

Bergfreunde

Wine Tour & Dinner

Oct. 12 (Sat.)

Start: 11:15 am.

End: 7:00 pm



Have a fun afternoon touring Oregon wineries, wine tasting, a catered picnic lunch and more wine tasting! We will Board bus at 11:20 AM at the Red Lion Jantzen Beach. We will return to the Jantzen Beach Bar and Grill for an enjoyable dinner.

Trip includes bus transportation (with professional designated driver!), driver gratuity, beautiful wine country scenery (We've ordered a dry, sunny day!)

Open to all local ski clubs at Bergfreunde Ski Club prices. Make checks out to: BSC. Please note which club, your name, address, phone, and Email info.

Event Leaders:

Margaret De Francisco, 503-639-7146 and

William Leeper, 503-639-2603, or email: wcleeper@hotmail.com

Event Pricing:

By check: \$72.

By credit card \$75.

Meeting at: Red Lion Jantzen Beach Bar and Grill, 909 N. Hayden Inland Drive, Portland Oregon.

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NOTE: This event conflicts with our Seafood Party on the same day. See page 4.

You can go on the Wine Tour, and maybe skip the dinner and come to the Seafood Party instead. You probably won't feel like enjoying the seafood if you had already had dinner on this tour.

ODOT's Mt. Hood Transportation Plan

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) will be implementing several safety improvements on Highway 26 between Rhododendron and the junction with Highway 35.

The time for public input ended August 31, 2013. The work will take 3 years, from 2014 to 2017. Changes will include:

Blast away rock cliffs above the highway to reduce rock fall hazards. Install a center barrier on 2.3 of those miles. Extend passing lanes by 1,400 feet to give motorists more space and more time to complete passing maneuvers. See: <http://www.us26mthoodssafetyopenhouse.org/>

Many more improvements are also in the works, such as:

- Building a gondola or tram linking Skibowl, Government Camp and Timberline ;
- Improve visibility at many intersections;
- Add more parking spaces along highway 26;
- Set up a bus service between Mt. Hood ski areas;
- Build a pedestrian and biking bridge or two over Hwy. 26. See item PB-4 on the **Potential Projects map**: <https://deagis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/OnePane/basicviewer/index.html?appid=3a76232e4cd74c99b073a521e6e34533>

The main project web site has a more detailed description, and it will also soon display the results of the public survey at: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1/pages/MHMTP.aspx>

The main contact for this project and to ask for additional bridges is: **Mike Mason**, Michael.W.Mason@odot.state.or.us



Aerial link between Skibowl, Government Camp, and Timberline.

Just two of the many proposed transportation improvement projects on Mt. Hood.



Forest Service fixes Old Mt. Hood Hwy.

Good news! Our comments to the Forest Service have produced some results! Seeing that people have already established a trail around the overturned asphalt on the old Mt. Hood highway west of Government Camp (see the checkered purple piece of road on the map for the location of the broken roadway), the Forest Service has decided it is better to fix the old highway than to have people building new trails.

So, some time in late August or early September, the Forest Service has removed the jagged asphalt chunks from a portion of the old roadway, exposing the smoother surface underneath. In effect, they created a pedestrian path along one side of the broken up roadway.

This makes the old highway usable again for joggers, hikers, cyclists, and horse riders. Thanks to everyone who wrote to the Forest Service about this!

This is not necessarily the end. There is room for further improvement. In order to make this road/path truly useful, the following two things would be terrific improvements:

1. **Compress the trail surface** next to the broken asphalt. Currently the surface is a bit too soft, with fine grains similar to sand. A mountain bike might not have any problems, but it's too soft for a road bike. It would be great if the surface could be compressed with a heavy roller. Or maybe it will settle and get compressed naturally under the weight of snow and the cementing effect of water (rain).

2. **Build two pedestrian bridges** to re-connect Laurel Hill with the two adjacent segments of the old highway which are now a dead end. One such bridge would be just a little downhill from the Mirror Lake trailhead (connecting the two yellow lines of Barlow Road on the map), and the other would be just a little above the historic marker where people currently park and climb the stairs to see the steep chute the pioneers had to descend. This second bridge would, in essence, connect Laurel Hill with Kiwanis Camp Road.

The idea of pedestrian bridges is not as far fetched as it sounds. ODOT already plans to build a similar pedestrian bridge somewhere between Government Camp and the Mirror

Lake trailhead. So, why not two more such bridges.

Hopefully, ODOT and the Forest Service can cooperate on this project and make it a reality. The two bridges would make it possible, for example, for people to bike from Government Camp down the Pioneer Bridle Trail and then return to Government Camp following the old Mt. Hood highway and these two proposed bridges, thus completely avoiding any motorized traffic.

If anyone isn't sure about the locations we are talking about, Emilio will gladly take you on a little tour there. To ask for the bridges, contact ODOT (p.6) and also:

Contact the **Zig Zag Ranger District**, 70220 E. Hwy. 26, Zigzag, OR 97049. Phone: 503-622-2001. Email:

1. **Mike Brown**, michaelebrown@fs.fed.us and/or
2. **Todd Parker**, tparker@fs.fed.us

