

24-Mile Walk Relay



The Coos Bay Military Wagon Road

This back road through the Coast Range is an historical artifact that exists today on almost exactly the same route travelled by Horace Brewster in 1865. The combination of primitive roads and Indian trails he followed from Deer Creek over the mountains and down the valley formed by the East Fork of the Coquille River became the first land connection between the Umpqua Region and Coos Bay. Previously, travellers from inland went by horse or stage to Scottsburg on the Umpqua River, by steamer to Winchester Bay at the river's mouth, by stage down the beach between the high tides to the North Spit of Coos Bay, and finally by riverboat across the bay to Empire City, North Bend or Marshfield.

Interestingly, although Brewster is given the credit for being the first white man to negotiate the above route, that honor actually belongs to Alexander McLeod and a small group of other Hudson's Bay Company trappers, who travelled up the river and over "The Mountain" from the west side in 1827 with a load of furs. McLeod and the 10 other Canadians in the Umpqua Brigade were also the first white men in Coos and Curry Counties.

The road was built with a land grant made by the government to the State of Oregon in 1869 to induce the building of a military road, to be called the Coos Bay Military Road. The state in turn transferred the grant to a private company, the Coos Bay Wagon Road Company, to build the road. The shenanigans this company was involved in during and after the building of the road form a colorful history in themselves.

Time was of the essence. Rather than engineer the best possible route, the company decided to use the rough-hewn trail followed by Brewster, which went by way of Lookingglass, Reston, Sitkum, Dora, Burton Prairie, and Sumner to Tidewater at Coos City near Marshfield.

As you will see when you drive the Wagon Road, it proved to be a real endurance test for horses, wagon drivers, and stage drivers and passengers. Like a roller coaster, the road goes up and down, around and through, range after range of coastal mountains, following for about a third of its length the beautiful East Fork of the Coquille River. It was pretty much a nightmare for the passengers, who had to endure 24 hours of winding, jolting road, with the possibility of a mishap and resulting destruction always a major concern.

The opening of the Coos Bay Military Road, later known as the Roseburg to Coos Bay Wagon Road, or simply, the Coos Bay Wagon Road, from Roseburg to Sumner in the summer of 1873 was not greeted with universal acclaim. One Coos County farmer called it "the greatest curse that will ever happen. The people of the valley will ship their produce here and will completely ruin our butter and egg market." But it served for a time as the all-important land connection between the South Coast and the Umpqua Valley. Many settlers in Coos and Curry Counties travelled this road to their eventual homes on the South Coast.

The Wagon Road persists today because of the timber industry and the people who continue to live and farm in the isolated mountain valleys it passes through. The road now is mostly paved with some gravel stretches, and it still largely follows the original winding route through scenic and remote valleys, canyons and ridges. It goes through a beautiful, largely unspoiled part of the Coast Range, taking the traveller back in time to a more serene and less hurried era. Enjoy it!



Roseburg to Coos Bay Relay Intro:



This popular event was started in the early 1970's by a group of South Coast Running Club members who enjoyed the beautiful scenery and peaceful solitude of the Coos Bay Wagon Road that travels mostly through sparsely populated areas of the Coast Range. Later the Roseburg Track Club managed the relay, which had its 19th running in 1991. The South Coast Running Club and Camp Millennium Committee joined forces to revive the relay in a new format in a new format in 1997. The walk relay that starts at Laverne Park on the scenic North Fork of the Coquille River was part of the new 1997 format. The course follows the river to Fairview, where it joins the run relay course.

The Roseburg to Coos Bay Relay has a staggered start, beginning at 6 am at KPIC-TV in Roseburg. The first walk relay teams start at approximately 10 am at Laverne Park. Both relays join together in the last legs and finish at the Coos History Museum in Coos Bay.

This “fun run and walk” are a fundraiser for Camp Millennium. Camp Millennium is a free summer camp for children dealing with a cancer diagnosis. The summer camp provides the kids a time to be themselves and to share in a variety of summer camp activities, such as hiking, fishing, archery, swimming, arts and crafts, horseback riding, and many other surprises. The goal of this week-long adventure is to provide the children with a camping experience that can be extended into their everyday lives. The South Coast Running Club is proud to be a contributing partner to Camp Millennium. All proceeds from this event will benefit the kids at Camp Millennium.

LAVERNE PARK TO COOS BAY WALK

RELAY GENERAL INFORMATION

- **SUBSTITUTIONS:**

Any substitute team member must be registered and must turn in a signed waiver form before they can participate. Substitutions may be made without penalty up to two (2) weeks before race day. After that time, substitutions will be assessed a \$10 fee.

- **START LOCATION:**

The main entrance to Laverne Park is 5.2 miles North of the Four Corners intersection in Fairview (see enclosed map). You should use the restroom at the park as there is very little in the way of such amenities for the next 24 miles. Please arrive at Laverne Park 30 minutes before your scheduled start time to pick up your race day materials. Team captains meet with the walk director 15 minutes before the start.

- **TEAM VEHICLES:**

Please use only one (1) car, van, or Suburban per 4 team members on your team. No RVs are allowed! Your vehicle must have a CAUTION RUNNERS (sorry!) sign on the back. There is one in this packet or you may create your own. The other team vehicle sign, with Team Name, Number, and Category, must be clearly displayed on a side window.

- **COURSE MAPS:**

You will be given a detailed electronic version of the instructions for each leg. THIS IS IT. Download this to your smartphone, tablet or print at home. In an effort to go-green and save on expense in this digital age, paper copies will not be handed out.

- **RACE NUMBERS:**

Each team will be given one race number. For competitive teams, your number four walker must wear the team number on leg 8. It is imperative that this number be worn on the last leg by all teams so it will be available to our finish line folks.

- **TIME SHEET:**

Each team will be given an official time sheet. Teams must carry a watch and the time sheet and keep their own leg times. We recommend having a backup watch just in case. Elapsed times must be recorded at the end of each leg. The second copy of the time sheet is for team use if desired. We encourage walkers to make comments on each leg. We are particularly interested in any problems encountered on the course, such as hazardous exchange areas, poor directions for walker or driver, livestock encountered, etc.

- **DRIVERS:**

Check your odometer when you start driving from one exchange to the next one. There is nobody out there to flag you down if you drive past an exchange! At most exchanges you will park on the side of the road. Please be careful of runners and walkers going through the same area. Also be sure to watch for vehicles coming toward you! Please do not follow behind walkers or in any way impede traffic.

- **THINGS TO BRING:**

The weather in April is both unpredictable and changeable. Bring clothing for both cold and warm weather, including enough of everything so you still have dry clothes to put on after your last leg. Persons on legs 3 and 4 should bring extra shoes in case the gravel portions of the course are sloppy.

The team vehicle should be equipped with a clipboard (for the time sheet), a first aid kit, blankets, a cooler with ice, TP (biodegradable, please), a garbage bag (we don't want to litter this beautiful part of the world; please pack out all of your garbage), and plenty of fluids. Remember there is NO support or any aid stations on the course. Bring everything you need.

- **SAFETY:**

Except where specifically mentioned, you should always walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic. The flagged stakes and paint marks showing the locations of exchanges are all on the left side of the road. Keep track of your team members. Don't lose anyone. If someone seems overdue at an exchange area (30 minutes or more), don't wait too long before you send someone to look for them.

There is NO traffic control on the course. All participants must follow traffic rules. Vehicles are tougher than walkers, so please be careful and WALK SMART. For emergencies, dial 911.

- **COURTESY:**

As this is a long event and we cannot afford to put out portable toilets everywhere, we have arranged to have a few port-a-pots, variety of trees and bushes at regular intervals.

Please respect property owners along the course and stay away from their lawns, trees, and bushes. Please do not relieve yourself within 100 feet of streams in order to protect our fisheries. Anyone observed relieving themselves on private property will have their team disqualified. We do want to be allowed to continue to use this beautiful course. DON'T ruin it for everyone.

- **ALCOHOL:**

It is against the law to carry an open container of alcoholic beverage in a vehicle. Let's not even think about doing this! Any alcohol should be placed in the trunk of your vehicle.

RELAY RULES:

Competitive teams may have only four (4) or fewer members.

Noncompetitive teams may have up to 8 members, however they will not be eligible for awards.

The following rules apply only to competitive teams:

- Teams must keep their walkers in the same order for the entire race. Any change in rotation will result in automatic disqualification from awards.
- No running is allowed. Individuals must have one foot in contact with the ground at all times, or their team will be disqualified from awards.
- If a walker goes off course, they must return on foot to the place where they left the course and continue from there.
- Each walker must tag the next walker in the rotation at an exchange area. The next walker may not leave the exchange area until he/she has been tagged by the finishing walker

• **AT THE FINISH:**

We encourage teams to finish together as a group on Front Street. Please make sure that your official runner (wearing the team number) leads the team across the finish. Everyone should stay on the sidewalk as much as possible, and follow all traffic rules as Highway 101 and Front Street are very busy streets. The sidewalk fades into railroad tracks as you sprint into the headwind down Front Street. Watch out for tripping hazards.

As soon as you finish, turn in your time sheet at the scorer's table. Finisher's medals will be available after your time sheet has been accepted by race officials. You will also receive meal and beverage tickets.

Refreshments, courtesy of our wonderful sponsors, will be available. Other goodies can easily be purchased at Fred Meyer on the way through town.

The award's ceremony will take place within the Coos History Museum at about 5:00 p.m. Teams still on the course will receive their awards as they finish. While you are relaxing at the Coos History Museum parking (party) lot, please complete the team comment sheet and turn it in at the scorer's table.

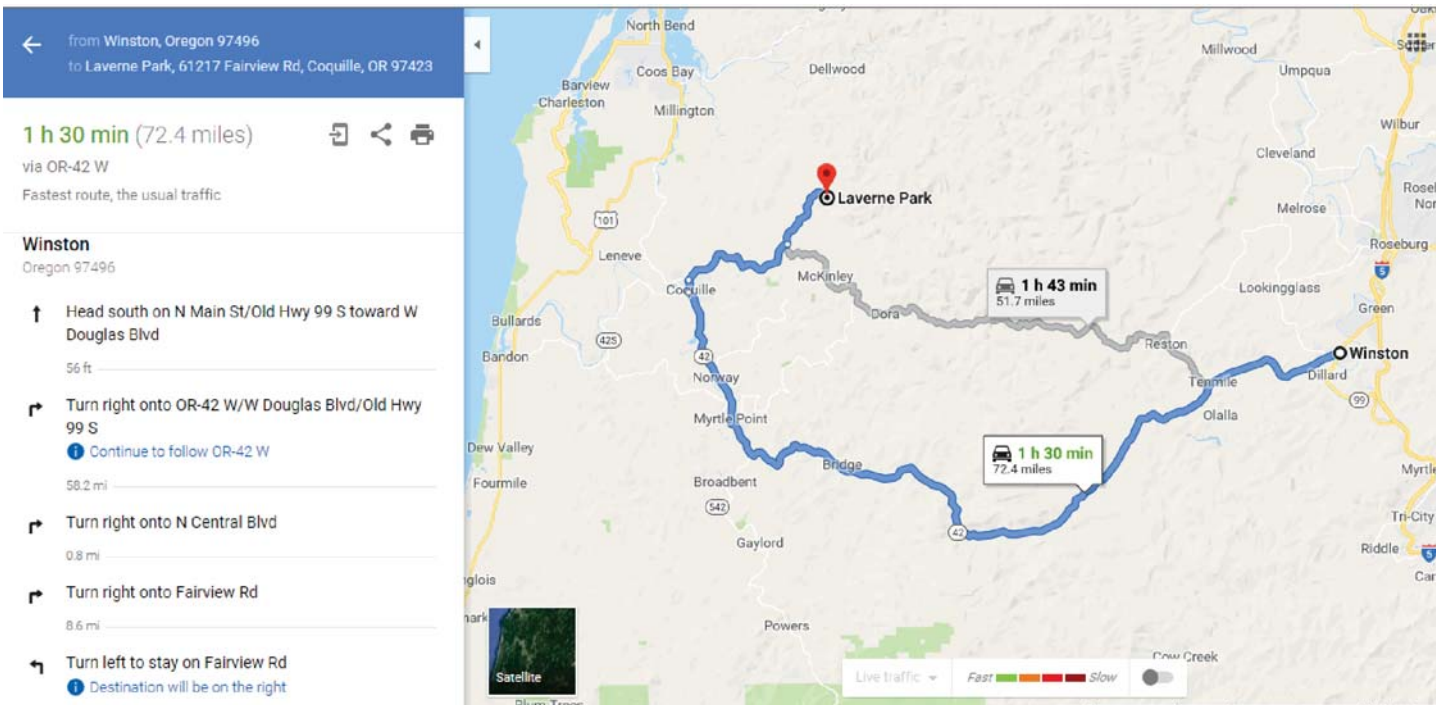
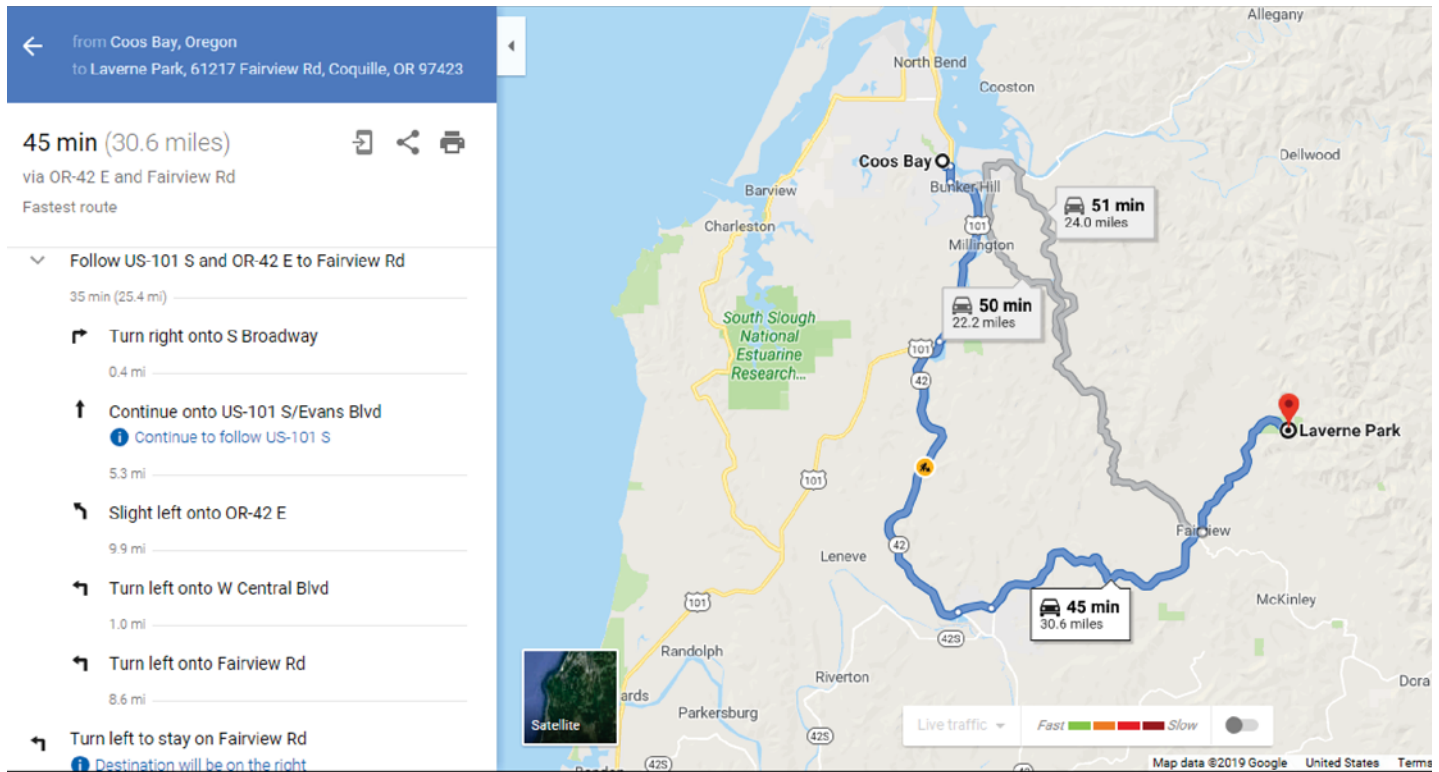
Awards will be given to the overall winning team, the top 3 teams in each category, and the team that finishes closest to their predicted time.

In 2020 we will once again have a Nominated Team Spirit Award. It is pretty simple. Teams will nominate who they think has the most team spirit.

**Special thank you to all who help make this event
happen year-after-year.**

Coos History Museum, Seven Devils Brewery, Roto-Rooter
EPUERTO, BNT, Abby's Pizza, Lookingglass Store
Halfway Tavern, Fairview Community Church, Camp Millennium
KPIC-TV Roseburg, Fred Meyer, The Dora Center

Directions to Laverne Park



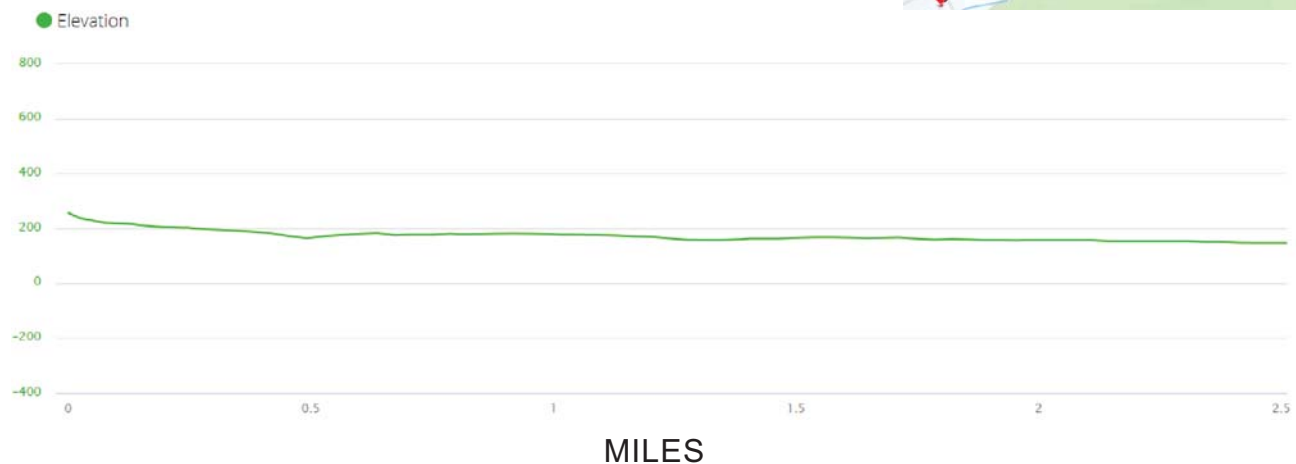
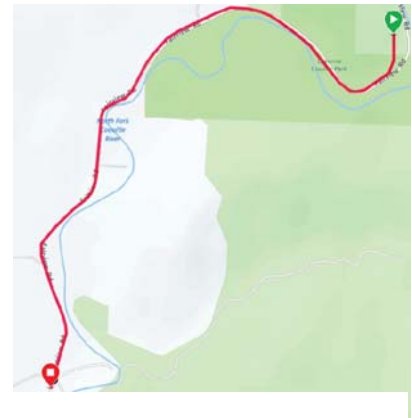
Leg Maps

The walk relay starts at the main entrance to Laverne Park. The first 2 legs follow the North Fork of the Coquille River from the park to Fairview. At Four Corners in Fairview, the walk relay joins the run relay course on the Coos Bay Wagon Road.

Leg #1 (2.4 miles):

From the start, go left (South) out of Laverne Park flat to slightly downhill to the Homestead Tavern. The exchange is at the near end of the tavern parking lot, next to a wood fence corner.

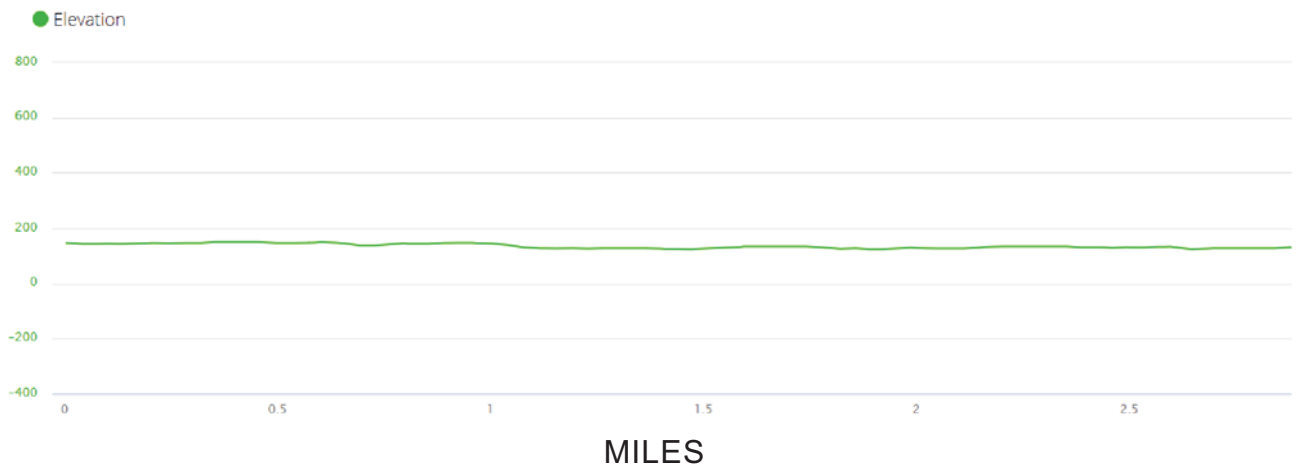
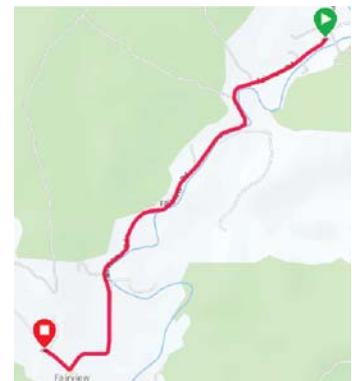
Drivers: Park at the near end of the tavern parking lot. Be careful of other walkers.



Leg # 2 (2.8 miles):

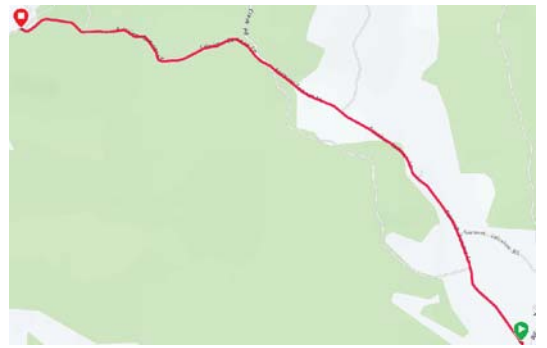
Continue South flat to slightly downhill 2.6 miles to the Four Corners intersection at Fairview. Go right (West) on "Fairview-Summer Lane" (actually the Coos Bay Wagon Road.)

0.2 miles to the Fairview Community Church (this is also an exchange point for the run relay). The exchange is at the church sign. This exchange is not flagged!



Leg # 3 (2.9 miles):

Continue flat to rolling 1.5 miles to end of pavement.
Go uphill 1.4 miles on gravel to the road to
Leatherman Ranch on the left (look for the silver
gate). The exchange is at the far end of the large
pullout area on the left.



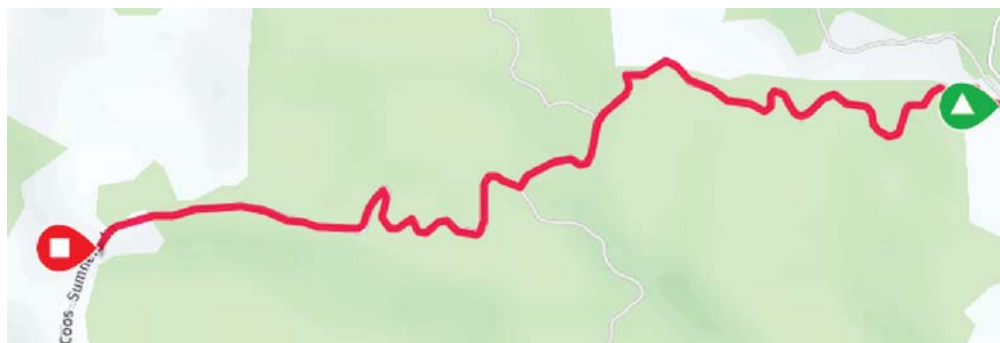
Drivers: Park in the large pullout area on the left. Be
careful of runners and walkers going through the
same area.



Leg # 4 (3 .5 miles):

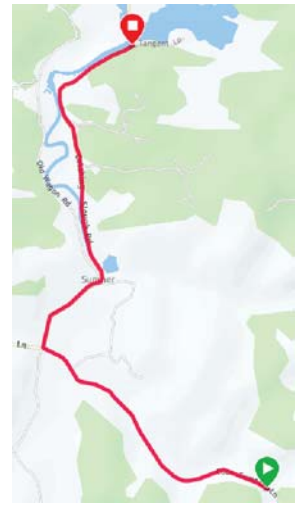
Go 2.9 miles rolling and downhill to the end of the gravel and 0.6 miles more on
pavement to a wide pullout area on the left across from a green gate on the right. The
exchange is at the far end of the wide pullout area.

Drivers: There is a run-relay exchange at 1.6 miles. DO NOT stop there and wait for
your walker, who might think they were done. Continue 1.9 miles to the green gate on
the right (watch carefully for the green gate). Park in the pullout area on the left. Be
careful of runners and walkers going through the same area.



Leg # 5 (3.6 miles):

Continue 1.5 miles through Sumner to the Coos-Sumner Lane/South Sumner Road Wagon Road intersection (also known locally as Four Corners). Go RIGHT on Old Wagon Road toward Coos River and Eastside 0.5 miles to the Catching Slough Road/Old Wagon Road intersection. Go RIGHT on Catching Slough Road across the little-bridge, then left on pavement along the east side of Catching Slough 1.6 miles to Milepost 5, just before Tangent Lane. The exchange is at milepost 5.



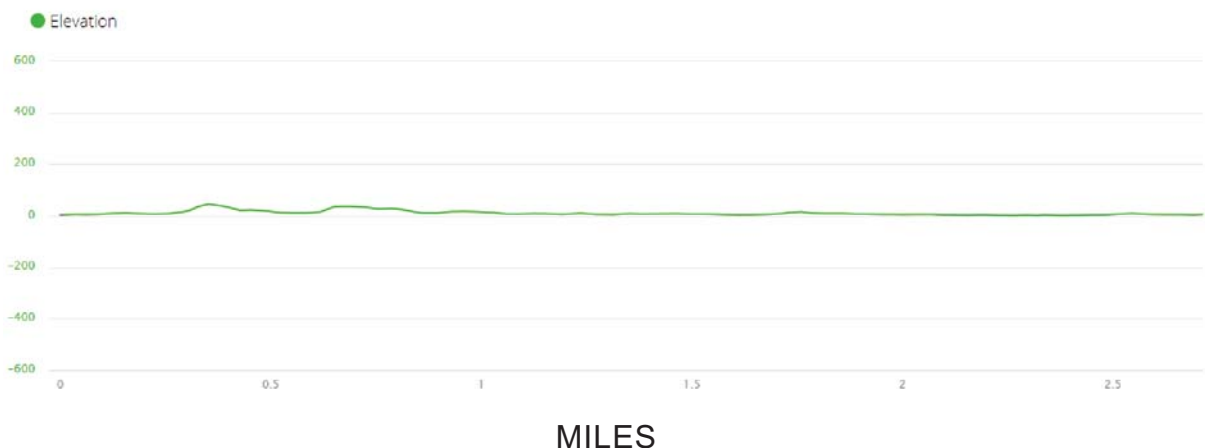
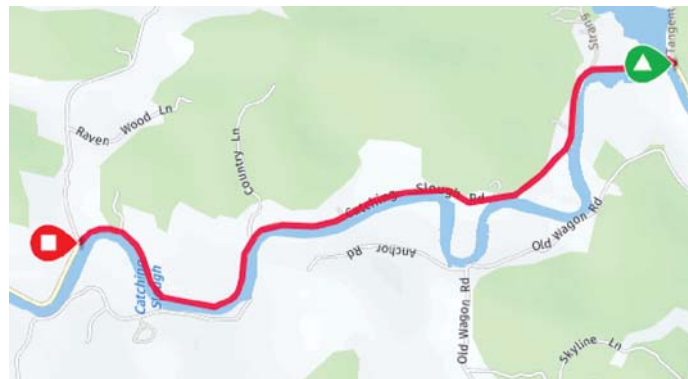
Drivers: Park on the right just past milepost 5.



Leg # 6 (2.7 miles):

Continue down the east side of Catching Slough 2.7 miles to Stock Slough Lane. The exchange is across from Stock Slough Lane.

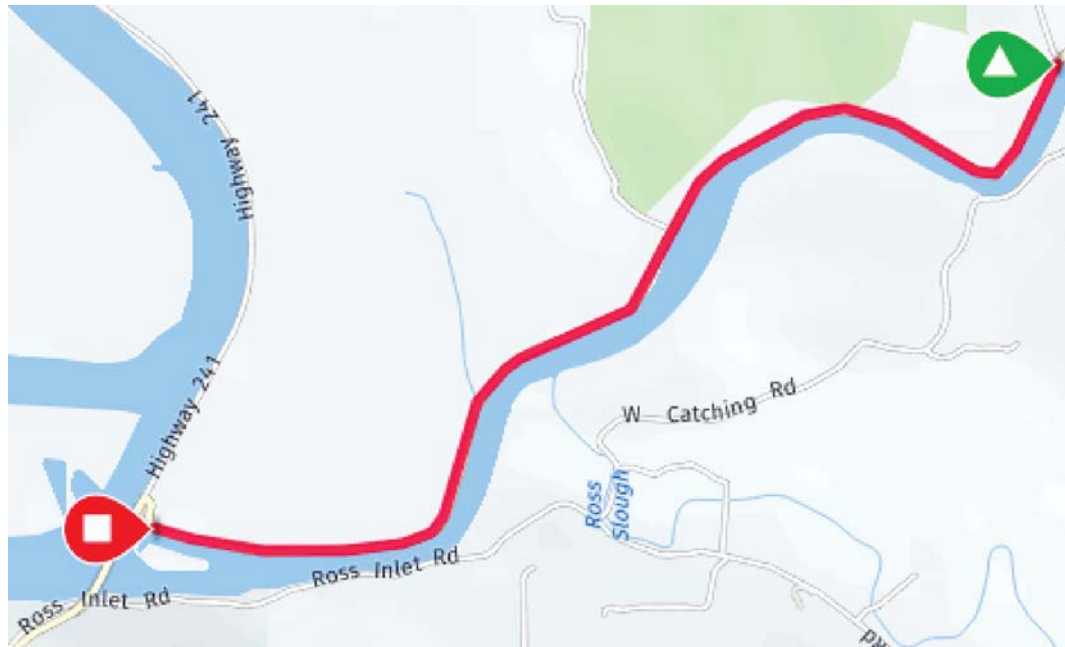
Drivers: Turn right onto Stock Slough Lane to park. Do not block the road.



Leg #7 (2.3 miles):

Continue down the east side of Catching Slough 2.3 miles to the large pullout area on the left just before the Coos River Highway. The exchange is at the near end of the pullout area.

Drivers: Park in the large pullout area on the left. Be careful of walkers and runners going through the same area.



Leg #8 (4.14 miles):

Runners's Instructions:

Continue to the end of Catching Slough Road at the Coos River Highway. Go left 1.2 miles across the Catching Slough Bridge and over Eastside Hill to the corner of 6th Ave. and D St. (we recommend to cross the highway on the bridge when traffic safely allows and run with the flow of traffic while going up the narrow, winding road on Eastside Hill). Go left 0.5 miles to the Olive Barber Road intersection (stay on the right side of the road). Go right (West) 0.6 miles across the Isthmus Slough Bridge to the traffic light at Highway 101. Stay to the right and stay on the right side of Highway 101. 0.5 miles across the Isthmus Slough Bridge AND PASS Fred Meyer. STAY ON THE SIDEWALK. Unfortunately, traffic lights do not recognize you are in a race. Follow all traffic signals and cross intersections safely. Continue straight 1.34 miles past Fred Meyer and enjoy the extended run past the Coos Bay Boardwalk. Stay to the right and continue down Front Street to the Coos History Museum. The finish line should be obvious.

Driver's Instructions:

Follow the walkers's route into Coos Bay. Go past the Fred Meyer. Using the right lane drive 1.2 miles and make a slight right towards North Front Street. This slight right will be after you pass the Coos Bay Boardwalk. Stay to the left as you travel down

N Front Street approximately 300 feet to the Coos History Museum. Be cautious of runners and walkers making the final stretch. Please park in the main parking lot.

Points of Interest:

Boyd's Market, a long time Eastside landmark, used to be at the corner of 6th Ave. and D St. It burned to the ground in 1999. All that remains is a parking lot. The new bridge and fresh sidewalk right past Coach House Restaurant was engineered by a current SCRC club member who would win the "looks most like Pre" award. The bridge has been named "Brian's Bridge" by the Wednesday night running group that meets every week at 6:15 pm at 7 Devils Brewery. As you cross the Coal Bank Slough Bridge notice the yellow "5" painted on the sidewalk. This is the 5 mile mark of the South Coast Running Club's Circle the Bay Run, held on the second Saturday in August. This very scenic 30K Run / Walk/ Relay goes around Coos Bay. Join us this year and experience the beauty of the South Coast in August.

Fun Facts to Know and Tell:

Coos Bay was first settled in 1853. It was originally named Marshfield by J. C. Tolman after his old home in Massachusetts. The name of the city was changed in 1944 as part of a failed attempt to unify Marshfield and North Bend. Marshfield High School retains the old name. Eastside was first settled in 1868 or 1869. Originally it was named East Marshfield; in 1908 the name was changed to Eastside. In 1983 it was annexed into Coos Bay. Old timers and nostalgia buffs still use Eastside as their address.

