

NOTES FROM THE ROAD

Each day of the ride, you'll find a few stories here about people we've met along the way, or something interesting about a host town, or whatever miscellaneous thoughts cross our mind. Today we start with a unique volunteer opportunity that captures the ethos of Cycle Oregon.

VOLUNTEER TIME!

By now there's not much chance you haven't heard about the Friends of the Forest Day on our layover day in Wallowa Lake/Joseph on Friday - but you still have a chance to step up and chip in. Registrations will be taken tomorrow, Sept. 11, for the work parties on Sept. 12. All the available projects involve trail maintenance/repair, and the National Forest Foundation will provide most everything you need. With just a half-day's effort (leaving plenty of beer garden or even riding time), you can make a real difference for thousands of outdoor enthusiasts who come to this area to enjoy the same natural splendors you're surrounded by this week.

ON THE ROAD

There are a million stories on the open road...

Bud Coe of Portland, who

celebrated his 62nd birthday Tuesday, riding stronger than ever. He's eligible for Social Security, and he can crank up a five-mill hill... age is just a number. **Tony** from Helvetia, OR, who has a license plate that reads "Half-Ton." Yes, he's a big guy, but not like that. He has a passion for '53 - '56 Ford pickup trucks; he owns three. **Jim, Julie** and **Alix**, a family from Hood River, OR. Alix is 15, and it's her first CO. She earned it by getting good grades. **Robert** from London, another overseas rider who read a travel piece from one of our foreign journalists and thought he'd have a go at it. He says "There's nothing like this in Europe." And, finally, from the We All Look Similar From The Back department, an **anonymous guy** (I didn't ask his name) who pedaled vigorously up behind me, slapped me on the butt and then realized he had "the wrong Oregonian guy." Oops.

PHOTO GALLERY: DAY THREE



There's a story here, but we're not sure we want the details.



Roadside entertainment at its finest.



The best part is looking down on where you started the climb.



"Great view... do we really have to go over that horizon later?"



"Little cups. I've got lots of little cups."



"Let's get together for a drink after the ride..."



"Juggling? Yeah, you wanna see some good juggling..."



Teamwork is a beautiful thing.

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DAY 4: HALFWAY / HELLS CANYON OPTION

PALEO LANDS DAILY

“GEO-DESCRIPTION”

Once, when the Pacific coast was in Idaho, the rocks of Hells Canyon were volcanic islands many miles off shore. Look for remnants of 225-million-year-old reefs and warm beaches in the limestones at mile 15 along the road through the canyon, and fragmented products of volcanic explosions elsewhere.

ODS MAIN STAGE

- 2 - 2:30: Halfwits (Folk)
- 2:40 - 3:40: Snake River Outlaw Band (Vintage Rock)
- 3:50 - 4:50: Shattered Midway (Rock)
- 5 - 6: Larry Robb Band (Vintage Rock)
- 6:45 - 7:20: Bike Skills Clinic
- 7:30 - 8: CO Announcements
- 8 - 9:30: Karaoke From Hell

TODAY'S MENU

Breakfast

- French toast
- Ham
- Scrambled eggs with cheese
- Bagels

Lunch

- Roast beef sandwich or Mediterranean pita
- Macaroni salad

Dinner

- Beef dish provided by residents of Halfway
- Stuffed portabella mushrooms
- Roasted red potatoes
- Green beans
- Lemon bar

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Today in Halfway

They're going all-out today - welcome to Halfway Mining Camp, a trip back in time 100 years to the gold-rush days. Look for photo ops with characters in period dress; self-guided historical tours by foot or bike; an old-time newspaper; a rodeo from noon to 2; panning for gold on Main Street; and lessons on how to pack your mule.

BIKE SKILLS CLINIC

Brett Flemming

Tonight Brett will reprise his crash-avoidance clinic. We've seen a couple riders we think should be there for sure.

To place a Cycle Oregonian Classified, jot your thoughts onto a scrap of paper and deposit it in the special drawer on the counter at the Rider Services trailer.

A Special 25th Anniversary

What a wonderful way to celebrate... our best wishes to you on this special occasion, and we're so glad to be here with you to mark it. --Love, Nancy and George

A Helping Hand

Thanks to Gentry Ford for providing a car to help a pair of CO riders return a sick infant home. That's above and beyond the call.

It Takes Two

To Diana, the world's best stoker. Learned this week where the term originated, and, yes, you stoke my fire. --Your #1764 future husband

I'm On the Highway to...

Happy Birthday Todd Hauser. You made it halfway to Hell...s Canyon. Don't stop now! --Barbara & the Taint Saints

A Strange Affair

Bart-- Thanks for a great time last night. Hey, did you find my pink sock? --Ken

Years of Bliss

To Big Sprocket: From 2000 to 2008, it's been an awesome ride! --Love, your Peach

More Birthdays

"Three Brothers from Ohio." Dave - happy 40th birthday! --Don and Vince

Happy 60th birthday, Dave Hjorten! You're awesome. We love you! --Susan, Paul, Teresa

Happy birthday, Todd - you rock! --From the Houston Gang

Happy 45th birthday, Mark! Thank you for reeling in your divas. You are divine.

Thar She Blows

Ten feet is not enough To get rid of all that stuff Save your spit and farmer's blow For someplace where I won't know! --Anonymous

It's the Little Things

Trish-- Thanks for leaving the shampoo out! You're the best thing since sliced bread. --Love, Phil

It's a GU Thing He Did

Thanks to the guy who gave me a GU at the water stop on Day 2. I wouldn't have survived the next hill without it. --Ande from Portland

TODAY'S RIDE

For a ride that includes the words "hell" and "canyon," this is a fairly tame - but supremely scenic - route.

You'll start out today with a gentle 17-mile descent past Pine Creek to the canyon floor at Copperfield. From there, you're cruising the corridors of the canyon that runs deeper than any in America (including that semi-famous one in Arizona). You'll head to the end of the road at Hells Canyon Dam and the park center there, with spectacular views along the way.

There's one small and fairly steep climb that you'll get to experience from both directions; it's about a mile and a half and goes up about 400

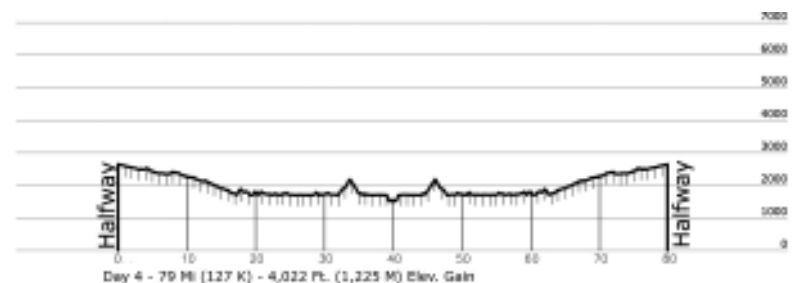


There are canyons, and then there are canyons.

feet. The climb back up out of the canyon is pretty gradual overall - less than a thousand feet over 25 miles or so.

Of course, maybe you're just hanging out in Halfway today. That's cool, too.

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