



COUGAR AREA TRAIL SEEKERS

C.A.T.S.



May 20, 2025 Meeting Agenda

@ Tom Vertz home on Dog Creek Road, Cougar, WA @ 6:00 PM

Meeting Called to Order at: 6:06pm

Attendance: See Addendum

Minutes: Approved

Officer Reports: Treasurer: Finances

Beginning – 1813.30

Revenue - 381.00

Expenses - \$30.00

Balance: \$2,164.30

Motion to approve as of 5/20 – Approved

President: Advocacy Report

Mike Received Signed copy of Permit for Indian Heaven's ride. He met with USFS Region 6 Forest Supervisor – Johanna Kovarik, who manages all national forests in Oregon and Washington. She has expressed interest in resolving issues with OHV access in National Forests. She has vowed to give Mike verbiage to allow OHV on Forest Service Roads by end of June. We discussed the difference between OHV and WATV – Mike would like to make all street legal WATVs and classified as "Highway Legal Vehicles, making them able to ride on all NF Roads that are legal for all licensed motor vehicles. The USFS wants to go through the lengthy process to designate specific roads for all OHVs, rather than only addressing WATVs separately from OHVs.

Vice President: Activities report

Sumpter ride is coming up – Pretty much have everything together. Mike Mason resides in Sumpter and has informed us we can get ½ cord of firewood for \$100. He can get it ready in advance for us to reimburse him.

Sergeant of Arms: Membership

We held a Membership Meeting at the Backwoods Brewing Co. in Carson, WA in April and expected 1 table of people. The whole tent was full just for the meeting, approximately 50 people. People from Carson, Klickitat, Goldendale, Hood River, Washougal, Ridgefield, etc. 15 families signed up as new members. They were most excited about the Indian Heaven ride.

Secretary: Communications

It appears that many members did not get the email meeting notification – Everyone please check junk mail. If not already signed in, please use the WEB site to do so. Don't forget to press

“Submit” when registering. EVERYONE – PLEASE CHECK YOUR “JUNK MAIL” for messages from the CATS. It appears that many of the messages sent to members ended up in their junk mail and they were unaware of today’s meeting. If possible, all members should send an email to: secretary@cougarareatrailseekers.org, to confirm that your email address is communicating with our email host and mark that you “trust” messages from this address.

Old Business:

Sumpter Plans– Doug

Sumpter Trip – 5th – 12th

Option to leave on 4th and meet at Wild Horse in Pendleton and leave

Please fill out [Ride Questionnaire](#) on website if you are considering attending so we know who to communicate plans with. We’d like to plan for potluck meals – attendance will help with the planning. Mike Mason is going to help us get firewood ready for the group - \$100 (M/S/P) to approve as club expense – approved)

GPNF – Road Use Permit Mt. Adams District

Indian Heaven Ride

The permit has been approved to ride the designated areas between the dates of June 1 – August 15. Any CATS member who wants to ride under this permit needs to ensure that all permit requirements are met. Mike will make the permit available to people in the Trout Lake and Carson areas. Designated “Ride Leaders” must be established to execute the required permit protocols. The protocols are:

1. Must provide District Ranger min of 2 days notice before each ride.
2. Must have a visible copy of permit in all parked vehicles and carry one with OHV.
3. Must perform a pre-ride safety meeting for each ride
4. Must complete a USFS volunteer sheet for each ride
5. Must submit a post-ride report of finding to the District Ranger

The CATS is planning a “members only” campout for July17-28 at the Berry Fields parking lot on the #580 road. Come for one day, or several. Doug Morris is planning be at the camp for these dates to guide anyone. Mike Richart will be the designated Event Leader. Anyone interested in attending the event should complete the [“Participation Questionnaire”](#) on the “upcoming Events” page on the website, and contact Mike at: president@cougarareatrailseekers.org, or call (360) 607-4337 about volunteering efforts. The following is a “Task List” of items that will need volunteers to help Mike prepare for the event.

INDIAN HEAVEN RIDE TASK LIST

- Confirmed dates (July 17-28)
 - Determine Camp location (#580 road – Preferred Choice or Lone Butte Snow Park)
 - Check to see if Forest Pass is required – Mike will confirm with the District Ranger
 - Towable Portable toilet (\$285/wk – Cleanpot in Vancouver) – (M/S/P) to approve \$570 for a portable toilet for two weeks.
 - Campfire wood (check with USFS)
 - Scout ride loops (Schedule 3 scouting rides)
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- A ride is planned for 05/23 to check out the area. It was reported that the snow level is still low and we may need to postpone the ride to allow the snow to melt. Will keep all members aware of plans. Carson/ Trout Lake teams – please keep us aware of conditions you find. – Ride was cancelled due to snow.
- Barbeque planning – We'll pick an event BBQ date at the next meeting. A volunteer will be needed to help Mike organize.
- Activity planning -
 - A “fun run game” will be organized for one or more of the ride dates where we can have entry fees and prizes handed out. A volunteer will be needed to help Mike organize the activity. Final plans will be presented at the next meeting.
- Trout Lake show planning (Determine interest, need assistant)
 - The Trout Lake Hall (Approx 40 minutes from camp) will have live music from popular local bands beginning at 6PM on 07/19-20. If there is interest, we can pre-purchase tickets (\$20+-).
- Membership notification – Once final event details are established, Mike will notify “members only” of the event plans.
- OHV Signage – (this item was not covered at the meeting) The permit requires that signs be posted at the main entrance to the riding area. Mike has determined that it will take 3-4 signs and has secured a quote for aluminum signs for approx.\$35-\$40 per sign. Budget approval will be required at the next meeting.
- Ride leaders – In order to allow ample opportunity for rides, multiple leaders need to be trained to perform permit protocols. Anyone willing to act a ride leader needs to contact Mike. No ride can occur without a “Ride Leader” willing to perform these tasks. Doing so will jeopardize this and future permits.
- Task Volunteers – At the next General Meeting, volunteers will be needed for the following tasks.
 - Toilet pick up and return
 - Securing Firewood
 - Loop Ride Leaders
 - Barbeque planning
 - Ride Activity planning
 - Trout Lake Show planning
 - Signage installation and removal

Phone line – Becky

Becky is still working on securing a free Google phone number to post on the CATS website and business cards. The goal is to have a phone number that will provide a voice mailbox and email messaging system that will allow people/members to contact the club, and not someone's personals number. They can leave a message so that multiple CATS people can access the messages. Once Becky has that set up, Mel Ochoa volunteered to monitor and distribute the messages.

Website -Becky

Becky is still updating the website. Future meeting minutes will be posted on the website under the "Membership" page.

Banking – Jorga

The "Zelle" payment feature is available for members to pay their dues. There was discussion on how that process would work. Becky will post the Zelle payment procedures on the website at the end of the membership registration form.

Membership – Dan

Dan wants to create a membership flyer to post at events and OHV shops so people can find out how to join the club. Dan will draw up an example flyer and Becky will generate the electronic copy and work with Jorga on getting them printed up. Dan will distribute them to various locations.

S/R 503 Spur

In April, Mike met with Steve Rader, Cowlitz County Commissioner, and discussed the following:

1. To lower the speed limit on SR 503 Spur east of Cougar to 35 MPH, to allow WATVs to drive out of Cougar to DNR roads east of town.
2. To install radar speed limit signs in Cougar to reduce the speed of traffic traveling through Cougar

Last week, Steve wrote Mike to say that he was out of town and would schedule a time to meet as soon as he returned.

CATS Shirts

Need to get a questionnaire out to members on preferred color choices, sizes, how many we need. We can order through Custom Ink online. Tyson reported that his wife's company does this. We'll get a quote from Tyson's wife (Leslie). Jorga Stark is managing this effort. Tyson will send email to Jorga at Treasurer@cougarareatrailseekers.org.

Planters Day Parade (Woodland, WA) June 21

Please RSVP at the [Woodland Planters Day Parade Questionnaire](#). Mike still has the banner and will give it to Jorga to lead the parade. Staging can be at Jorga and Butch house at: 141 Vista Drive, Woodland WA. They will also host a Potluck after the parade. Parade rule state riders cannot throw candy. We may have "spotters" distributing candy. It was decided that everyone would bring their own candy.

Territorial Days Parade (Amboy, WA) July 12

Please RSVP at the [Territorial Days Parade Questionnaire](#) if you plan to participate. Jorga will check with Larry and Gene Williams to see if we can stage at their home. Parade rules state riders cannot throw candy. We may have "spotters" distributing candy. It was decided that everyone would bring their own candy. Butch Stark suggested that we secure a "membership booth" at Territorial Days after the Amboy parade. Jorga will check to see if there is a cost.

New Business:

Hood River County OHV Park

We're hoping to talk with members we met at Backwoods who are familiar with this location. Tyson reported that most of the trails are limited to 50" machines. There is a question about whether the camping and staging area at Post Canyon trail system is large enough. Tyson will look into it for us.

Flat top OHV Snow Park

Mike thought this might be a good staging area for the Trout Lake people to use if we can get it included in the riding permit. Mike will see if he can get that added to any riding permit in future years. There are no issues with camping there. It seems to be busy during the summer. Atkinson Snow Park would also be a great one if it is close to the approved riding areas. It's near the ice caves off Hwy 141 and ends at the forest road 23 Road by Peterson Prairie. It might have limits to the road systems that you can ride. Tyson said he would look into it further.

Good of the Order:

Mike questioned Daryl Dunn for membership. Darrel said he paid Mike already. Mike can't remember. Mike will pay Jorga the \$20 and ask Darrell to register on the website.

Next Meeting: June 17th, 6 PM at Tom Vertz residence

Motion to Adjourn, Second, Passed

Adjourned at 7:35pm