

Millsap: 'He is the most positive person you could ever meet'

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Team Mama's Boy

Millsap is planning to ride in the Coast Classic again Sept. 26 to Oct. 3, but this time he hopes to raise \$10,000 for the Arthritis Foundation. He is already reaching out to local residents and businesses to help him reach the fundraising goal. In addition, he has a fundraising page on the Coast Classic website, <http://bit.ly/1FUBbvK>.

Millsap will ride with Team Mama's Boy, a group of about 15 riders from across the country, during the Coast Classic this year. He rode with the same team last year.

"That is the longest ride I've ever done," Millsap said.

A native of Northern Indiana, Millsap has lived in multiple cities in his life from Charlotte, N.C. to Las Vegas, before finally reaching the peninsula. He became an avid bicyclist in 2010, when he received his first Trek racing bike, a Christmas gift that year.

Since then, Millsap joined organized group bike rides and competed in an array of competitions around the Northwest. In the past two years, Millsap esti-



Chase Millsap (middle in the back row) is pictured with his bicycle team, Team Mama's Boy, during the 2014 California Coast Classic. Team members pictured include Tracy Nielsen, Kate Cote, Sean Conley, Richard Beale, Carlos Cãmara and Tammer Ramini.

mates he has put 27,000 miles on his bicycles. He takes his bicycles into Bikes and Beyond in Astoria every couple weeks for tuneups.

"He rides more than anybody I know," Pat McCash, assistant manager at Bikes and Beyond, said. "He does it for the sport of it and for the enjoyment

of it. He burns through a bike a year."

McCash, who also lives on the peninsula, said Millsap keeps three bikes in his garage and con-



Chase Millsap of Ocean Park, Wash., poses for a photograph in front of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco last year at the beginning of the 2014 California Coast Classic, a 525-mile bike ride that supports the Arthritis Foundation.

stantly comes by to swap bike and go for another ride.

"It's encouraging to see someone like him," McCash said. "He is the most positive person you could ever meet."

Millsap's other passion is train photography, which he dreams of one day turning into a commercial venture. He is able to mix his hobbies by riding his bike to locations where trains pass by so he can capture them in pictures.

Overall, Millsap considers the North Coast roadways biker

friendly, even with heavily traffic on U.S. Highway 101. His favorite spots to ride are through Fort Stevens State Park and back roads around Warrenton down to Seaside and Cannon Beach.

Millsap hopes his dedication to cycling ultimately inspires others, whether through donating to the Arthritis Foundation or by taking a long ride themselves.

"If you are all about good cycling and have the passion, take your bike out there and just ride," Millsap said.

'Smart Driver' classes set

AARP is holding three "Smart Driver" classes in March. The classes have new student guide books and videos. All of the classes are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and include a 45-minute break for lunch, and two short breaks. Those attending should come early to get the paperwork done.

• March 3: Humps Restaurant, 50 E. Columbia River Highway, Clatskanie. Sheryl Teuscher is the instructor. Call 503-728-2800 or Clatsop Community College at 503-338-2408 to register.

• March 12: Astoria Senior Center, 1555 W. Marine Drive (old Yacht Club), Astoria. Don Hawley is teaching. Call CCC at 503-338-2408 to register.

• March 25: Oregon State University Seafood Research Center, 2001 Marine Drive, Astoria. The instructor is Di Stup-

py. Call CCC at 503-338-2408 to register.

These courses are designed for seniors age 50 and older, but anyone can attend. Oregon state law provides for a discount on auto insurance premium for completing this course. Attendance at the entire class is required to receive a certificate of completion. Most insurance companies require that a refresher course be taken every three years to continue to receive the discount; or every two years for those who are 70 or older.

Preregistration is required and seating is limited. The cost for the class is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for nonmembers. Tuition is payable at the start of class, with checks made payable to AARP.

For questions or information, contact John Benson at 503-738-5925 or bensonsbend@gmail.com

Fireballs seen over western US as Chinese rocket burns up

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—People across a wide swath of the West, from Arizona to Canada, looked up at the sky late Monday to see a cluster of weird lights followed by an orange tail streaking across the night.

The lights were not a meteor, but a Chinese rocket booster that broke apart, said Maj. Martin O'Donnell, a spokesman for U.S. Strategic Command.

There were no reports of damage or injuries, O'Donnell said, pointing to statistics showing there is a 1 in a trillion chance of being hit by space debris.

Canadian photographer Neil Zeller was on his way home from shooting the Northern Lights when he saw the cluster of fireballs in a rural area outside of Calgary about 11 p.m. MST.

"I'd never seen anything



AP Photos/Neil Zeller
A 10-second time exposure photo provided by Neil Zeller, shows a streak of light from what is believed to be a Chinese rocket booster burning up upon re-entry, in the atmosphere as seen from Calgary, Alberta, Monday night.

like it," he said. He captured several shots of an orange streak slashed above dark trees.

More than 150 people reported seeing the group of

about three dozen fireballs, said Mike Hankey with the American Meteor Society.

It lingered in the sky for more than a minute, showing

slow movement that is a sure sign of a man-made object re-entering from space, he said. Naturally occurring meteors last just a few seconds.

"It was pretty significant — over 150 reports is a lot. It covered a real wide range," Hankey said.

The reports came from nine Western states as well as Alberta and British Columbia in Canada.

Zeller, a freelance photographer, said he first thought it might be a plane crashing, and then was reminded of the 1986 Challenger explosion. He was relieved when he discovered it was a rocket booster.

The rocket that launched a satellite on Dec. 27, wasn't abnormally large, said O'Donnell. Angle of re-entry and weather conditions can make space objects look brighter from earth.

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