



Cyclists from 1B

ham, mashed potatoes, gravy and all the trimmings, followed by the individual introduction of the riders and their goals.

Following the Wednesday morning breakfast, the riders did their traditional "Circle of Commitment" for the day's ride. By 8:30 a.m., they were on the road, next stop Lincoln City.

As you can imagine, getting this all to happen requires the work, commitment and skills of many, many people.

In addition to the St. Andrew's staff, cooks, kitchen crew and hosts, this year featured the assistance of four

Siuslaw High School students — Brendon, Jaxsen, Camp and Caelia — along with Sheila and Ricki, making this truly a communitywide effort.

This is noted most by the riders themselves when they comment that they really want to come back here and visit in the near future.

One interesting thing the riders said was about the recommendations made to them by riders of previous years. This was, "Change the route however you want, but do not skip Florence."

A very special thanks to Sea Lion Caves and Coastal Fitness for their support.

— Submitted by Terri Pennington

Little from 1B

associated with slow-pitch softball. This is unfortunate as it is also a spectator sport with many families present during the games.

I first played slow-pitch in the summer of 1971. During the next 15 years, I played more than 800 games with the following teams; Astoria Plywood, Astoria Seafood, Nygaard Logging, Warrenton Lumber, Washington County Merchants, Florence Merchants, Florence A&W, and Western Lane Furniture (aka The La-Z-Boys).

You could say I was a part of all phases of the timber industry. There was logging, lumber making and selling of furniture.

I was part of the state champion Washington County Merchants in 1977. The same year, I was hired to teach and coach at Siuslaw High School. I left my team on Sunday of the regional tournament in Tacoma, Wash., to drive to Florence for my first day as assistant football coach. I stayed that night at the house of Mr. Mehlum, the former president of the former

Siuslaw Valley Bank. His cousin was my church youth advisor in Warrenton and arranged for my stay.

All but two of the teams I played on were serious softball teams. We traveled to tournaments around the state.

However, none of my teams were as serious as Washington County. We took batting practice before each of the 105 games I played with them. We would find any empty field or football field and hit.

The oldest player I ever played with was Hal Hylton, on the A&W team here in Florence. He was in his late 50s or early 60s, but he could place the ball in the open area behind the pitcher for hit after hit. He also pitched on occasion and threw strike after strike.

Speaking of throwing strikes, nothing can prepare a slow-pitch pitcher to throw strike when the wind blows at Miller Park. Only by pitching game after game can a pitcher adjust for the release of the balls to enter the strike zone. Visiting team pitchers struggled to throw strikes and the walks added up as the game

progressed. A walk is unusual in slow-pitch as the batter wants to swing and hit.

I remember playing in a tournament at Eugene Airport softball complex in the early 80's. The wind was blowing and as the opposing pitchers were struggling to throw strikes, I threw strike after strike. Finally, one pitcher asked me how I could throw strikes with the wind blowing like it was. I told him this is a gentle breeze compared to the wind at Miller Park.

The scariest time for a slow-pitch pitcher is when a large hitter enters the batters' box. Ty Perry, former Siuslaw Middle School teacher and coach, comes to mind. When he stepped up to the plate I avoided throwing him any pitch outside. There is no way I wanted any of his hits to come up the middle. The same could be said of Joe Perry, former tackle on the Siuslaw football team.

Whenever I read about coed softball — the ball is not soft, by the way — I visualize large men hitting the ball to a smaller player, male or female, and I just hope they don't get hurt. My technique as a pitcher was to throw my pitch and take five or six steps back while the ball was in the air. This increased distance made me feel safer.

Not many pitchers employ this technique.

Slow-pitch softball disappeared for some time but it

is back in action in Florence. If you wish to see home runs, watch the games on the north field. The prevailing winds will add distance to any hitters' blast. The south field, on the other hand, will see the defense trying to judge where a high fly ball may land.

Some softball leagues have rules to speed up play. The most common is a batter is out if they hit two foul balls. The reason this is used is because some batters would purposely foul off pitches until they got "their" pitch to hit. Since the pitches are easy to hit foul balls, this could extend games.

Runners can only run when the ball crosses home plate and is hit by the batter. I once played in a two-pitch tournament; the batter only got two pitches. Since the opposing team could throw awful pitches, teams pitched to their own hitters. A player would stand next to me as a defense against hit up the middle. This was a fast-paced game.

I also played in a "Red Dot" tournament. I was playing with A&W at the time. The Red Dot was an ultra long ball-hitter's dream. My teammates Mike and Hal Haberly, former Siuslaw athletes, blasted several home runs as did other members of this team. The wind was blowing out and, though I can't say for sure, Ty Perry may have hit highway 101 with one of his gigantic home runs.



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SERVICE PROJECTS AROUND TOWN

- 7:00 - 10:00 am **FREE pancake and scrambled egg breakfast** at the United Methodist Church at 333 Kingwood St.
- 9:00 am **POWER Walk - Official Start of Power of Florence.** Mayor Henry will officially start the walk, which begins at the Florence Christian Church. Wear your Power of Florence shirt! Shirts are \$10 each, hats are \$15 and sweatshirts are \$25 and available while they last at beginning of walk.
- 9:00 am The Florence Garden Club and the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will be **weeding and beautifying Gallagher's Park.**
- 9:00 am Delta Gamma will be **cleaning and beautifying the tennis courts and surrounding park area at 35th Street.**
- 10:00 - 12:00 pm **Scotch broom removal:** Help remove invasive Scotch Broom at Heceta Dunes (corner of Joshua Lane and Nautilus). Bring water, gloves, sunscreen and tools (such as loppers, hand pruners and small hand saws). Dogs are welcomed. Sponsored by the Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative.
- 10:00 - 12:00 pm City of Florence employees will be **cleaning and beautifying the islands outside the Justice Center** on Greenwood St. at 9th St.
- 10:00 - 12:00 pm The Siuslaw Youth Soccer Association will be **cleaning and beautifying Miller Park.**
- 10:00 - 2:00 pm C.R.O.W will hold a **costume Garage Sale** at 3120 Highway 101.
- 10:00 - 2:00 pm The Friends of the Florence Events Center will be **beautifying and adding bark dust to the front of the Events Center.**
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm Florence Regency will have a **carnival with games, dunk tank, face painting, bounce house and Crepe/SnoCone food truck** to raise money for the Thomas Fuller It's All About the Heart foundation, the Genevieve Bailey Memorial scholarship and the Oregon Coast Military Museum.
- 1:00 - 4:00 pm **Van Fans Ice Cream Social** at the Florence Events Center. Serving homemade pie & ice cream with live music and entertainment tickets \$5 each.
- PARTY IN THE PARKING LOT EVENTS AT GROCERY OUTLET**
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm **Party in the Parking Lot:** With Mike Bones as your MC and **live music and entertainment** by the C.R.O.W Summer Camp kids, Jason Wood's voice students, the Luke Turner Jazz Quartet, Last Resort Players and Speaker Wave!
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm Florence/Siuslaw Lion's Club - **FREE health screening** will offer screening stations for vision, glaucoma, blood pressure, and blood sugar in the lobby of City Light Cinema.
- 11:00 - 2:00pm Oregon BoxLunch will be serving up delicious lunch with proceeds going to **Sacred Animal Sanctuary.**
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm Foursquare Church will be **accepting donations of new/gently used clothes, shoes and small household items** to benefit the Better Living Center (aka "The Free Store").
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm Oregon Coast Military Museum - **T-shirts for sale** to raise money to support the museum.
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm **Oregon Coast Military Museum Military vehicles and historical weapons on display.**
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm **Public Works Department vehicles on display** for kids and adults to explore and learn more about.
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm **Florence Police Department vehicles on display** for kids and adults to explore and learn more about.

- 11:00 - 2:00 pm **State Police vehicles on display** for kids and adults to explore and learn more about.
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm **Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue Ladder Truck on display** for kids and adults to explore and learn more about.
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm Florence Food Share: **Beavers vs. Ducks food collecting contest.** Collecting food for the Florence Food Share.
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm **Hamburger & hotdog BBQ** benefiting Oregon Coast Humane Society.
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm **"Stuff the Van"- Pet food drive** for Oregon Coast Humane Society.
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm **Power of Florence T-shirt, sweatshirt, and hat sale-** Get yours while they last! Hosted by the Siuslaw Elementary School Kindness Club.
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm **Lemonade stand** to support Loved Again Pets hosted by Kindness Club members Melody and Thalia!
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm Emma from the Kindness Club will be **selling cookies and cupcakes** donated by Sweet Mama's Cupcakes & Goodies to raise money to clean the Deadwood Pioneer Museum.
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm Darcie and Lily from the Kindness Club will have a **bake sale** to benefit the Oregon Coast Humane Society.
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm FB4K's (**Food Backpacks for Kids**) will be have an informational booth about their mission to erase weekend hunger for students in Florence and Mapleton.
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm **Can and bottle drive-** Peace Health will be collecting refundable cans and bottles to raise money for Food Backpacks for Kids.
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm **Siuslaw Vision** will have an informational booth to let the community know they "put people at the center"!
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm Stop by the **Students for a Better World** informational booth in the Grocery Outlet parking lot to learn about scholarships fro Siuslaw High School college-bound students.
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm **Florence Community P.T.A.** will have an informational booth with games and will hold a membership drive.
- 11:00 - 2:00pm **Florence Organizes Education** group will have an informational booth to let the community know about opportunities at Lane Community College and provide information on the upcoming Siuslaw School District bond issue.
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm **KXCR** will have an informational booth about their local non-profit radio station, 90.7 FM.
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm **Precious Plastics** will have an informational booth about fundraising for a machine to take the plastic we can no longer recycle.
- 11:00 - 2:00pm The **Florence Climate Alliance** will have an informational booth to help educate and encourage citizens to understand how climate change is affecting the local area.
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm The **Siuslaw Youth Soccer Association** will have an informational booth to register new soccer players. Come sign your child up for a Fall team!
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm The **Florence Farmers Market** will have an informational booth to spread the word about the Tuesday market and to seek new volunteers.
- 11:00 - 2:00 pm **Florence Master Recyclers** will be on hand to discuss their program and free dish ware (for loan) program.
- 10:00 - 5:00 pm Habitat for Humanity ReStore: Come **shop and make a difference.** Habitat ReStore is a nonprofit home improvement store and donation center: clean out your own garage and bring in donations of used fixtures, sinks, faucets, windows, doors, etc.

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