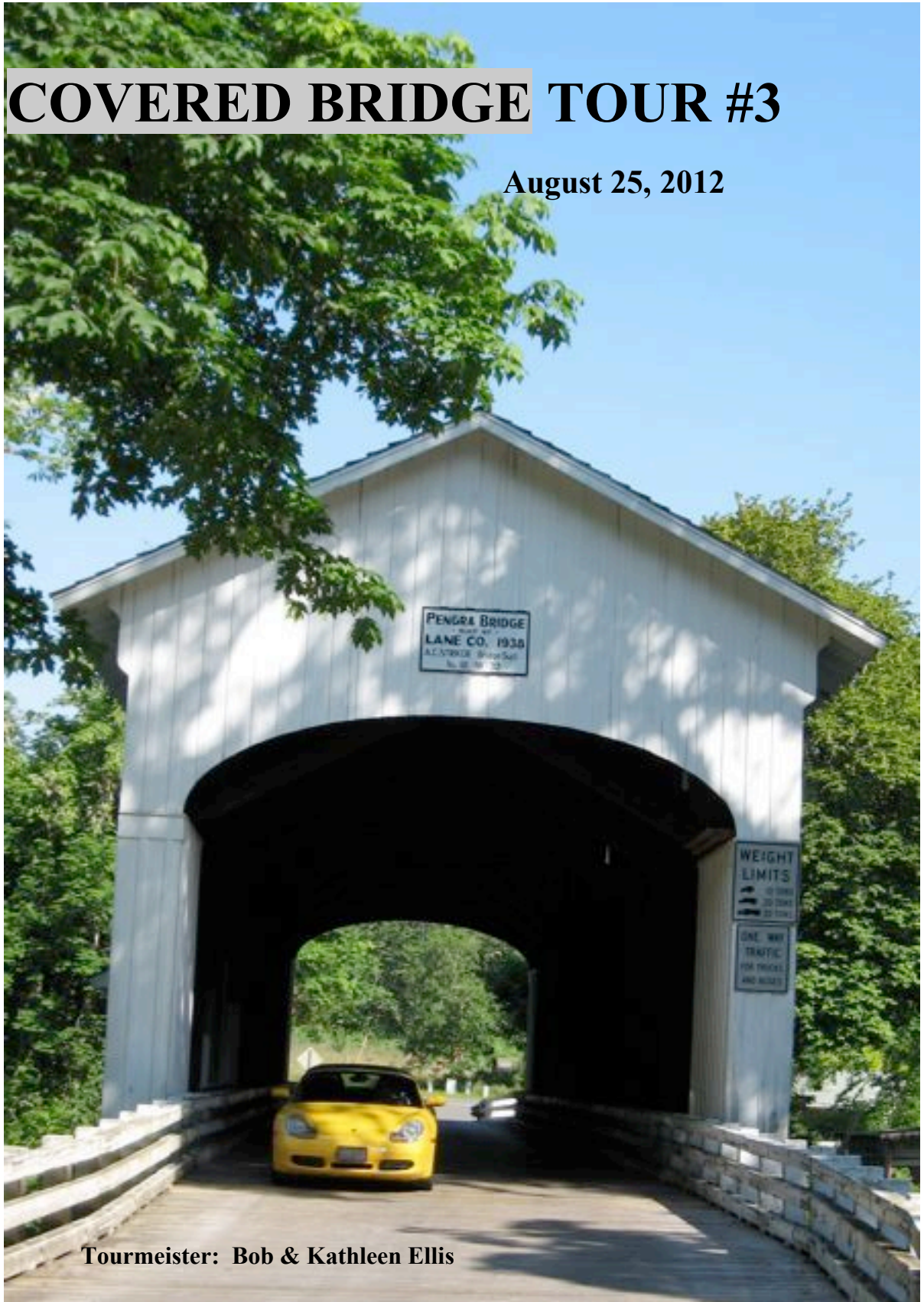


# COVERED BRIDGE TOUR #3

August 25, 2012



Tourmeister: Bob & Kathleen Ellis



### COVERED BRIDGE TOUR #3

Safeway parking lot 5660 Commercial St. S. E. Salem, Or.

Odometer reading

Leg Length

		Zero odometer as you exit North end of parking lot
	0.0	Right out of north exit of parking lot onto Fabry Rd. SE
0.3	0.3	Right at stop sign onto Reed Ln. SE
0.4	0.1	Take the 1st left onto Landau St. SE
0.9	0.5	Right at stop sign onto Battle Creek Rd. SE (watch for deer)
3.3	2.4	Right at stop sign onto Delaney Rd. SE (go one block)
3.4	0.1	Take the 1st left onto Parrish Gap Rd. SE (sign on left)
5.5	2.1	Right at stop sign, to stay on Parrish Gap Rd.
6.6	1.1	Right at "Y" onto Summit Loop SE
10.7	4.1	Right turn to stay on Summit Loop SE
11.7	1.0	Right at stop sign onto Parrish Gap Rd. SE
12.7	1.0	Left at "Y" to stay on Parrish Gap Rd. SE
14.9	2.2	Right at stop sign onto Jefferson Marion Rd. SE
16.4	1.5	Street name changes to North Ave.
16.5	0.1	Left at stop sign onto OR-164 S/ 2nd St. drive thru Jefferson
18.3	1.8	Left (after blinker) onto Scravel Hill Rd. NE (cross train tracks)
23.0	4.7	Straight at stop sign @ Knox Butte Rd.
24.1	1.1	Right at stop sign onto US-20 W
24.3	0.2	1st left onto Kennel Rd SE (left turn lane) (wrecking yard on left)
25.3	1.0	Straight at stop sign @ Spicer Drive
25.9	0.6	Right at stop sign onto Grand Prairie Rd. SE
27.0	1.1	Left onto Three Lakes Rd. SE (after "+" junction sign.)
28.2		bumpy train track
28.9	1.9	Left at stop sign onto 7 Mile Ln. SE (toward Lebanon)
31.0	2.1	Right at stop sign onto OR-34, Corvallis-Lebanon Hwy.
31.9	0.9	Merge right onto I-5 S towards Eugene
54.0	22.1	Exit into Oak Grove rest area <b>(State rest area)</b>

66 miles and 1 1/2 hours to next rest area

More than 10,000 covered bridges were built across the United States between 1805 (when the first was erected in Philadelphia) and the early 20th century. As of January 1980, only 893 of these covered bridges remained; 231 in Pennsylvania, 157 in Ohio, 103 in Indiana, 100 in Vermont, 54 in Oregon, and 52 in New Hampshire. Three interstate bridges link New Hampshire and Vermont. The remainder are scattered throughout the country.

Today I can find even fewer numbers:

Alabama 11, Indiana 98, Madison County, Iowa 6, Maine 9, Michigan 9, Missouri 4, New Hampshire 54, New York 29, Ohio 125, Pennsylvania 197, Vermont 106, Virginia 8, West Virginia 17.

Most covered bridges in Oregon were built between 1905 and 1925. There were an estimated 450 covered bridges, which by 1977, had dwindled to 56. Currently the list contains only 51 remaining.

### ***Lane County Covered Bridge History***

Lane was the first Oregon county to build covered bridges on a large scale and still maintains more than any other county west of the Mississippi. Early bridges used a truss and housing design furnished by the Oregon State Highway Department and as a result most of the County's bridges are similar in appearance.

During and after WW I steel was in short supply but wood was plentiful, so the County kept right on building them. A 1915 editorial in a Eugene newspaper reported, "*Lane County is convinced that wooden bridges properly built will last as long as steel and they know the cost is much less.*" During this time County bridges were built under the direction of Bridge Superintendent Art Striker.

Two local builders, Nels Roney and A.S. Miller & Sons, competed for contracts to build the very first bridges in the County. The craftsmanship of both of these builders was a testimony to their dedication and skill.

Lane's covered bridges attract many tourists to the area each year, so the County is reluctant to remove them. Sixteen bridges are listed on the National Register of Historical Places; fourteen are still open to traffic, a testimony to timely rehabilitation and continued good maintenance. Road Funds maintain the ones open to traffic, but no Federal funds are used to maintain any of the others.

Oregon Bridge information obtained from State of Oregon website

[http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/BRIDGE/](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/BRIDGE/covers_bridges.shtml)

[covered\\_bridges.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/BRIDGE/covers_bridges.shtml) Which credits as a Source: "Roofs Over Rivers" by Bill and Nick Cockrell

Odometer reading

Leg Length

54.2	0.2	Re-enter I-5 going south
64.7	10.5	Right at exit 195B toward Oregon Coast / Florence
65.2	0.5	Merge onto OR-569 W/Randy Pape Beltline
73.6	8.4	Straight at signal (Roosevelt St.)
74.8	1.2	Left at traffic signal onto W 11th Ave. (T intersection) toward Eugene
75.3	0.5	2nd right onto S. Bertelsen Rd. @ signal (after Brim tractor)
75.9	0.6	Straight at stop sign
76.5	0.6	Straight onto Bailey Hill Rd.
77.0	0.5	Right onto Gimpl Hill Rd.
81.8	4.8	Left at stop sign onto Pine Grove Rd. (T intersection-white church on right)
83.0	1.2	Left at Y onto Spencer Creek Rd.
83.6	0.6	Right onto Briggs Hill Rd. (brown rail fence to right, white rail to left)
88.1	4.5	Left at stop sign onto Territorial Rd.
90.1		"rough road" pay attention to sign - 90.6 false alarm
93.8	5.7	Left onto Hamm Rd. which becomes Camas Swale Rd.
105.8	12.0	Continue straight on W. Oregon Ave. and becomes E. Cloverdale Rd.
107.8	2.0	Right onto Sears Rd. (1 mile after crossing freeway and after River Dr.) (1st right after crossing river)
113.7	5.9	Right at T to stay on Sears Rd.
117.7	4.0	Right at stop sign onto Row River Rd. (Row rhymes with cow, not throw)
118.2	0.5	Left @ 3rd opportunity (across from closed weigh station)
118.3	0.1	Left @ T onto Mosby Creek Rd. (toward Blue Mtn. Park)
119.9	1.6	Left onto Layng Rd.
120.0	0.1	Left onto Jenkins Rd.
120.7	0.7	Right into small rest area. (watch for bikes)

**(outhouse here)**

Next outhouse is poorly maintained



## Layng Covered Bridge, Mosby Creek

Built in 1920 at a cost of \$4,125 by Walter and Miller Sorenson, the Mosby Creek Bridge is Lane County's oldest covered bridge.

Spliced chords and steel rod cross-braces on the upper chords of the bridge are modifications of the basic Howe truss design.

The span was capped with a corrugated metal roof. In 2002, the roof was replaced with synthetic roofing material, and other repairs were made.

Design elements include semi-circular portal arches, ribbon openings at the roofline, and board-and-batten siding.

Mosby Creek was named for David Mosby, a pioneer of 1853 who staked claim to 1,600 acres east of the present city of Cottage Grove.

Bridge Length (ft): 90 Year Built: 1920 Average Daily traffic: 260



## Currin Covered Bridge, Row River

The Currin Bridge was named after an early pioneer family in the area. Nels Roney constructed the first covered bridge at this site in 1883 for \$1,935 which was replaced in 1925 at a cost of \$4,025.



Architectural highlights include single piece hand-hewn chords and cross-wise planking on the approach.

Lane County closed the bridge to traffic when it was bypassed by a concrete span.

During the 1993-95 Oregon Covered Bridge Program, Lane County received a \$48,000 grant to rehabilitate and re-open the bridge to pedestrian traffic. Work items included truss repairs, a new rail system, a new synthetic roof, repaired siding and house painting. Currin Bridge is Lane County's only covered bridge with white portals and red sides.

Bridge Length (ft): 105 Year Built: 1925 Average Daily traffic: 0

We will drive a 20 mile loop and see 4 bridges

- \* I suggest that we spread out - not everyone will stop at all bridges
- \* Many of the bridges on our route have parking for only four or five cars at a time (on gravel)
- \* The third bridge may be the best for pictures this morning
- \* The first bridge is good for pictures but one-way traffic so be careful !
- \*\*\* Be alert for hikers and bicycles and **Sheriffs** that do patrol in this area !

We should be at the lunch stop by 12:30; driving time for the loop is about 30 minutes plus 10 minutes to get to the lunch stop. This should give some time for pictures.

Odometer  
reading

Leg  
Length

- |     |     |   |
|-----|-----|---|
| 0.0 | 0.0 | Exit parking lot, at stop sign, zero odometer and go left                             |
| 0.2 | 0.2 | Drive through <b>Layng / Mosby Creek Covered Bridge</b> (one way traffic)             |
| 1.4 | 1.2 | Continue straight to <b>Curran Covered Bridge</b> on left (small gravel parking area) |

## Dorena Covered Bridge, Row River

When Dorena Dam was built in 1946, plans were made to span the Row River at the upper end of the reservoir. Government Road along the west bank was completed in 1949 and the Dorena Bridge was built a year later, after the reservoir was filled, at a cost of \$16,547.

Miller Sorenson, Lane County bridge foreman, supervised the construction. The bridge is often referred to as the "Star Bridge" because it provided access to the nearby Star Ranch. Once a large and proud estate, the ranch has been reduced to about 100 acres.

The state-designed bridge was bypassed in 1974 by a concrete span. Repairs were made to the structure in 1987, as part of the county's "mothball" plan for covered bridges. The asphalt flooring was removed, chords fumigated and other rehabilitation work was completed.



The original town site, named for Dora Burnette and Rena Martin (by combining parts of their first names) is underwater at the bottom of the reservoir. A railroad in the vicinity served the mining camps until the gold mines played out.

Lane County requested and received grants from the Oregon Covered Bridge Program totaling \$59,000 which were used in the 1996 reconstruction of Dorena Bridge to create a wayside park. The project included replacement of the substructure, replacement of approach spans and extensive repairs to the covered span. When the house was resided, windows were installed for light and improved airflow.

The Dorena Covered Bridge is one of the widest covered bridges in Oregon.

Bridge Length (ft): 105 Year Built: 1949 Average Daily traffic: 21



## Stewart Covered Bridge, Mosby creek

Heavy rains during the 1964 Christmas Flood brought water raging down Mosby Creek with the resulting force cracking the lower chords of the bridge. Four years later, heavy snow falling in the Willamette Valley caused the roof bracing to give way and the entire roof caved in.

Repairs to the bridge made it usable again and it carried a 20-ton limit until it was bypassed in the mid-1980s by a concrete span.

The Stewart Bridge was officially retired in 1987, with one of the approaches removed, fumigation of timbers, and installation of a wire fence inside a portal for safety of pedestrians.

In the 1993-95 biennium, Lane County received a grant of around \$48,000 from the Oregon Covered Bridge Program to restore the bridge.

Bridge Length (ft): 60 Year Built: 1930 Average Daily traffic: 0



Odometer reading

Leg Length

- |      |     |   |
|------|-----|---|
| 1.5  | 0.1 | Right at stop sign onto Row River Rd.   |
| 2.7  | 1.2 | Left to stay on Row River Road (big green sign board)   |
| 9.9  | 7.2 | Right at stop sign onto Government Drive / Shoreview Dr.  |
| 10.0 | 0.1 | Left into parking area <b>Dorena Covered Bridge</b>   |
| 10.0 | 0.0 | <b>** note: 3-ton weight limit on bridge 2 cars max. **</b><br><b>(outhouse - not very good condition)</b>                          |
| 10.0 | 0.0 | Left out of parking area onto Government Drive/Shoreview  |
| 15.4 | 5.4 | Left onto Garoutte Rd. Comes up fast after sharp right turn   |
| 17.9 | 2.5 | Arrive at <b>Stewart Covered Bridge</b> - small parking area on right<br>Be careful exiting parking area due to crown of shoulder ! |
| 18.0 | 0.1 | Right at stop sign onto Mosby Creek Rd.   |
| 21.4 | 3.4 | Right onto Thornton Ln. (turn lane after vet. clinic on left)   |
| 21.5 | 0.1 | Left at stop sign onto Row River Rd.  |
| 21.7 | 0.2 | Passing Chevron (afternoon drive will be 110 miles)   |
| 21.8 | 0.1 | Stay left toward Roseburg, drive under freeway  |
| 22.4 | 0.6 | Street name changes to E Cottage Grove connector  |
| 22.7 | 0.3 | Left onto N Pacific Hwy. 99-S   |
| 22.8 | 0.1 | Right onto W Woodson Pl. @ traffic signal toward Lane C College   |
| 22.9 | 0.1 | Right at stop sign onto N. River Rd.  |
| 23.0 | 0.1 | Left into Hidden Valley Golf Course, driveway (north of the big parking lot) <b>Lunch stop !!</b><br>775 North River Road.          |

## Coyote Creek / Battle Creek Covered Bridge

The Coyote Creek Bridge was located on the first road in Lane County - the original Territorial Highway, built in 1851 and was included in the state secondary road system. The bridge was bypassed when truck traffic became too heavy and a more direct highway route was constructed.

Heavy snowfall severely damaged the bridge in 1969 as the weight of more than three feet of snow collapsed the entire roof. Chainsaws were used to saw off the rafters, and the bridge remained uncovered until early spring when county crews reroofed the structure.

The Coyote Creek Bridge is often called Battle Creek Bridge because it is located on Battle Creek Road. Others refer to it as the Swing Log Bridge because it was called that many years ago.



Bridge Length (ft): 60 Year Built: 1922 Average Daily traffic: 182

## Austa Covered Bridge, Wildcat Creek



The Wildcat Creek Bridge is located a short distance from Highway 126 where Wildcat Creek flows into the Siuslaw River and Stagecoach Road hugs the hillside before descending onto the plain at Swisshome.

Stagecoach Road was the original road to the coast, but was bypassed after the Linslaw Tunnel and Mapleton Bridge were built in the 1930s.

The nearby Austa boat ramp provides access to the river for fishermen on the Siuslaw River.

The bridge structure was strengthened in the 1980s and in the autumn of 2000.

Bridge Length (ft): 75 Year Built: 1925 Average Daily traffic: 54

## COVERED BRIDGE TOUR #3

afternoon drive

\*\*\* make sure you have enough fuel for another 110 miles \*\*\*

Odometer reading

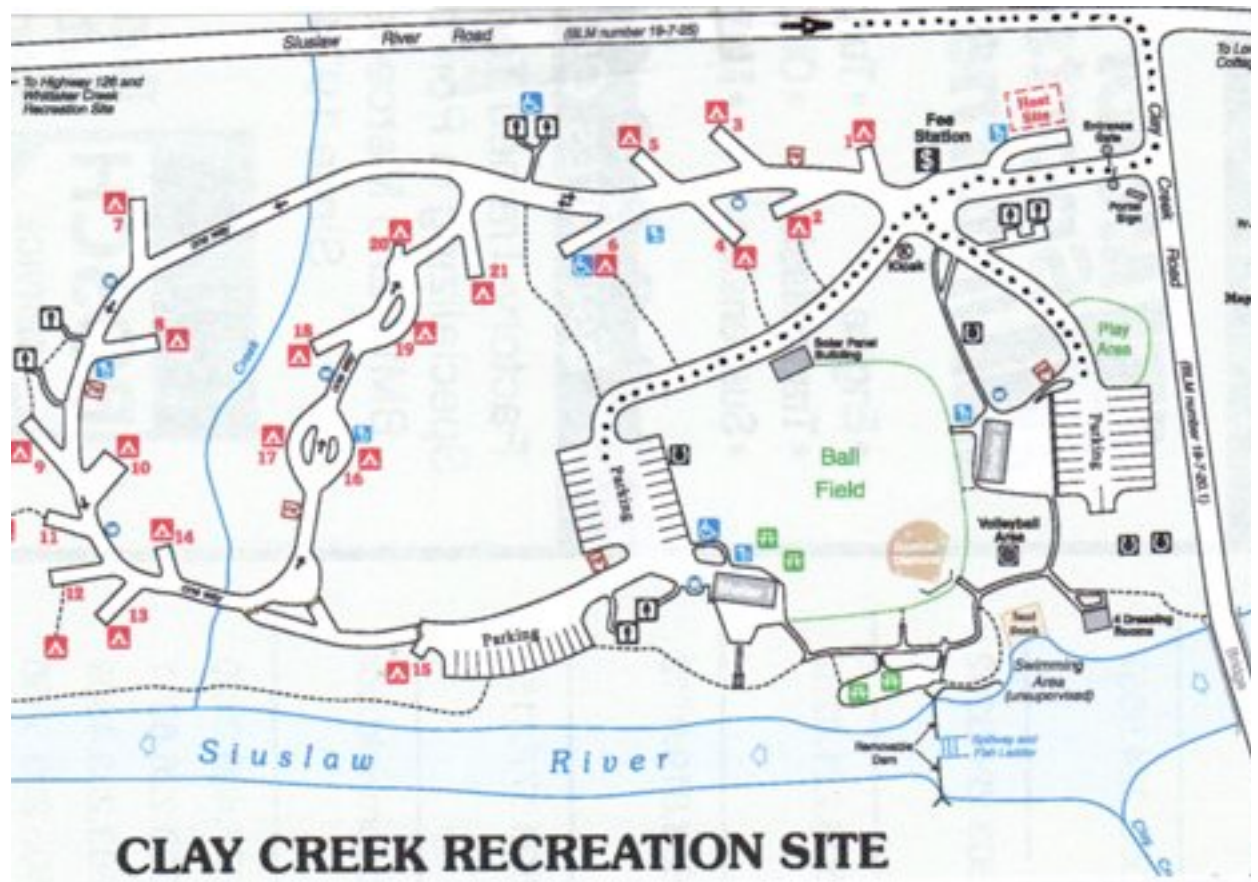
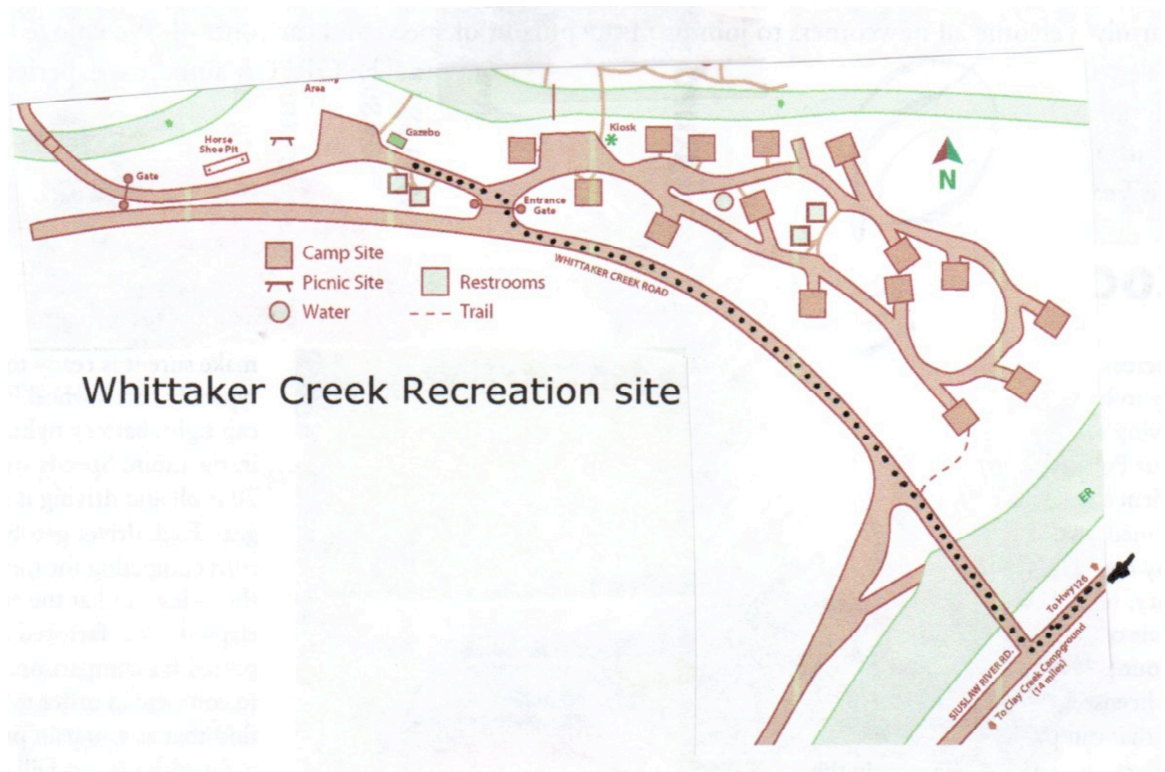
Leg Length

Hidden Valley Golf Course 775 N River Road Cottage Grove

Zero odometer as you exit parking lot

	0.0	Right out of parking lot and drive south on N. River Road
0.5	0.5	Right at signal onto Main St.
12.7	12.2	Right at stop sign onto Territorial Hwy. toward Crow
16.0	3.3	Straight (left) at "Y" Hamm Rd.
18.5	2.5	Left at "Y" Lorane Hwy.
24.4	5.9	Left onto Battlecreek Road
24.5	0.1	Drive through <b>Coyote Creek Covered Bridge</b>
24.5	0.0	Continue north (right) on Coyote Creek Road
25.1	0.6	Straight (right) at stop sign onto Wolf Creek Rd.
25.3	0.2	Left at stop sign onto Territorial Hwy.
26.5	1.2	Left onto Vaughn Rd. (first left after Applegate school on left)
36.4	9.9	Left at stop sign onto Noti Loop Rd. (Noti Market on left)
37.2	0.8	Left at stop sign onto OR-126 W / towards Florence
41.7		passing lane 41.8 to 42.4
46.0		Walton Store on right
51.6	14.4	Exit to left onto Siuslaw River Road (careful, no turn lane)
51.7	0.1	Right onto Austa Rd. Drive under highway
51.8	0.1	Arrive at <b>Austa / Wildcat Creek Covered Bridge</b> there is gravel on the other side of the bridge !

After crossing the bridge, you have to turn around and drive back over it.



Turn around and return under highway.



- 0.0 At yield sign, zero odometer and go straight on Siuslaw Rd.
- 1.5 1.5 Passing Whittaker Creek Recreation site (outhouse thru gate to left)
- 10.0 8.5 Left at "Y" to stay on Siuslaw River Rd. - toward Clay Creek Rec. area
- 16.3 6.3 Right into Clay Creek Recreation area (two vault outhouses) drive thru yellow gates take first or second left to vault toilets second left has room for more cars to park
- 0.0 0.0 Return to road and at stop sign, zero odometer and turn right
- 8.9 8.9 Left at "Y" toward Eugene
- 10.7 1.8 Straight at "Y" toward Hwy 126 to Cottage Grove (left goes to Wolf Creek Rd)
- 28.3 17.6 Straight (slight left) at stop sign towards Post Office and Cottage Grove
- 28.4 0.1 Right onto Cottage Grove-Lorraine Rd.
- 40.8 Straight at traffic signal @ N. River Road  
(optional, turn right here, go .6 mile to Chambers Railroad Bridge, on left - 1231 S. River Rd.)
- 40.9 Observe **Centennial Covered Bridge** on left (pedestrian bridge)
- 41.6 13.2 Left at traffic light onto N. Gateway Blvd. (left turn lane)
- 42.3 0.7 Right at traffic light onto E Cottage Grove (toward Eugene) past KFC
- 42.6 0.3 Arrive at Village Green Resort on right  
725 Row River Road, Cottage Grove

## Centennial Bridge



This pedestrian bridge was built in 1987 with recycled timbers that were salvaged when the Burmbaugh Bridge was dismantled. Adjacent to the bridge in the City Hall building, a scale model of the Currin Bridge, shown at the 1986 World's Fair in Vancouver, B.C. is on display.



