

'Space Men' goes pre-NASA

Show documents early space exploration by U.S./C6



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FESTIVAL OF BIRDS SET



A Nestucca kayak tour,

Three Capes scenic loop drive and pioneer forest trails are the featured excursions during this year's Birding & Blues Festival in Pacific City on April 29-May 1. Top birding experts will lead field trips to popular viewing sites and teach identification to fledgling birders. Topics and activities include a behind-the-scenes nature walk, seabird watch, an evening owl search and, of course, blues concerts. Keynote speaker will be John Marzluff, professor of wildlife science at the University of Washington. Festival registration opens today. For more info, visit www.BirdingandBlues.org.

PCT PHOTOS ON DISPLAY

Photographs depicting the Pacific Crest Trail, which spans 2,650 miles between Mexico and Canada, are on display in a new exhibit at the University of Oregon School of Law. The images, in color and black and white, were captured over a 10-year period by photographer Edward Pabor, a 1980 UO graduate. The exhibit can be found on the second floor atrium of the law school, where a reception will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday.

LECTURE ON SEA LIFE SET

The diverse species of whales, dolphins and porpoises found off the Oregon Coast will be explored in a lecture at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center, three miles south of Yachats. The discussion, a prelude to the March 19-26 Whale Week, will be led by Joy Primrose, president of the Oregon Chapter of the American Cetacean Society.

FISHING

Fly rod hunting

Dry fly fishing in South America isn't traditional fly fishing

By PAUL HOOBYAR
For The Register-Guard

“Rapido!!” Diego, our guide on the Alumine River in Patagonia, muttered behind me. “Again?” I squawked. We had been stalking large trout with dry flies in the eddies and slow waters of the river, and once again I had pulled the “Bicho Feo” — the ugly bug imitation I was using — out of the mouth of the rainbow instead of setting the barbless hook.

I'd been fishing the Alumine for three days, and while I had landed some of the river's big trout, I had experienced more whiffs than hookups — even though fish were on the bite. My habit of setting the hook with a quick jerk when seeing a rise, given the slow take by these fish, resulted in more fish darting for the deep than hooking up.

Dry fly fishing on the Alumine is more like hunting fish with a fly rod than the traditional fly fishing I'm accustomed to on the McKenzie or Willamette here in the Northwest. We floated different sections of river each day and pulled into the large eddies and slow waters near the bank looking for feeding trout. Often we'd find them slurping flies under the overhanging willow branches, or right next to the bank. Casting to these fish without spooking them created its own challenges: tight loops targeted at precise spots to get the fly under the over-



MARK REUSSER/For The Register-Guard

Paul Hoobyar holds a brown trout during a fishing excursion in Patagonia.

hanging branches, delicate landings of the fly, and no drag with the fly line were all required to entice a rise. Even then, some fish acted like debutantes at a high society ball turning up their noses at all offerings — despite deft presentations and multiple changes of our flies.

Last summer, Seda Whitten, a friend who guides all over the world, had told me that these lunkers rose to a dry fly

in a gorgeous Argentinian setting and encouraged me to check it out. So, when an opportunity came up to join Achala Outfitters for a shot at chasing these hummers, I jumped at it.

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View a slideshow with this story at registerguard.com



PAUL HOOBYAR/For The Register-Guard

The headwaters of Lake Alumine Tributary, which lead into the Alumine River in Patagonia at the tip of South America.

SKIING

Ochocos offer diverse cross-country fun

At Bandit Spring Sno-park, away from the crowded Bend sno-parks, trails range from easy to difficult

By MARK MORICAL
The (Bend) Bulletin

BANDIT SPRINGS SNO-PARK — My skis cracked through the crusty snow as I weaved among towering, red-bark ponderosa pines.

A slight downhill carried me into a meadow of white, where I picked up speed and started truly moving through the forest.

When I stopped to look around, there was no sound but the chirping of well-hidden birds in the trees, which rose high into the blue sky on the mild winter day.

Crust-cruising on classic Nordic skis is always thrilling, even more so in the quiet solitude of the Ochoco National

Forest. Far away from the crowded sno-parks along Century Drive west of Bend, the Ochoco Mountains provide a wide variety of winter recreation in Central Oregon without the packed parking lots and hordes of trail users.

Bandit Springs Sno-park, 27 miles east of Prineville off U.S. Highway 26, offers the most diverse network of cross-country skiing and snowshoe trails in the Ochocos, according to the U.S. Forest Service. The trails range from easy to most difficult.

Interestingly, the sno-park also serves as an Oregon Department of Transportation



MARK MORICAL/The (Bend) Bulletin

A wintry scene at Bandit Springs Sno-Park near Bend. Crust-cruising on classic Nordic skis is always thrilling.

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OUTDOORS
BRIEFLY
NEWS & NOTES

TURTLE FLATS TOUR
IS SET FOR SATURDAY

Kevin Shanley and Greg Hyde, board members for Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah, will lead a tour of Turtle Flats, a 63-acre floodplain where the Coast and Middle forks of the Willamette River come together, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Saturday.

The group recently purchased the area and is in the process of restoring it. Former gravel ponds are home to river otter, western pond turtles and waterfowl.

The tour will cover two miles and no pets will be allowed. To reserve a spot, visit <http://www.bufordpark.org/tours>.

NATURE WALK
LEADERS SOUGHT

Nearby Nature is looking for volunteers who can help connect children to nature, such as leading school nature walks as well as other organization activities. A new volunteer orientation will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., March 9, in the Tykeson Room at the Eugene Public Library. No experience is necessary and training will be provided in April. For more information, call 541-687-9699, email info@nearbynature.org or visit <http://www.nearbynature.org/volunteer>.

THREE-DAY RV SHOW
BEGINS FRIDAY

A full range of RVs and RV products — from motor homes to travel trailers to campers — will be amassed at the Lane County Fairgrounds on Friday, Saturday and Sunday during the Oregon State Eugene RV Show and Sale. Doors open at 10 a.m. each day and the event runs until 7 p.m. (5 p.m. on Sunday). Admission, which is good for all three days, is \$7 for adults, \$6.50 for seniors and free for children 16 and younger.

OCEANIC RESEARCH
IS LECTURE TOPIC

Oceanic research using underwater autonomous vehicles will be the topic of a Southwestern Oregon Community College geology lecture at 7 p.m. Friday in the school's Hales Center for the Performing Arts, 1988 Newmark Ave., in Coos Bay.

The discussion will be led by Fritz Stahr, who manages the Seaglider Fabrication Center at the University of Washington's school of oceanography, making autonomous underwater vehicles driven by buoyancy.

PUGET SOUND ORCA
CALF IS MISSING

Amid a baby boom for Puget Sound's resident orcas, one of the new calves is missing and presumed dead.

The Center for Whale Research on San Juan Island says the calf — a member of the whale group known as J-Pod and designated J-55 — was first documented Jan. 18, but it wasn't seen when other close family members were seen the next day.

Research director Deborah Giles says the loss of any orca calf is a blow, but it's not entirely surprising, since as many as 50 percent of newborn orcas fail to survive their first year.

J-55 was the ninth orca calf born since December 2014 to the endangered population of killer whales that spend time in Washington state inland waters.

ENGINEERED FISH
LABEL BILL DIES

A bill that would require genetically engineered fish to be labeled in Oregon has died in a Senate committee.

The Capital Press reports the Senate Committee on Health Care failed to act on the bill by the Legislature's Feb. 23 deadline. Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson says there wasn't enough to discuss it during this year's short legislative session.

Supporters of the bill say it would help support Oregon's fishing industry by allowing customers to easily distinguish locally caught salmon from a biotech variety approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration last year.

Those who oppose the bill argue that it's too early for lawmakers to consider it because the FDA is still determining whether federal labeling guidelines for such salmon are appropriate.

— *From ODFW and Register-Guard reports*

Patagonia: Area's allure brings people back

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The river, and its fish, did not disappoint. The Alumine flows through an arid, high desert plateau of ancient lava flows. The watershed's geology is composed of granitics and basalt, reminiscent, in some reaches, of the Snake River Basin — minus the snakes and mosquitos.

Alluvial benches, legacies of massive floods during ice-age melts, rose above the active river channel as we floated downstream. Columnar basalt revetments high in the canyon punctuated the grassy slopes above us, and willow trees hemmed the riverbank.

The river itself runs clear and cold, cascading over riffles, dropping over Class II-plus Rapids, and gliding over cobblestone runs in a combination of classic trout habitats and lies.

The Alumine's allure has created a retinue of anglers who return regularly to fish. Mark Reusser, my fishing partner, was making his third trip to the Alumine. For Mark, the summer break in winter; the lack of fishing pressure in the rustic, under-populated terrain; and the challenge of finessing a dry fly in demanding conditions to entice big-shouldered trout all combined into an alluring package. Together with the plush amenities provided at our fishing lodge, Mark said returning to the Alumine was a no brainer.

Fishing the Alumine River felt as though we were experiencing conditions that haven't existed in the U.S. since the early 1900s. Each day we passed gauchos on horseback in their boinas y bombachas de campo garb herding cattle across the fields. Colonies of South American birds such as black-necked swans and



PAUL HOOBYAR/For The Register-Guard

The Alumine River during a recent trip to Patagonia.

Andean gulls congregated on the lakes that form the headwaters of the region's rivers. We were the only party on the river most days, and the lack of people, and fishing pressure, meant that ours were the first flies to tempt the fish. Few buildings dotted the river banks, and the sparsely traveled, dirt-cobbled roads enhanced the sense of fishing in a kind of Wild West time warp.

And yet, our accommodations at the Piedra Pintada fishing lodge, where we stayed most nights, were 21st Century. Hot showers, excellent meals, a great wine cellar and Internet access greeted us each evening, underscoring the temporal dissonance of the rugged Outback feel of the river.

Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) are native to the West Coast of North America and the Kamchatka Peninsula off the Pacific Coast of Russia. Today, however, "bows" are found on almost every continent in the world — except in the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Their success in

populating rivers around the world is likely because of their ability to adapt and stay flexible during extreme weather conditions over the eons — from ice ages, to extreme droughts — leaving their DNA hard-wired for change.

Where rainbows have been introduced into river systems that mimic, or exceed, conditions similar to their native habitats, they've been extremely successful in establishing self-sustaining populations. Such is the case in the Alumine, where 'bows to 4 pounds and 24 inches in length are prized by local and international anglers who relish the demanding angling conditions and the chance to land these muscular trout.

Rainbow introductions into the rivers of South America began sometime in the early 1900s, with many of the original plantings coming from brood stock out of the McCloud River in Northern California and the Klamath Basin in Southern Oregon. Some introductions were for aquaculture, but most

were for recreation. In those days, rainbow eggs were packed in moss and ice and hauled south, west and east across the oceans. Ever since, these North American exotics have lured anglers to South America, as well as Eurasia, Africa, New Zealand and other locales in search of piscatorial adventures.

Planting rainbow trout in many of the world's rivers has raised questions, however, regarding the ecological consequences of these introductions. Critics have also disparaged the underlying hubris of manipulating native biota for the enjoyment of an alien angling population. Yet, on the Alumine River, I could see benefits to the local economy, and potentially the environment, from such introductions.

According to Diego Buzzurro, the owner of Achala Outfitters, rainbow trout were introduced to the Alumine River in 1938, and fishing for rainbows and brown trout, which are also numerous in the river, has always been on a catch

and release basis. The use of barbless hooks on all rivers, and fly fishing only regulations in the tributaries, have helped raise awareness about conserving Patagonia's freshwater resources by the general public. In addition, Argentina's fishing regulations emphasize an environmental ethic for all anglers, underscoring an emphasis on water quality and ecological preservation.

As we fished, I made an attempt to counter my hair-trigger jerk of the rod by pointing the rod tip at the fish when I saw a rise — a cardinal sin for conventional angling techniques. This resulted in more hookups, but a number of fish came unbuttoned before I could land them. After watching me hit and miss, Diego said to me, "Yes, the take must be slow, but the set of the barbless hook must be strong!"

With that came an epiphany.

"Yes!" I shouted as the rod bent and line squealed off my reel again, shortly after I had landed and released a large brown. "It's wait and then set."

Our last days on the river we camped instead of returning to the lodge at night. We floated new sections of river each day, and I enjoyed greater success at landing, admiring and releasing hurky rainbows and browns, even when the afternoon winds kicked up to a howling force.

A gibbous moon cast its silvery hue in the canyon at night. Sleep eluded me as the Southern Cross glided across the heavens. I laid in my sleeping bag listening to the syncopated cadence of large trout feeding through the night — a counter point to the babble of the nearby riffles. Dawn broke clear and cool, with me antsy for another shot at "wait and set."

Skiing: At 5,000 feet, Ochoco sno-parks have lots of snow this winter

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rest area along Highway 26. After a drive of about an hour and 15 minutes from Bend, I noticed the sign for the sno-park. Right after that one was a big blue sign marked "Rest Area."

All those truckers stopping there to use the toilet probably do not realize they are at the tipping-off point of a remote but unique winter trail system.

After using the rest area myself, I set off to use the snow portion of the sno-park.

I started from the trailhead looking for the classic ski tracks but could not find any, which speaks to the remote nature of the sno-park. There was, however, a well-worn snowshoe track. In keeping with sno-park etiquette, I made my ski tracks on the opposite side of the trail corridor from the snowshoe track.

The trail was well-marked with frequent blue-diamond signs affixed to trees. So while I was alone in the vast forest and not always certain exactly which trail I was on, I never felt lost because I always knew I was on

an established trail, which provided some comfort.

Skiing in the Ochocos offers a sense of adventure not necessarily found in other areas in Central Oregon. At Meissner Sno-park near Bend, for instance, moving aside for other skiers is more of an issue than getting lost.

"In general, there's a lot less people recreating in the Ochocos than right outside Bend," says Patrick Lair, public affairs officer for the Ochoco National Forest. "That can be a draw. Certain times of year we have big events, but in general, we don't have the numbers that Deschutes National Forest has directly around Bend."

Continuing on a trail marked Ponderosa Loop, I eventually arrived at a small creek, which trickled quietly through the deep snow. At a marked junction, I turned onto the McGinnis Creek Trail, which was marked blue for "more difficult."

The trail took me up a steep, rugged hill through the trees, which was a challenge on skis. But soon I arrived at the meadow and started to pick up some momentum as I skied

downhill back toward the trailhead.

I never encountered another soul on my three-hour ski through the woods. But when I arrived back at the parking lot, a trucker had pulled off the highway to use the facilities.

Just north of Bandit Springs and also on Highway 26, Ochoco Divide Sno-park is a motorized area popular with snowmobilers. South of Bandit Springs is the Marks Creek sled hill. (Annual sno-park permits are \$25 and daily permits are \$4.)

Located at more than 5,000 feet in elevation, the Ochoco sno-parks have plenty of snow this winter for skiers, snowshoers, snowmobilers and sledders. Heavy snowfall from December and into January should make for sufficient snow through the winter in the Ochocos.

In the past two winters, however, the Ochoco sno-parks suffered with little to no snow.

"This year there's a lot of snow, so there's been an awful lot of use going on up there," Lair says. "Last couple years, not much use. But people come from far away when there's good snow."

Walton Lake Sno-park, located off Forest Service Road 22 a few miles southeast of Bandit Springs, is likely the most popular sno-park in the Ochocos, according to Lair. The sno-park provides opportunities for Nordic skiing, snowshoeing and sledding, and it boasts the highest concentration of snowmobile trails in the Ochoco National Forest.

Each winter Ochoco Snow Sports ([facebook.com/ochocosnowsports](https://www.facebook.com/ochocosnowsports)), a nonprofit snowmobiling club, grooms about 100 miles of snowmobile trails in the Ochocos.

Wildlife is abundant in the forest east of Prineville, including wild horses and herds of elk near Walton Lake, Lair notes.

User conflicts at sno-parks in the Ochocos are rare, Lair says, even with so many various activities.

"There's a lot of people," he says, "doing a lot of different things."

But not so many that you can't find some peace in the forest on a winter day when the sun sparkles off the deep snow.

OUTDOORS CALENDAR

To submit events

Submit listings to: Outdoors@registerguard.com. All events are free, unless otherwise noted.

Bicycling

TUESDAY

GEARS: Hills route, to be determined at the start. 25-50 miles, meet at 9:30 a.m. at Alton Baker Park.

WEDNESDAY

Eugene Adult Service: In-town ride of varying length for seniors, every Wednesday starting at Campbell Center, 155 High St., at 10:30 a.m. Helmets required. Info: 541-682-5318.

THURSDAY

GEARS: McKenzie View and Sunderman, 35 miles. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Alton Baker Park.

SATURDAY

GEARS: Petzold out and back. Two groups, 10-12 mph and 12-15 mph. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Alton Baker Park.

GEARS: Cottage Grove via Lorane Highway. 62 miles, 9:30 a.m. at Alton Baker Park.

SUNDAY

GEARS: Jasper via Weyerhaeuser, 35 miles, meet at 9:30 a.m. at Alton Baker Park.

Cross Country Skiing

SUNDAY

Obsidians: Sign up only online at obsidians.org for all Obsidians outings.

Obsidians: Redtop Mountain, 8 miles, 2,000 feet of elevation gain.

Event

SATURDAY

Nearby Nature: Learn about and listen to Pacific treefrogs with ecologists Peg Boulay and Bruce Newhouse during a walk at Amazon park. Meet at the Amazon playground. Free for members and \$2 per person otherwise. \$5 for a family. Pre-register at nearbynature.org/preregistration or call 541-687-9699.

Hiking

WEDNESDAY

Obsidians: Sign up only online at obsidians.org for all Obsidians outings.

Obsidians: Amazon Headwaters/Spencer Butte, 6.2 miles, 1,530 feet of elevation gain.

SATURDAY

Obsidians: Blanton Heights to Spencer Butte, 9 miles, 2,000 feet of elevation gain.

Snowshoeing

SATURDAY

Sweet Home Ranger Dis-

trict: Guided trip by wildlife biologist Tiffany Young. Moderate 5-mile hike begins along Santiam Pass. Snowshoes are not provided. Meet at 9 a.m. at Sweet Home Ranger District located at 4431 Hwy. 20. Pre-registration required and there are limited spaces. Contact National Recreation Reservation System at 1-877-444-6777 or recreation.gov. Fee is \$10 per person or \$5 with a Federal Senior or Access pass. Transportation to and from office provided. Bring a lunch, extra water and warm clothing. For more information, call Sweet Home Ranger District at 541-367-5168.

SUNDAY

Obsidians: Sign up only online at obsidians.org for all Obsidians outings.

Obsidians: Snowshoe Waldo Lake Road, 3 miles, 500 feet of elevation gain.

MONDAY

Obsidians: Snowshoe Tait's Loop, 8 miles, 1,484 feet of elevation gain.

Walking

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
Steppers Walking Group: For those 50-plus, casual 30- to 60-minute walk through Island Park, leaves Willamalane Adult Center at 8:30 a.m. Info: 541-736-4444.

TUESDAY & THURSDAY

Whippets Walking Group: For those 50-plus, a moderate to brisk pace for one hour, leaves at 8:30 a.m. from Willamalane Adult Center in Springfield.

TUESDAY

Mossback Volkssport Club: Moderate 10-kilometer (6.2-mile) route in Depoe Bay, along the ocean front, then on a new forested trail, around the World's Smallest Harbor and across a small bluff with lovely old houses and then down the coast on the far side of Depot Bay with refreshing views. Meet at 7:15 a.m. at the Valley River Inn, 1000 Valley River Way, in Eugene to carpool (\$10 for car expenses), or meet the group at the Gracie's Sea Hag Restaurant, 58N Highway 101, Depot Bay at 10:15 a.m. For details visit www.mossbacks.org, email mossbackclub@comcast.net or call 541-726-7169.

WEDNESDAY

Altair Sports Club: 5-6 miles around town, meet at 10 a.m. at Brail's, 1689 Willamette St., Eugene. Information: 541-746-6263.

THURSDAY

50-plus, self-led: Hour-long group walk around neighborhood surrounding Petersen Barn Community Center, 870 Bertnzen Road, Eugene. Meet at 9:30 a.m.

For those 50 or older.

FRIDAY

Campbell Community Center: Walk 'n' Talkers group is self-led for 3-5 miles every Friday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., leaving from 155 High St., Eugene. Info: 541-682-5318.

Altair Sports Club: About 4 miles around town, meet at 10 a.m. at Allann Brothers Coffee Company, 2465 Hilyard St. Information: 541-746-6263.

SATURDAY

Altair Sports: 4-5 miles on river bike trails. Meet 10 a.m. at Café Aroma at Valley River Mall. Information: 541-343-7893.

Mossback Volkssport Club: Easy 5-kilometer (3.1-mile) or moderate 10-kilometer (6.2-mile) routes in West Salem, walk through Wallace Marine Park and West Salem business and older residential areas with the 10K continuing through Audubon Nature Reserve and newer hilltop residences. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Willamalane Adult Activity Center, 215 West C St., in Springfield to carpool (\$5 for car expenses), or meet the group at West Salem Courthouse Fitness, 300 Glen Creek Rd NW, Salem at 9:30 a.m. For details visit www.mossbacks.org, email mossbackclub@comcast.net or call 541-726-7169.