

Trail Alliance seeks new members in Redmond

From a press release
Central Oregon Trail Alliance (COTA), in partnership with Trinity Bikes, is planning a membership drive/fundraising event on Saturday, Oct. 16 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at General Duffy's Waterhole in Redmond. This event will take place in conjunction with General Duffy's Saturday Market.

COTA is a nonprofit who's mission is to develop, protect and enhance the Central Oregon mountain bike experience through trail stewardship, advocacy, collaboration and education. COTA has six chapters, 2,000 members, and individuals who spend more than 10,000 hours a year volunteering.

Since 1992, COTA's worked to build and maintain more than 500 miles of trails in Central Oregon. Moving forward,

they have a number of active projects in the pipeline with plans to significantly expand our trail system throughout the region.

One project is completing the construction of Stinger Trail at the Cascade View Trailhead in Redmond. This is a project that's been in the planning process the past 12 years. Also on the radar for COTA's Redmond Chapter is Radlands — a community network of 10-12 miles of trail which is biking distance from town.

COTA hopes to fulfill its mission with donations/sponsorships from the communities it serves — and increasing membership in Redmond is an immediate priority for COTA.

The goal for COTA's Redmond Chapter is to add 70 new members to accelerate



trail building and increase the number of volunteers in the area.

Where does your money go? Staff to manage and advocate for trail planning and building. Professional trail builders (when needed) so new trails can get built faster or when too complex for volunteer-only teams. Equipment such as trucks or skid steers. Tools, trail signage, storage facilities, insurance, volunteer support, general operating expenses etc.

Interested in becoming a corporate sponsor? COTA's social media channels have more

than 10,000 followers — and organizations donating \$500 or more get a linked logo and copy about your organization on COTA's website, which had 22,000 unique visits in 2020.

If you'd like to talk trails and learn more about COTA, plan to come by General Duffy's Waterhole Saturday and speak with Dan Murray, COTA's Development Director.

If you're unable to attend the event but would like to become a COTA member, you can do so easily (and securely) online at www.cotamtb.com for as little as \$30 annually.

If you have questions, or would like additional information regarding COTA membership, donations, or sponsorship opportunities, please reach out to Dan directly at dan.murray@cotamtb.com or 301-980-2170.

First Story offers homeownership help

From a press release
The nonprofit First Story is once again providing a hand-up to homeownership to Sisters residents through a unique partnership with Hayden Homes and NeighborImpact. The homes will be constructed by Hayden Homes in their McKenzie Meadows community and sold through First Story's 30-year non-interest loan program.

For more information, visit firststory.org/own-a-home.

To become eligible to apply for a home, applicants must first complete the Homebuyer Education Class and a home buying counseling session through NeighborImpact. Virtual classes are available monthly starting in October.

Completion of the Homebuyer Education Class is not a guarantee of an interview or selection for housing.

"We are proud to support NeighborImpact, with a \$5,000 donation, to help ensure their services continue to be accessible to those in the community," said Deborah Flagan, Vice President of Community Engagement at Hayden Homes. "We recognize there are barriers that can prevent families from achieving homeownership and believe this Homebuyer Education class provides a welcoming environment for all families to learn about the home buying journey, including valuable tools to cultivate and maintain financial wellness."

Airlines

Continued from P1
Deschutes County collects an 8% transient room tax and Bend collects a 10.4% lodging tax for each night.

"What we're seeing because of the pandemic and COVID-19 is there's been a shift by smaller, boutique airlines to move into the Western outdoor market," said Zach Bass, Redmond Airport director.

This past summer Redmond saw about as many passengers as it did before March 2020 when the pandemic caused the closure of businesses and travel as a way to curb the spread of the virus. In July 2019, 102,000 passengers passed through the airport, compared to July 2020 when a mere 37,000 came through. This July, however, there were 105,000 passengers in the Redmond Airport, Bass said.

There are seven airlines providing about 25 flights a day out of Redmond, Bass said. The number of flights tends to fluctuate depending on time of year. Carriers include Alaska



Bulletin file photo

"What we're seeing because of the pandemic and COVID-19 is there's been a shift by smaller, boutique airlines to move into the Western outdoor market," says Zach Bass, Redmond Airport director.

Air, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Allegiant Airlines, Boutique Air, United Airlines and Avelo. Bass said the airport is working with American to see if it will operate direct flights from Redmond to Dallas that could start this spring.

Travis Christ, Avelo Airlines head of marketing, said that since May, the direct flights from Redmond to Burbank, California, three times a week have done well for the new-

comer. The airline, which also launched flights in Medford and Eugene, has made a business plan out of flying from nonhub airports near large cities to popular visitor destinations, like Bend, Christ said.

Avelo uses 189-seat Boeing 737-800 aircraft out of Redmond, one of 17 destinations the airline offers across the Western United States. Additional destinations are being added. Fort Collins, Colorado, is being added this week and will go from New Haven, Connecticut to multiple destinations in Florida come November.

Launching a new airline isn't easy, but it wasn't nearly as difficult as Avelo anticipated. Pent up travel demand among visitors spurred travel in the United States since many international locations were closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, Christ said. "We're the new way to Los Angeles," Christ said in an interview. "People are eager to get out of the big, congested airports, with expensive parking and crowds."

"We want to serve these areas that have been underserved, and it was good fortune for us that a lot of the bigger city folks moved to these other areas, causing an influx of in-migration."

The city of Redmond did offer Avelo \$25,000 in marketing support, matching money the airline is spending to drum up interest among travelers.

Also starting in November is aha! by ExpressJet Airlines, the airline's hotel and air leisure brand, that offers nonstop

flights from the Reno-Tahoe to Redmond. The three-times-a-week direct flights avoid layovers and crowds. Choosing to fly to Redmond was easy as the destinations are similar, said Tim Sieber, head of aha! ExpressJet Airlines business unit.

Both destinations focus on outdoor activities. Both destinations have disposable income. Both destinations have a robust food and beer scene.

"It made sense to link the two destinations by an airplane," Sieber said. "The two destinations are very similar, and the direct flight provides an opportunity to exchange people between two markets that share a lot of

the same interests."

With an eye on the travel data, ExpressJet said it recognized that Reno-Tahoe had a lot of visitors from Bend and Redmond who had to either drive or make a connection in Portland, Sieber said.

"We see an opportunity for providing direct flights that avoid time in airports and the potential exposure to COVID-19," Sieber said. "We think people want that and they want to go to less crowded places for activities. Clearly there's a lot of pent-up demand for short trips."

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