



Contributed Photo

This is the Magnetospeed chronograph affixed to the barrel of the author's .25-06.

SHOOTING THE BREEZE

Informative chronograph provides a wealth of info

Think of it as a speedometer for your guns.

The chronograph is helpful for many reasons, especially if you hand-load. The information chronographs provide can help you stay within safe pressure limits as you build a load, tracking actual velocity as you increase or decrease powder.

In the old days, they were expensive and difficult to come by; the only folks with direct access to them were the ballistics laboratories of firearms and ammunition companies. Today, anyone can buy one!

I have used three types of chronographs: electromagnetic, sky screen and Doppler radar. The first I ever used incorporated the sky screen design. It was a pretty simple computer and seemed to work well as long as the sun wasn't shining directly into the eyes. Basically it was two high-speed cameras set approximately 24 inches apart, each with a hoop holding a white plastic screen directly over the eyes of the cameras.

As your bullet traveled over the first screen a timer was started, and once it crossed the second screen the timer was stopped. A display screen would produce your measured muzzle velocity.

It worked great with rifle and handgun alike until my good buddy Andy Starr shot a hole right through the middle of it with his .45 ACP. Slightly crestfallen, I couldn't help but laugh biliously and point in turn to him and the once faithful chronograph that lay smoking on the ground.

My second chronograph came a few years later in the form of a new design called "Magnetospeed." Rather than using high-speed cameras set a few feet downrange, the Magnetospeed affixes like a bayonet to the muzzle end

of your rifle just under the barrel and captures information via electromagnets.

This design, while a bit more expensive than traditional sky screen models, proved to be more reliable and consistent. It would not read rimfire cartridges, and I never had occasion to try it with handguns.

After each shot you'll want to reset the nylon strap holding your Magnetospeed to the barrel as recoil will jostle it around, especially if your rifle is equipped with a muzzle brake. Failure to do so could result in fatal gunshot wounds.

The third is the Doppler radar. The Labrador chronograph is both the simplest and most complicated design I've used. It requires nothing to be affixed to your rifle, nor any hoops to shoot through (but not through as my friend did with his .45).

It produces radar waves which, when fired through, track the heel of your bullet, the speed it is traveling and its ballistic coefficient. Although I've never attempted to use it with anything smaller than a .26 caliber bullet, I've heard that they struggle to read anything smaller.

Chronographs, like any other computer, are made either as simple or as complicated as you need them to be. With the increased interest in long-range shooting, ballistic information becomes more and more important. Whether you're looking to check factory ammunition, build new loads or just get the dope on your old ones, a chronograph is indispensable.

Do you know your muzzle velocity? Write to us at shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com and check us out on Facebook!

Dale Valade is a local country gent with a love for the outdoors, handloading, hunting and shooting.



Dale Valade

ON THE TRAIL

Falling for an Oregon icon

COLUMBIA GORGE — I hiked to a cliché recently and the experience was more compelling than I expected it to be.

But then a 542-foot-high cliff isn't apt to be boring, no matter how many calendars its visage has graced.

I'm writing here of Multnomah Falls.

It is Oregon's highest waterfall and perennially among the places in the state that attract the most visitors.

Officially, Multnomah Falls is measured at 620 feet. That total includes the main plunge of 542 feet, the lower falls of 69 feet and a 9-foot drop between the two.

The falls is popular and iconic in part because of its location.

Multnomah Falls is just 20 miles or so east of Portland. And it's right beside Interstate 84, so it's much easier to get to than other Oregon scenic treasures such as Crater Lake or the Willows or Leslie Gulch.

This accessibility can be a curse as well as a blessing.

The parking lot at Multnomah Falls fills rapidly on nice days, and not infrequently the lot closes because there's no space left.

I've driven past the falls dozens of times but I've taken the exit on just a few occasions.

This is in part due to the crowds.

I'm accustomed to hiking on trails in Northeastern Oregon where, with rare exceptions, encountering another person is so uncommon as to be noteworthy — akin to seeing a rarely glimpsed animal such as a bear.

I generally avoid Multnomah Falls because I figure I'd end up dodging hordes of cavorting teenagers and the occasional small but ill-tempered dog, the latter meetings inevitably happening at a narrow section of trail.

But I also have dismissed the falls as hardly worthy of my time.

It is, after all, just a waterfall, albeit a lengthy example by local standards.

That's what I meant by Multnomah

Falls being a cliché. Many serious nature photographers eschew waterfalls as subjects simply because they are so common.

How many doctor's offices or motel rooms

have you been in that had at least one waterfall scene, whether a photograph or a painting? The setting is so ubiquitous you no longer notice it, the visible equivalent to the background hum of traffic that any city dweller quickly adjusts to.

Like all types of discrimination, my disdain for Multnomah Falls was misguided, the product of lazy thinking and the sloppy assumptions it yields.

I had occasion to not only stop at the falls, but to hike the trail to the top, while returning from the state tennis tournament with my wife, Lisa, and our daughter, Olivia.

We had stayed overnight in Troutdale, just a dozen or so miles away, and we got to the parking lot early enough — about 7:30 a.m. — that we almost had our pick of spaces although it was a sunny Sunday.

We walked the paved trail to the Benson Bridge, the stone structure that spans Multnomah Creek between the upper and lower falls. As I stood on the bridge and felt the chilly spray from the upper falls on my cheeks, I gained a fresh appreciation for the place. Waterfalls might be commonplace, but then so are mountains (at least in the jumbled topography of Oregon). Yet outstanding examples of either can hardly fail to impress. Mount Hood is the volcanic equivalent to Multnomah Falls, both being the subject of countless photographs, but the view of the mountain from, say, Timberline Lodge inspires a certain awe no matter how often you see it.

We continued up the steep, but paved, trail, which makes 11 switchbacks and gains about 800 feet of elevation in a little more than a mile.

Besides the occasional glimpse of the falls, there is an expansive view of the great Columbia River.

We had the obligatory stomach-fluttering look over the railing of the observation platform at the top of the falls. There is

something uniquely compelling, and frightening, about the short reach of a stream just before it plunges into the abyss. I can't help but wonder what it would feel like to be standing on a slippery rock, knowing that one slip would be my last.

Rather than hike straight back to the parking lot we walked up the Larch Mountain trail for half a mile or so. The trail followed Multnomah Creek upstream. It's a fetching stream, one that would be a major waterway in arid Eastern Oregon but is merely one of many that have carved channels in the immense flows of basalt that make up the Columbia River Gorge.

That basalt, interestingly, is not local. Rather than erupting from the volcanoes that comprise the Cascade Mountains, the basalts in the Gorge poured from vents in Northeastern Oregon and flowed west, a molten river. The remnants of those vents remain as dikes and sills — swaths of brown stone conspicuous as they slice through the white limestone and granitic rocks of the Willows.

The trail was considerably more crowded on the way down than it had been less than an hour earlier.

But it wasn't unpleasant. There were teenagers, and a few dogs, but they all behaved themselves.

It struck me that the factors which have convinced me to avoid Multnomah Falls — the teeming masses, the wide, blacktopped trail that is a freeway compared with the typical mountain path, the familiar vista of plunging water — ought to be celebrated rather than demeaned.

I'm glad there are places of great natural beauty that attract people who in most cases have no interest in exploring untrammeled wilderness but merely want to see a big waterfall and don't mind hiking in flip-flops to get there.

I doubt I'll ever make Multnomah Falls a regular stop. But I think I'll be more inclined to pull off the freeway, to take advantage of what is in effect a rest area that happens to have a 620-foot waterfall, rather than a copse of trees or a field of grass, as its main attraction.

EOU sends 19 to nationals

By ISABELLA CROWLEY
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Eleven individuals athletes and two relay teams from Eastern Oregon University Track and Field are in Gulf Shores, Alabama, for this year's NAIA National Championships.

Running for the 4x100 team are DJ Wilson, Bryce Peters, TJ Davis and Cody Milmine. Mason Nichols and Alexander Kosel have been listed as alternatives.

Qualifying as individuals from the Mountaineer men's team are Justin Ash (5,000), Davis (decathlon), Kosel (long jump and triple jump), Judson Mansfield (decathlon), Moses McAninch (javelin), Hunter Nichols (1,500), Darrian Walker (pole vault) and Jonathan Wind (1,500).

Davis enters the outdoor championship as the highest ranked athlete from EOU. He qualified for the decathlon at rank two with 7,101 points.

Davis is coming off a hot season as the reigning indoor national champion and repeat champion at the CCC multi-event championship. Mansfield, also participating in the decathlon, enters at rank 14 with 6,154 points.

Walker is the second highest ranked Mountaineer at the championship, ranking fourth for the pole vault. Kosel is the third highest ranking male athlete, coming in at rank nine for the triple jump at 14.8 meters. He also checks in just outside the top 10 for the long jump, qualifying at rank 11 with 7.27 meters. Kosel earned individual conference championships in both the long jump and triple jump.

Participating in javelin is McAninch, who qualified at 22 with a 55.7-meter throw. McAninch earned all-conference honors and finished on the podium with a third-place finish at the Cascade Collegiate Conference Championships.

Ash is running in the 5,000-meter race and ranked as 17 with a time of 14:45.28 seconds —

the former Powder Valley standout runner is competing in his first career national championships at the closure of his freshman season. Hunter Nichols and Wind also are participating in the 1,500-meter race, qualifying as 16 at 3:53.04 and 17 at 3:53.11, respectively.

Making up the women's 4x800 relay team for the Mountaineer women are Lauryn Mitchell, Jamee Baxter, Katie Jo Gebhardt and Michelle Herbes — the 4x800 relay team is ranked sixth in the country with a time of 9:16.5. The single alternative is Morgan Bayes, who is also headed to the outdoor nationals for the 400-meter hurdles. Eastern last saw an All-American 4x800 relay team at the 2019 NAIA National Championships.

Also making it to nationals as individuals are throwers Maggie Ledbetter and Kenna Woodward. Ledbetter is coming off top-eight finishes in both the shot put and discus in last year's national championships.

Ledbetter qualified for three throwing events: shot put, hammer throw and discus. She is ranked eighth in shot put with a mark of 13.95 meters. Ledbetter is ranked 24 in hammer throw and 29 in discus. Also participating in hammer throw is Woodward, who is ranked 21 with a distance of 50.36 meters.

Bayes ranked near the top 10 for the 400-meter hurdles, coming in at rank 11 with a time of 1:02.47.

Eastern is fresh off a men's team title at the Cascade Collegiate Conference Championships, while the women's team placed fifth overall. The victory was the second consecutive year the men's team took the conference title. For the second straight year, Kosel was honored as the conference's men's field athlete of the year. The Mountaineers kicked off the NAIA outdoor championship Wednesday, May 25, at the Mickey Miller Blackwell Stadium at the Gulf Shores Sportsplex in Alabama. Final results will be available May 27.

Careers that make a difference
Work with people with disabilities!

www.ImpactOregon.careers

TOM CHRISTENSEN CONSTRUCTION
(541) 410-0557 • (541) 575-0192
CCB# 106077

REMODELS • NEW CONSTRUCTION • POLE BUILDINGS
CONCRETE EXCAVATION • SHEET ROCK • SIDING
ROOFING • FENCES • DECKS • TELESCOPING FORKLIFT SERVICES

Sponsor:

NEWSPAPER CONNECTIONS
Connect to what's important... FASTER!

the Blue Mountain EAGLE

5275526-1

AT&T Internet
FEEL THE SPEED, EVEN AT PEAK TIMES.

- Get strong, fast Wi-Fi to work and play throughout your home.*
- No annual contract.
- Power multiple devices at once—everyone can enjoy their own screen. (Number of devices depends on service subscription.)
- Over 99% reliability. (Includes DSL. Based on network availability.)

Contact your local DIRECTV dealer
888-486-0359

DIRECTV
DEALER

BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER!

Blazing Fast Internet! ADD TO YOUR PACKAGE FOR ONLY \$19.99/mo. (where available)

2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE \$69.99/mo. for 12 Mos. America's Top 120 Package 190 CHANNELS Including Local Channels!

CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card Promo Code: DSH100

1-866-373-9175 Offer ends 7/13/22

GENERAC

Prepare for power outages today

WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

\$0 MONEY DOWN • LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty* A \$695 Value!

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE
CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE
(877) 557-1912

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

GENERAC PWRCELL
SOLAR • BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM

Prepare for Power Outages & Save Money

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

ACT NOW TO RECEIVE A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER! | (844) 989-2328

*Offer value when purchased at retail. Solar panels sold separately.

Smart security. Professionally installed. Protection starts with prevention

Get FREE Professional Installation and Four FREE Months of Monitoring Service*
Use Promo Code 4FREE

CALL NOW TO CUSTOMIZE YOUR SYSTEM
844-894-8790

divi

*Qualifying system purchase requires minimum \$399.99 equipment purchase, professional installation and applicable services address. DIY system purchases and reactivations of previously installed systems not eligible for offer. Offer not available in all states or provinces. Equipment purchase may be financed separately subject to an agreement with one of Vivint's third-party financing partners. System supports up to six cameras subject to sufficient Wi-Fi speeds. Without a Vivint service plan, product and system functionality is limited (including loss of remote connectivity). Speak to a Vivint representative at the phone number in this offer for complete equipment, services, and package details, including pricing and financing details. Products and services in Louisiana provided by Vivint Louisiana Commercial Certificate #89820. See comprehensive Vivint license numbers on Vivint.com

Leaf Filter GUTTER PROTECTION

BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

15% OFF + 10% OFF
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE

FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!
CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

1-855-536-8838