry fairyland sculpture that can only be described as breath-taking. Many admire the view of Crater Lake from the lodge even in midwinter. But to view the lodge side from the far rim is an altogether different experience, presenting a picture that few are aware of or are ever permitted to enjoy. To drive around the Rim road in summer is a memorable experience, but the deepsnows of winter make adifferent world of the crater’s rugged tree-studded rim. The road, for the most part, is completely obliterated. Where the summer road existed, now in places,

only an almost perpendicular wall of snow is found. Not even the versatile little flea-like snowmobiles, that are becoming a familiar sight on every winter landscape, can negotiate the Rim when winter has laid down its high-altitude mantle of deep snow, making the trip feasible only on skis, and not without hazards even then. In the early evening we arrived at the little “half-way” cabin that sits on the rim overlooking the lake far below. The cabin lay buried in 9 feet of snow, and to gain the interior we climbed down a ladder inside a wooded “snow chimney” that reached well above the deep snow. Inside this wee, wonderful shack we found a good fuel supply, some provisions and sleeping bags—and shelter. A 40 to 50-mile wind was blowing when we arrived and the temperature was 24 degrees, conditions that made that humble little shelter seems like a welcome crumb dropped from a heavenly table. But before we settled down to warm, cheery comfort at last, we were scheduled for a minor but disquieting spot of trouble—the gale outside blowing down the chimney filled the room with smoke so dense

we were forced to retreat back up the escape hatch and out again into the icy wind. To keep from freezing I clung to the ladder inside the shaft and let my head hang out against the wall, my tongue hanging out and gasping for breath. While I was hanging draped over the sill, faintly trying to cough the carbon out of my tortured lungs (dying for all he knew), my sadist friend Len, a leather-skinned geologist who laughs in the teeth of icy gales, laughingly snapped my picture. Bill, whose lungs must be made of rawhide, stayed down and fought the smoking stove till I thought he’d surely pass out. Dashing down the ladder now and then to help, my only contribution was to give Bill a few seconds of company before gasping my way back up the chute. Eventually the trouble was overcome, and a hot fire was drying damp clothes and filling the cabin with the appetizing aroma of sizzling steaks, on the heels of the vanishing smoke.

(Concluded next week)

Public Notice

<u>City of Cave Junction Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) 2017</u>	
CCRs provide information about the quality of the water you receive and are written in compliance with standards set by State & Federal Drinking Water Regulations.	
The City of Cave Junction is a blended source water system consisting of the Illinois River (Entry Point A) and the Daisy Hill Well (Entry Point B). The main source of drinking water is the Illinois River. This river travels through a 232 square mile water shed including the East Fork Illinois River, Sucker Creek and Althouse Creek watersheds. Source water assessment results are available online.	
The staff working in the water plant take pride in producing the absolute best water possible. Any opportunity to better serve the citizens of Cave Junction is appreciated and we hope this information is found valuable.	
<u>Water Production for 2017</u>	
Annual Water Right Allowance:	
Surface Water:	3cfs or 708 Million Gallons (MG)
Ground Water:	0.6cfs or 141.255 MG
Actual Production:	
Water Treatment Plant:	125.53 MG (18% of total allowance)
Daisy Hill Well:	32.296 MG (23% of total allowance)

<u>Water Quality Results</u>
Monthly testing on our distribution system is conducted for microbiologicals and weekly testing is completed for water quality. Drinking water, including bottled water may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk, however, some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons undergoing chemotherapy or those with HIV/AIDS disorders, persons who have undergone organ transplants, or some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections.

The City of Cave Junction has received a **Bin 1** classification. This is based on the source water monitoring results generated during the test period ending September 2009. The annual mean *E. coli* concentration of these data was **28.8 E. Coli** 100/mL, which does not exceed the 50 E. Coli/100 mL E. coli trigger for a flowing stream source.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791**.

Turbidity—Suspended particles in water that may interfere with disinfection:	
Max. 0.08 NTU	Min. 0.01 NTU
All samples below State Limit < 0.3 NTU	
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) Current MCL is 0.080 mg/L (Reservoir #4 = 0.0170 mg/L)	
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) Current MCL is 0.0600 mg/L (Reservoir #4 = 0.01885 mg/L)	

<u>Kerby Water District</u>	
As of July 2010 The City of Cave Junction began providing water and contract services to the <u>Kerby Water District</u> (KWD). KWD customers should direct their questions to John Plute at (541) 592-3791.	
KWD passed 100% of their microbiological testing.	
Kerby Pump Station:	
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) Current MCL is 0.080 mg/L	Result = 0.0099000 mg/L
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) Current MCL is 0.06 mg/L	Result = 0.0132000
Sauers Flat:	
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) Current MCL is 0.080 mg/L	Result = 0.0318000 mg/L
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) Current MCL is 0.06 mg/L	Result = 0.0228000 mg/L
Lead and Copper Test Results:	
Lead (2017)—0.0 mg/L	Copper(2017)—0.0673 mg/L
Lead Action Level—0.0155 mg/L	Copper Action Level—1.35 mg/L

<u>City of Cave Junction’s Cross Connection/Backflow Assembly Management Program</u>
The City’s Municipal Code 13.04.060, requires installation of an Oregon State Health Division approved backflow assembly where any potential cross-connection exist.
As of June 9, 2010, the City amended Ordinance No. 531 to reflect a revised backflow prevention program with the City taking full responsibility for managing actual or potential cross connections within the city limits. Audits will be performed to advised new & existing customer if assemblies are needed and annual assembly testing will be conducted by the City’s tester in accordance with State Regulation. Note: The City requires a permit for the installation of all irrigation systems.

<u>Water Conservation</u>
If you have a lawn, chances are it is responsible for your largest consumption of water. Typically, 50% of household water is used outdoors. Inside the home, bathroom facilities claim nearly 75% of the water used.
<u>What can you do to reduce water usage?</u>
Water lawns between 4 and 6am or between 8 and 10pm when heat and evaporation levels are lower, allowing moisture to be absorbed.
Delay watering lawns during the first cool weeks of spring. This encourages deeper rooting and makes your lawn healthier. It will also delay that first lawn mowing session.
Consider “Xeriscape” which means landscaping for water conservation. The idea includes using plants that are drought tolerant and filling spaces with decorate objects that do not require water such as rocks, benches, gravel and decks.

<u>Entry Point A—Illinois River</u>	
Barium	0.0089500 mg/L MCL = 2.0 mg/L
Nickel (2013)	0.0034800 mg/L MCL = 0.1 mg/L
Nitrate—Nitrite	0.0630000 mg/L MCL = 10 mg/L
Sodium	7.39
Total Organic Carbon	1.7 mg/L
<u>Entry Point B—Daisy Hill Well</u>	
Daisy Hill Well met 100% of the microbiological testing standards.	
<u>Lead and Copper/Corrosion of Household Plumbing</u>	
Lead & Copper results reported in 90th percentile	
Lead 0.0 mg/L	Action Level 0.0155 mg/L
Copper 0.1877 mg/L	Action Level 1.3 mg/L

<u>There is no detectable Lead or Copper in the City’s two water supply sources:</u>
The Water Treatment Staff monitors the water quality in the distribution system to ensure that the pH of the water is high enough to help prevent corrosion. The average pH in our water system is 7.8 s.u.
If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Cave Junction is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you’re concerned about lead in your water you may wish to have your water tested.
The City of Cave Junction met all microbiological testing standards for 2017 and is keeping up with new testing requirements as mandated by the Oregon Health Authority and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The City is dedicated to complying fully with all State and Federal regulations to insure that the water we provide to our citizens is the very best drinking water possible.
The 1996 Amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act requires that all states conduct source water assessments for public water systems within their boundaries. The assessments consist of (1) Identification of the Drinking Water Protection Area (i.e., the area at the surface that is directly above that part of the aquifer that supplies groundwater to our well or from the river; (2) Identification of <u>potential</u> sources of pollution within the Drinking Water Protection Area; and (3) Determining the susceptibility or relative risk to the well water from those sources. The purpose of assessments is to provide water systems with the information they need to develop a strategy to protect their drinking water resource. The Oregon Health Authority and Environmental Quality has completed the assessment for our system, a copy of which is on file at the Water Treatment Office. In 2004, in cooperation with the State, the City completed a source water assessment on both the Illinois River and Daisy Hill Well. The City used this assessment to develop protection areas around its source waters to include: <u>Surface Water Protection Areas</u> : This is the 232 square miles of water shed that provides us with our drinking water. <u>Well Head Protection Area</u> : This is the zone of travel water will take in the 2, 5, and 10 year times of travel to reach our city well. The City has received recognition from the DEQ Drinking Water Section, for its efforts in protecting its drinking water supplies. The City’s Municipal Code Chapter 13.12, Groundwater Protection was put into place to assist in protecting this valuable source of water.

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead .
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<u>Important Terms to Know:</u>
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
Treatment Technique - A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.
Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers other treatment requirements which a water system must follow.
Parts per Million (ppm) / Parts per Billion (ppb) - <u>ppm</u> means that one part of a particular contaminant is present for every million parts of water. <u>ppb</u> indicates the amount of a contaminant per billion parts of water.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - A measurement of radioactivity

<u>For further information on water testing go to the website at:</u>	
public.health.oregon.gov	
highlight	Healthy Environments
select	Drinking Water
under	More Resources
select	Drinking Water Data Online
click on	WS Name Look Up
enter	Cave Junction

We want your Input Public Participation Opportunities can be found at: City of Cave Junction City Council Meetings For Information call: (541) 592-2156
CCRs are always available at City Hall or can be found at: www.cavejunctionoregon.us