

CAIRN STONE NEWSLETTER

TO: ALL HIKERS
FROM: Coach Gunn
DATE: December 4, 2025
574.215.4779

2025



Ron@CairnStoneTours.com

UPDATES FOR CAIRN STONE TREKKERS!

LOVE CREEK: We had a fired up group show up on an excellent day to hike. It was great to get back on the Love Creek Trails. Derek Pelc and his staff did a great job of restoring the storm ravaged trails and they appreciated our generous Jog Pot donation. Special thanks go to Kathy Flynn and Dave Dits for their help in marking the trails.

TURKEY TROT: We had a magnificent day for our 58th annual Turkey Trot. I had several Cairn Stone hikers *give back* by volunteering to help. They included Marlene and Gary Kachur, Karen Yech, Ray Klomes, Heather Birky, Jeff and Melissa Gunn, Beth Baker, Jay and Kathy Crouch, Larry and Terri Lies and Thom Janssen.

NEXT HIKE: Our next hike is **December 13**. It will be a **Saugatuck** hike starting at **10:00AM**, but the starting location is TBD – It will either be the **Mt. Baldhead** parking lot or the **Butler Hotel** in downtown Saugatuck, depending on the weather. I know many of our hikers will think that I am crazy for picking this location but here is the reason. Saugatuck and nearby Holland (9 miles) are wonderful places to shop in an old fashion outdoor atmosphere complete with music, fire places and wonderful decorations. Even the sidewalks in Holland are heated. They are a traditional Christmas with no mall but great stores. The course will either be the Zig Zag trail course or our old city of Saugatuck loop and the lakeshore bluffs, depending on weather conditions. Course distances will vary from 6.0 to 11.0 miles.

Merry Christmas!



2026 HIKING TOUR: I am excited about returning to the great state of Washington as our major tour destination! I am busy finalizing the tour itinerary and gathering bids. Complete trip information should be available very soon. It will be a **12 day hiking tour** September 12-23 and if there's enough interest a second tour will go September 26-October 7. Major destinations being explored are Olympic National Park and Hurricane Ridge, North Cascades National Park, Mt. Rainier National Park, Baker-Snoqualmie National Park, Alpine Lakes Wilderness, Crescent Lake, Olympia, Hama Hama Oyster Saloon, San Juan Islands including Anacortes and Mt. Constitution on Orcas Island, Lake Quinault rain forest, Pacific Crest Trail, and Ron's best of Seattle hike including a terrific REI store.



One of these hikes will require a **TEST HIKE** to qualify. I am very interested in finding a stunning, challenging hike in the *Olympic Mountains* or on the *Pacific Crest Trail*. I am checking on tour bus access and trail permits. Tentative plans for the **TEST HIKE** include a hike at our Manistee 21 mile course. The date will be set soon along with our 2026 Training Hike schedule. [See *New Trip Registration* steps on page 2 and keep checking the website for more details as this trip develops.]

STAY TUNED AND STAY FIRED UP!



[Photos above: Jake & Kellee Gunn with Adi at Pikes Place Market in Seattle. Jake and Adi on the trail.]

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NEW TRIP REGISTRATION: Tim and Thom have new registration steps for this trip that they hope will eliminate confusion and too many drops. If you have questions please call Thom at 269.462.0683. The steps are listed below:

1. Everyone on the trip must first register as a Training Partner and pay the annual fee. This fee is separate from your trip deposit. Coach Gunn is available as your personal coach, whether you attend hikes or not.
2. As soon as we can safely estimate the final cost of the trip we will open the trip for registration and accept deposits. This estimated final cost will be adjusted before you pay the balance.
3. Trip deposit will be an amount estimated to cover the expected airfare cost (this likely will go down when we book the group tickets). This is non-refundable and it locks in your spot on a trip. You will have an option to upgrade your class of ticket by paying the higher amount. Doing this in advance eliminates a lot of difficulties and duplicated efforts. We will purchase airline tickets the first week of March.
4. Your balance will be due by July 15th. Everyone's balance due can be determined once we have purchased airline tickets and have secured the rooms at all hotels. This allows you to get the lowest price Coach can find without him taking so much risk.
5. Two trips dates are planned. 40 hikers minimum are required for a trip to stay in the black. If there's enough interest there will be the second trip, if not there will be a wait list.

