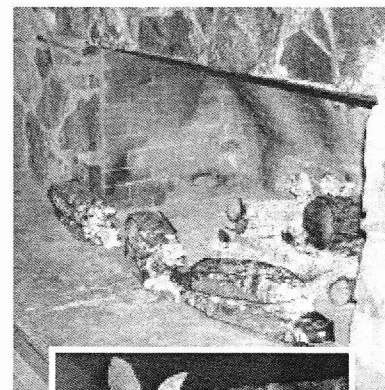


April Rally Alive With Bears, Bunnies, Balloon Rides and Blossoms

by Pris Hardin

During WWII gas rationing, my wonderful hometown ice cream store's motto was "Worth Driving For." Well, so was the Merlin/Galice rally hosted by Gene and Carol Ransom. Returning from our winter snowbird duties down south, Bill drove a couple of long days to get us there on time... it was definitely "worth driving for."

April 18th brought 22 Cascader coaches to Indian Mary county park on the banks of the



Above and right—Carol Ransom wore many hats during the course of the rally.

mercial catering arrangement, Carol and her crew pitched in to produce a fine spaghetti dinner complete with garlic bread (*upper right*) heated on the open hearth. House plants, all grown by Carol, spruced up the tables and went home with Cascaders after the rally.

Rogue River. Ransoms and fellow hosts Krebs, Perrys and Works, had arranged for tethered balloon rides, Easter egg decorating, a tour of Wildlife Images, super food and even some Saturday time for elective activities.

Spring blooms surrounded the park shelter (*above*) where we gathered for the Friday evening social hour and dinner. Faced with a failed com-

President Tim Jones convened the business meeting immediately following the dinner.



Photos this page by Hardin

NEXT RALLY

DATES	LOCATION	SITE	HOSTS
June 13-15	Silverton, OR	Silver Spur RV Park	Evans

For information on more rallies, see back page.

GMC CASCADERS NEWS

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The GMC Cascader News is published six times annually. GMC motorhome owners from the following states and provinces are eligible to join GMC Cascaders: Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Yukon Territory. Contact any officer for information.



Photo by Hardin

After considerable prompting Tim got the meeting under way. The evening chill was creeping into the picnic shelter but as Tim warmed his back side at the fire and warmed to the task, too, we all felt a bit warmer!

On Saturday morning, attention to the delicious breakfast of fruit compote, pastries and hot liquids soon shifted to a frenzy of activity began a

hundred yards away. Russ and Nellie Reichert (Carol Ransom's sister and brother-in-law) were inflating their colorful hot-air balloon, Sunrise Surprise, (*right and below*) to lift adventuresome Cascaders high above the trees and green lawns of the park.



Photo by Fry



Photo by Hardin





Photo by Hardin

The balloon, its basket and the trailer that hauls it (*above*) revealed a lot of care, color and good humor. Lettering on the trailer's rear doors proclaimed—

CAUTION
Sudden Stops and
Frequent Indecisions
BALLOON CHASE VEHICLE

For a donation to help cover the cost of propane, quite a few Cascaders signed on and queued up for "a lift." Carol's sister managed the signups and even their mom, Sue Niles, was there to help oversee the operation. Russ and a crew of two experienced ballooners managed the balloon. Numerous passengers took a little furry aviator up with them (*below*), provided by the Reicherts. From

high above the groundlings, the brave little Teddy bear parachuted down to earth to the delight of most involved. Even when the chute's lines fouled and the intrepid bear plummeted to a crash landing, it emerged unscathed and ready for the next trip on high.

Photo by Hardin



Photo by Fry

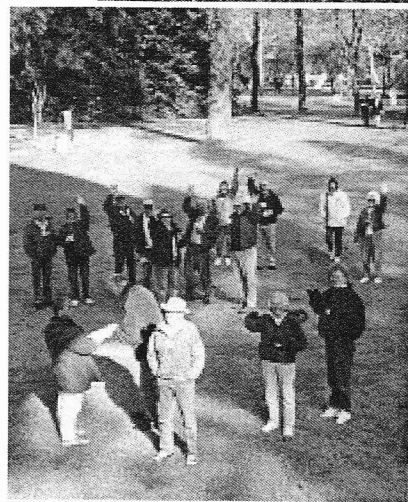


Photo by Fry

Below—Ace photographer Elaine Fry prepares to go aloft!

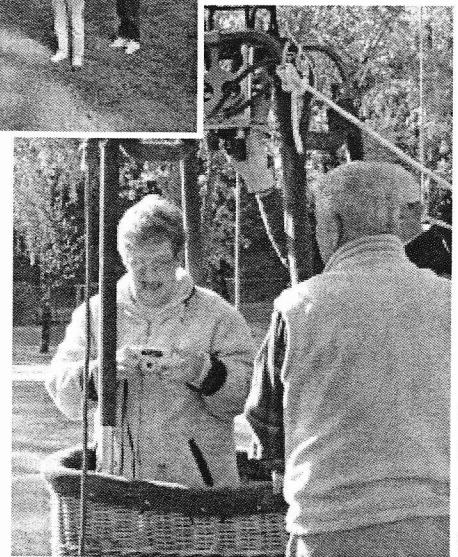


Photo by Hardin



While balloon rides continued, some Cascaders departed for the Grants Pass Saturday Market under Gene Ransom's guidance. Happy shoppers reported a good time there. Other club members visited and toured coaches.

A group of the women had a great time working with a wide variety of Easter egg decorating equipment that the



Photo by Fry

hosts had spread out on tables under the picnic shelter. From a jumble of dye cups, sewing notions, and "jewels" emerged some really lovely works of egg art (*below*). We never did get around to hiding



Photo by Hardin

and searching for the finished eggs but the process of decorating was no less fun.



Right—
Elaine Fry'd
eggs are
elegant!

Photo by Hardin



Photo by Hardin

Following "lunch on our own," many Cascaders gathered at the picnic shelter parking lot for a trip to Wildlife Images.

Club member and retired veterinarian Dr. Walt Krebs volunteered for many years at this impressive animal rehabilitation shelter. A recent generous grant has enabled the place to improve all of its facilities—better pens, shelters and cages,

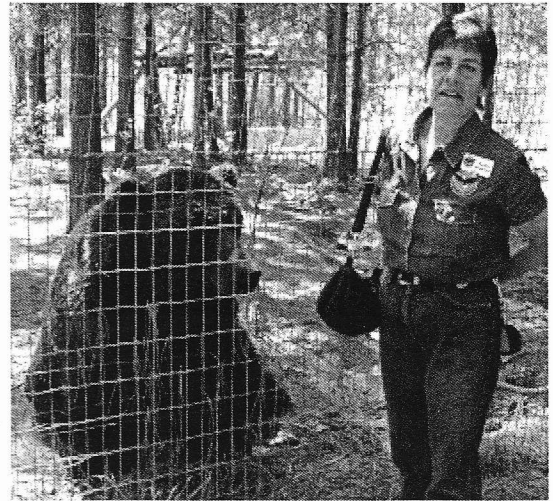


Photo by Hardin

improved hospital, and a log visitors center and gift shop. Docent Martha Anderson (*above*) greeted our group and led us through the facility, introducing us to many creatures who, for one reason or another, are not candidates for re-release. Some have physical handicaps like blindness (*the bald eagle below right*), crippled limbs or wings (*the turkey vulture below*) and other conditions that prevent them from successfully finding food in the wild.



Photo by Hardin



Photo by Hardin



Others suffer from such heavy human imprinting that they would be in constant danger due to insufficient fear of humans. While guiding us among the pens and enclosures, Martha recounted encouraging stories of release successes. After all, the animals no longer at the facility represent its greater achievement and fulfillment of its goals.

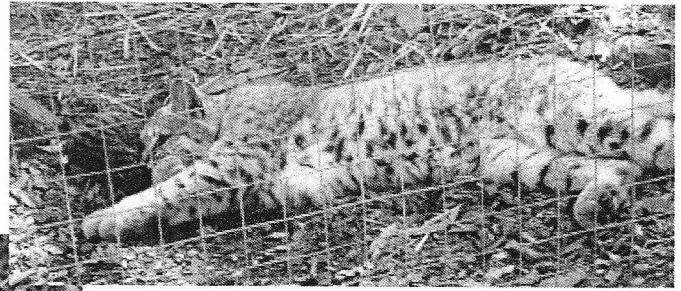


Photo by Fry



Photo by Hardin

All of the animals on this page have permanent homes at the sanctuary due to heavy human imprinting.

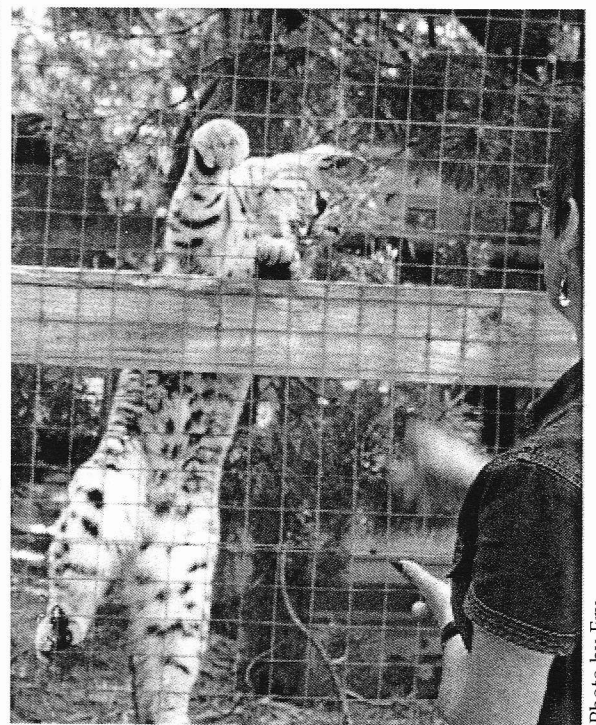


Photo by Fry



Photo by Fry

The grey wolf (above) is one of 4 or 5 at Wildlife Images. The bobcat kitten, (right and upper right)

was too much for the uninformed humans who raised her. She was imprisoned in the family's bathroom to prevent her from tearing up their furniture any more. Now, she will be part of an awareness program in the schools to teach children about the damage we do when raising cuddly baby wild animals for our own pleasure.

The grizzly bear (above) came to Wildlife Images along with his sister as orphan cubs from Alaska. Plans to place them in a zoo have failed repeatedly. Now, the two seem destined to live out their lives in the large, wooded pens where we saw them. The dog biscuits that Martha carries in a blue denim bag over her shoulder are very popular.

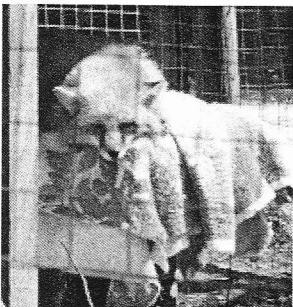


Photo by Fry

Such predators as the blind fox (left) and the badger (right) also will live out their days under the care and nurture of the staff and volunteers at Wildlife Images.



Photo by Fry





Back at Indian Mary park, the next event was the arrival of shuttle vans from the Galice Resort. Climbing aboard, Cascaders headed farther down the river toward dinner in the little village of Galice at the rustic, family-operated resort beside the river. The restaurant and white water rafting parts of the operation occupy the river side of the road. Across on the uphill side is the lodge.

There was no possibility that even the heartiest eater could have gone away hungry. We dined at picnic tables out on the high deck overlooking the river (*above*). Plates came piled high with barbecued chicken *and* pork loin, potatoes, vegetables, salad and rolls. Dessert followed—huge servings of strawberry short cake. M-m-m-m! As dusk fell, we clambered uncomfortably back into the vans, clutching “doggie bags” containing the leftovers. In some cases, the contents may actually have gone to lucky dogs in coaches.

Easter Sunday morning found the group gathered again for a van ride to the Galice Resort for a brunch buffet of amazing variety and proportions. Gourmet items like blueberry-stuffed French toast nestled in among all manner of traditional fixings: meats, eggs, potatoes, fruits and pastries. The morning chill drove most of the group to dine indoors but a few hardy members returned to their scenic spots on the deck above the river.

Returning to the park, coach owners emptied tanks, packed up interiors and prepared to head home or on to Western States. It was a grand rally. The smaller number of coaches present gave every Cascader a chance to visit with all in attendance. The park is a beautiful spot, especially in the spring. The hosts had planned for lots of fun and they took great care of us throughout the rally. Thanks so very much... Ransoms, Krebs, Perrys and Works.

We'll see you in Silverton, next month!



Left and below—Dessert gave Cascaders another opportunity to show what successful eaters they are!

Photos this page by Hardin



Cascader Email Directory

Our GMC Cascader News Email Directory reports email addresses of newcomers on the internet and changes to existing email addresses. Please note, we can publish only one email address per household.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Lammi, Tony and Sandy tslamm@copper.net
 Ragsdale, Ken and Becky bkrag@comcast.net
 Ransom, Gene and Carol rgcarol2@terragon.com
 Smith, Bob and Liz BobandLizSmith@msn.com

PLEASE!!! PLEASE!!! PLEASE!!!

If you would like to add yourself to the list or make a change in your existing listing, SEND YOUR INFORMATION TO BOTH:

Pris Hardin, Editor prisbill@earthlink.net

AND to:

Cass Jones, Secretary timjones@hevanet.com

Accessing GMC "Sister" Clubs?

Use email and the web as follows:

Eastern States website www.gmceast.com
 Western States website www.gmcws.org
 Western States email tweir@pacbell.net
 International website www.gmcmi.com
 International email gmcmh@concentric.net

On the Road Again

FOR SALE. GMC Roof Storage Pod, real good condition, good clasps and hinges \$200 OBO
 Contact Vern & Sandy Keefe, 5851 Inez St.,
 Bow, WA 98232-8616. Or, call—360-766-6800



MINUTES—4/18/03

Indian Mary Park, Merlin, OR

President's Message—President Tim Jones called the 'very informal' meeting to order at 7:20pm following dinner, in the outdoor shelter of the Indian Mary Park, Merlin, OR, on Friday, April 18, 2003. Tim thanked our rally hosts, Gene and Carol Ransom, Don and Luana Perry, Walt and Jerry Krebs, Jerry and Sharon Work.

Tim welcomed new members Ron and Carol Barkley attending their first rally and guests: Len and Betty Simmons, Burt and Fay Curtis and Peachy (Barbie Eberharts' aunt).

Rally attendees:

John & Gisela Bandur	Carl & Helen Hove
Ron & Carol Barkley	Tim & Cass Jones
George & Carol Baxter	Walt & Jerry Krebs
Alan & Margaret Bovee	Walt Ovens
Larry & Gaynor Calhoun	Mike & Nancy Pellegrino
Bert & Fay Curtis	Don & Luana Perry
DJ & Barbie Eberhart and Peachy	Rod & Maurrie Price
Eldon & Joyce Evans	Gene & Carol Ransom
Bob & Elaine Fry	Len & Betty Simmons
John Gruenewald	Dan & Carol Winchester
Pris & Bill Hardin	Jerry & Sharon Work

Secretary's Report—Motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2003, meeting as published in the March 2003, newsletter made by Carol Baxter (M), seconded by Tim Jones (S). Motion passed (P).

Treasurer's Report—Club Treasurer Helen Hove reported a club balance of \$7,751.86. Current membership is 169.

First Vice President's Report—Vice President George Baxter reported the following cards were sent out: Thank you's to Morris, Jim Swanson and Frank Czarny, Freemires, and Andy Bell and Paula Richmond for the February rally. Get well's to Jack Hodgeman and S.I. Johnson and sympathy cards to Mike Pellegrino on the passing of his mother and Don and Luana Perry for the 'broken limb' that went into their house.

Second Vice President (Wagonmaster) Report—Larry Calhoun reported on the upcoming rallies June 13-15, 2003—Silverton, OR, Silver Spur RV Park, Evans and Frys

August 15-17, 2003—ANNUAL MEETING at Wallace, ID, Down-by-the-Depot RV Park, Dunlaps

October 3-5, 2003—Toppenish, WA, Indian Nation RV. Ragsdale and group

December 5-7, 2003—N. Vancouver, BC, Capilano RV Park, Cooks and Smiths

NONE BOOKED FOR 2004 !!!!

Wagonmaster Larry has purchased a GEO tracker and would like to have the opportunity to tow it as having the Tracker would make it easier for Gaynor to get around considering her failing eyesight. He asked if hosts having tow hitches would help out the wagonmaster and tow the club trailer for their rallies.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

Website (Bill Guise): no report

Eastern States: Summer 2003, June 3-6—Bowling Green KY

GMC International: Fall 2003, October 12-17—Goshen, IN

Western States: Spring 2003: April 28-May 3—Temecula, CA; Fall 2003: September 14-19—Lake Osoyoos, BC (Denny & Fran Allen hosting); Spring 2004: Palm Desert, CA; Fall 2004: October 5-10—Balloon Festival, Albuquerque, NM.

FMCA: Alternate Director Walt Ovens (with the help of Cass Jones and Carol Baxter) reported sending a letter from the Cascaders club, under the President's signature, to the Washington State Senate and House strongly expressing the club's position against SB 5775 and HB 1142. The bills did not get out of committee—they are dead.

Merchandise: No report.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Walt Krebs gave a glowing report on 'Wildlife Images' that we could see the next day as part of our activities. It is a rehabilitation center for wild animals. Tour would start at 1:30pm and it is free of charge (donations gladly accepted).

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: May 1, 2003

Adjournment (MSP) Nancy Pellegrino / Barbie Eberhart

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

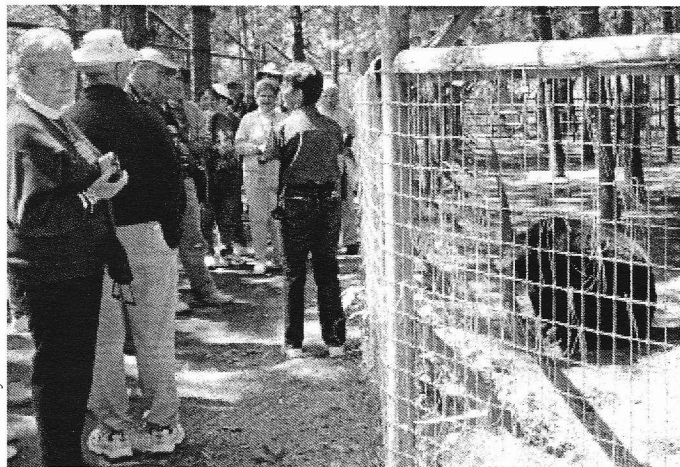
Respectfully submitted, Cassandra Jones, Secretary.



GMC Cascaders

Cass Jones, Secretary
448 SW Riverbend Dr.
West Linn, OR 97068-9416

Photo by Hardin



A Bear Story

When docent Martha Anderson approached the black bear enclosure a small bear (*left*) hurried over for a "visit." As a cub, the bear was tethered in front of a shop in Italy to attract customers. She was sick, stunted, and in very bad condition. An alert couple from the Pacific Northwest recognized her as an American black bear. They arranged to buy her and ship her to Wildlife Images for urgently needed medical treatment. X-rays and surgery yielded a shocking collection of indigestible junk from her intestines—pieces of plastic and pull tabs from pop cans. The bear has a permanent home at the center; she will never gain full adult size but she seems very happy in her new home with other bears.

RALLY SCHEDULE 2003

DATES	LOCATION	SITE	HOSTS
June 13–15	Silverton, OR	Silver Spur RV Park	Evans
August 15–17	Wallace, ID	Down-by-the-Depot RV Park	Dunlap
October 3–5	Toppenish, WA	TBA	Ragsdale, Price, Guise, Cupples & Baxter
December 5-7	N. Vancouver, BC	Capilano RV Park	Cook

Call Larry Calhoun to volunteer for rallies in 2004! ...fellow hosts will appear!

