

# GAZETTE

Newsletter for the American Long Distance Hiking Association West

SPRING 2015, ISSUE 2



*Everything I was  
I carry with me,  
everything I will be  
lies waiting on the  
road ahead.*



## DISPATCH FROM CDT KICK OFF

by Renee "She-ra" Patrick

What a whirlwind few days! Since arriving in Silver City on Friday afternoon it has been a smorgasbord few days of connecting with hikers I've known on past thru hikes, meeting new hikers that will be on the trail this year, and soaking in the goodness of Silver City, NM.

Upon arriving at our destination on Friday afternoon, we immediately headed to the Little Toad Brewery where they were not only holding a happy hour celebration for us, but unveiling a special beer just for the CDT, the Divide Trail Ale! Yum.

Hikers united over good beer, a killer raffle, and a kick-ass band playing everything from Tom Petty to Heart and everything in between.

We danced, ate pie, and lived to tell the tale.

Saturday was a full day of vendor booths, where I sold a grip of hikertrash swag, and connected with the community who came out in full force to see what this thru-hiking crowd was all about. And I have to say, this is one of the most welcoming communities I've ever hiked through (ok, I haven't hiked through yet...that will be in a week or two, but you know what I mean.) Kids and teens and families and retirees came out to see what we were all about, and as they marveled at the weird but interesting hikers that had descended on their town, we marveled at the eclectic, artistic, and truly beautiful community we found.

I had a chance to reconnect with multiple folks: Erica, one of my trail crew from a season building trails in Colorado 8 years ago was now working at the Little Toad; Bams, a thru-hiker I met on the PCT in 2006 was now a brewer at the Little Toad; and Restless, another 2006 PCT thru-hiker who is also hiking the CDT this year and who had already hiked into Silver City from the border of Mexico. Mint!!!! One of the things I love most about hiking over the years is running into trail friends in the most unexpected (in this case

expected) times. I hadn't seen any of these folks since we spent time on the trail together years ago. And we can pick up where we left off. Nice.

Sunday we had a mellow start of breakfast, putzing around, and then a short hike with some folks from Silver City. It was wonderful to connect with everyone and tell stories from our numerous hikes. Snorkel, Bearclaw, and I regaled the local hikers with our experiences, and we got to enjoy a real connection to the area. Very nice.

The most excellent day was ended with a massive BBQ at the dome paradise owned by Carol & Richard Martin, some wonderful trail angels; the Warrior Hikers and more came together and we ate ribs and watched the sun set over the New Mexico desert. This is what it is all about.

I set up my new SMD Deschutes Cuben Fiber shelter for my first night under the tarp, and will sleep long and dark and dream of the trail, which is close enough to touch.



*ALDHA-West members have a special moment with Smokey the Bear at the CDT Kick Off in Silver City, New Mexico. Photo by She-Ra*

## YOU ASKED FOR IT



*Bob "Beaker" Turner at the Idaho Ruck in February*

### ***Triple Crown Committee Formation***, by Whitney "Allgood" LaRuffa

Anyone who has attended the Gathering knows the Triple Crown is a huge amount of work. We've decided to establish a Triple Crown Review Board to help spread out the work and to streamline the process. We're creating a new set of guidelines and rules for the award as well as a new application. As always, recipients will receive a plaque, the love

and support of their friends, and a green sticker to put on their name tag at the Gathering.

### ***Membership Directory Data Collection***, by Liz "Snorkel" Thomas

You may have noticed that we are finally working on the long-awaited member directory. Our member directory is a form where you can opt in to share as much or as little information as you would like with other members. You can decide whether you would prefer an email or print copy of the directory. If you haven't filled out the directory yet and would like to be included, there is still time. You can expect to receive your directory in an electronic or physical mailbox in June.

Just follow this link to fill in the Membership Directory: <http://tinyurl.com/ALDHA-W-Directory>

### ***ALDHA-West Budget Report***

by Brian "Tomato" Boshart

Here are the latest totals and the receipts from the Rucks:

Current total in da bank- \$11,540.97 (deposit to Camp Kiwanis on Mt. Hood for the Gathering fully paid off)

Here's what we've made this year so far:

Cascade Locks Ruck - \$2,825.67

Colorado Ruck - \$1031

Idaho Ruck - \$182.76

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### PCT DAYS 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY: AUGUST 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, Cascade Locks, OR



*PCT Class of 2014ers at PCT Days enjoying pancake breakfast put on by ALDHA-W*

**PCT DAYS** is an event co-sponsored by ALDHA-W that always draws thousands of people from around the country. From **August 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> in Cascade Locks, Oregon**, we'll be celebrating the **10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of PCT Days** and plan to make it the most fun (and educational) event of all. This year, ALDHA-W will grill up food for PCT thru-hikers all day long. We'll be tie dying t-shirts, living in a tent village, washing packs and gear, and playing cornhole together all day long. Come be part of the fun, help out your fellow hikers, and teach the new breed that just because you live in the woods, you don't have to act like an animal. Plus, there will be dozens of gear vendors, presentations all day long, and thousands of dollars in raffle items. Please let Freefall know if you are planning to attend and could help out for an hour, two, or half a day.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS: THE ALDHA-W 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GATHERING**

**September 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> at Kiwanis Camp, Government Camp, Oregon**

## VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Liz "Snorkel" Thomas

Ruckin' Season is over, the snow is melting, and now it's time for us to dust off our trail runners, find out where the heck we put our headlamp, and get on the trail!

First, ALDHA-W wants to give a big thank you to Mike "MacIntyre" Johnson for his awesome work as Gazette Editor. Mike brings decades of experience to our little organization and has made the quality of our output leagues more professional. Mike will be taking a leave of absence to be with his family. Please send Mike and his family your thoughts and prayers. We look forward to his return in the position of Editor.



ALDHA-West was present to say "bon voyage" to many of this year's hiking class at PCT Kick Off (there were two of them this time) and CDT Kick Off (in its first year!). PCT Kick Off was April 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> and April 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> at Lake Morena Campground, and the CDT Kick Off was April 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> in Silver City, NM. The kickoffs were big successes, and we saw so many familiar faces at them! Thanks to all of the hikers who said "hi" and helped out at our booths.

As we all head off into the hills, whether for a dayhike, a weekend trip, a section hike, or a thru-hike, it's important to remember that there's more to hiking than just putting one foot in front of the other. Wherever you go, whoever you meet along the way, try to do something nice for other humans and for the ecosystems we walk through. As ALDHA-W members, we are examples to those who are less fortunate than us (that is, have had less time in the woods than we have), and we should do all we can to make our trails, routes, and communities into better places.



THE MISSION OF THE AMERICAN LONG DISTANCE HIKING ASSOCIATION-WEST ALDHA-WEST IS: TO PROMOTE FELLOWSHIP AND COMMUNICATION AMONG LONG DISTANCE HIKERS, AND THOSE WHO SUPPORT LONG DISTANCE HIKING.