Hey everyone,

Superb meeting! Leland’s talk/discussion was super informative and interesting, and we had lots of great discussions about the Grand Canyon trip. It’s awesome that people are coming to meetings and joining in the discussions – that’s what makes the club come alive!

Stuff ya needs ta know, or, the minutes:

GET VAN CERTIFIED! This is important especially if you plan on going on the Grand Canyon trip, but it’s a good thing to have just in general, for our other field trips and field trips for classes and such. Here are upcoming classes as a reminder:
Thurs Jan 21st 10:30-12
Tues Feb 2nd 1:30-3
Wed Feb 17th 9-10:30

Bake Sale: We are having a bake sale on Wednesday January 27th, 9-3 ish, outside the Duck Store like usual. We will be donating 50% of our profits to benefit victims of the Haiti earthquake. Attached to this email is a sign-up sheet for the bake sale that we passed around at the meeting today; let me know if you can help man the table or bake things!

Field Trip to Sunset Bay: We’ll be leaving the 29th (Friday), camping Friday night and Saturday night, and heading back on Sunday. We’ll probably drive out to Florence and down the coast since that much more scenic. We have a yurt reserved, which is $62 a night, which is a deal if we can pack it with a bunch of people! Should be $10ish a night for the yurt. We’ll figure out food and such next week. We are still trying to figure out transportation – depending on what we work out, we’ll either try to get a school van or rent some sort of large people hauler elsewhere. If you are going on the trip, please bring money to the next meeting; we’ll update you on how much this will be once we figure out transportation. New people are very much welcome! I’ve attached a list of who signed up to go at this last meeting – if you’d like to be on that list email me.

REI thing: Our idea for selling stuff to people at the REI used gear sale will not work, unfortunately. The REI people are worried about creating a snowball effect of other people showing up and wanting to sell stuff if they let us in, so it’s a no-go. Please keep thinking of fundraising ideas, however!

Grand Canyon Stuff: A lot of discussion about this tonight. I’m attaching an updated list of who’s going on the trip, as well as a map showing our route – lots of quality driving time! We really need to pin down how many people are going, so we’re probably going to set a deadline and a deposit people need to meet. Our main issue is transportation – even though renting school vehicles is dirt cheap (comparatively), we are going a long way with them, so we have to balance cost of vehicles with having enough space for people and equipment. Right now it’s looking like the best plan is to rent two 12 person
vans and one truck (which has 5 seats). It would be REALLY HELPFUL if we could use someone’s truck – does anyone have one we could use?

In terms of money, to give you a sense of what we’re going for, last year it was $100 a person, not including food. The department helped us out a great deal, essentially chipping in enough so that we could have the price at $100 a person. We don’t know how much the department will be able to help us out this year, though. We will have some bake sale money, but not that much (fundraising ideas, anyone?). With the two vans one truck idea, we have space for about 18 people, and 13 of those slots are filled, so we’ll probably open up the trip to all UO people, with a deadline and deposit. Our current cost estimate for two vans, a truck, and gas for Sammy’s car is $3400.

In terms of our route, the first day we’ll shoot to reach Twin Falls, Idaho. The second day we’ll drive to Bryce Canyon and camp there for a night. The third day we’ll drive to the GRAND CANYON, following which we’ll have 5 glorious days of hiking and backpacking and s’mores and such. Then we have two days to get back to Eugene; the first day we’ll shoot to get from the Grand Canyon to San Luis State Recreational Area in the Middle Of Nowhere, San Joaquin Valley, and then the next day we’ll pull in to Eugene, exhausted but filled with good geological happiness and memories.

A huge thank you to Leland for the awesome talk! We’ll still chugging away on planning our trip, but having people coming with suggestions and ideas is really helping, and I know we will make it happen. See you all next week!

~Patricia