

January 12, 2024

Volume 17, Issue 2



RAUSCH CREEK
TRAILRIDERS



Weather FORECAST

Fri Cloudy **45° F** | **40° F**

Sat Partly Cloudy **48° F** | **28° F**

Sun Partly Cloudy **33° F** | **16° F**

Hunting Schedule - Riding Restrictions

LAST WEEKEND ~ NO riding until 9am

Until January 19th, 2024

Year in Review

*Need the Lockbox
combination for the gates?*

- Call the office, 570-682-1075, with your camp address.
- The Andrew Gate is permanently CLOSED
- Only Honda, Polaris West, & parts of Valley View have access the Honda gate

As we are starting off 2024, I took some time to reflect on where we've been throughout 2023. I also have been spending some time thinking about what I want out of the year to come. There is quite a bit to share in this year in review, so we'll just jump right on in. War in Israel. War in Ukraine. America's next presidential election. Our world also talked about several other issues that will endure into the new year such as climate change, invasive species and housing affordability. We celebrated those who will take their talents to various stages in the new year such as singer-songwriter Taylor Swift and basketball great LeBron James. Other stories covered new feats in space that seem to harken a new space race. Month by month lets look back at our world & RCTR.

JANUARY

- The 2023 event & special group ride schedule was announced in preparation for the warm weather to come.
- Green was picked for the new helmet color of the 2023 season.

January 3 - Republican Kevin McCarthy fails to secure enough votes to be elected Speaker of the House in three rounds of voting. On January 7, McCarthy is elected House speaker after multiple days of negotiations and 15 rounds of voting. That same day, the newly elected 118th Congress is officially sworn in. **January** began with turmoil in the U.S. House of Representatives, with Kevin McCarthy requiring 15 ballots to be elected speaker. He lasted nine months.

January 7 - Tyre Nichols, a 29-year-old Black man, is pulled over for reckless driving. He is hospitalized following the arrest and dies three days later from injuries sustained during the traffic stop. Five officers from the Memphis Police Department are fired. On January 26, a grand jury indicts the five officers. They are each charged with second-degree murder,

aggravated assault, aggravated kidnapping, official misconduct and official oppression. On September 12, the five officers are indicted by a federal grand jury on several charges including deprivation of rights.

January 9 - The White House counsel's office confirms that several classified documents from President Joe Biden's time as vice president were discovered last fall in an office at the Penn Biden Center. On January 12, the White House counsel's office confirms a small number of additional classified documents were located in President Biden's Wilmington, Delaware, home... and the plot thickens

January 13 - The Trump Organization is fined \$1.6 million – the maximum possible penalty – by a New York judge for running a decade-long tax fraud scheme.

January 21 - Eleven people are killed in a mass shooting at a dance studio in Monterey Park, California, as the city's Asian American community was celebrating Lunar New Year. The 72-year-old gunman is found dead the following day from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

-The end of January we started to see green campsite stickers go up.

FEBRUARY

-The end of February was the deadline to pay all campsite fees in full and when the available campsite list would be released. Camping is a very popular at RCTR and campsites are very hard to come by.

February 1 - Tom Brady announces his retirement after 23 seasons in the NFL.

February 2 - In **February**, the U.S. Air Force shot down a Chinese spy balloon that had drifted across North American airspace. Officials later concluded with high certainty that the balloon never transmitted any intelligence to China. Defense officials announce the United States is tracking a suspected Chinese high-altitude surveillance balloon over the continental United States. On February 4, a US

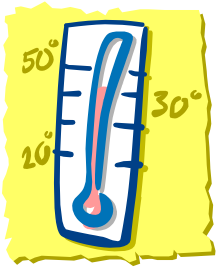
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Trail 3~Snow, Snow, Snow!

FACT OF THE DAY



Did you know that minus 40 degrees is the same regardless of the scale used? Yep,

40 below is 40 below in both Celsius and Fahrenheit. Also, mercury freezes at minus 38 degrees Celsius. So if it gets really cold, your old-fashioned mercury thermometer will stop at minus 38 degrees. Lets hope Trailriders never gets that cold!

Is your Helmet strapped? Are you roaming the campground roads or even the trails without your helmet strapped? Be safe & please always make sure yours is!



THANK YOU.

military fighter jet shoots down the balloon over the Atlantic Ocean. On June 29, the Pentagon reveals the balloon did not collect intelligence while flying over the country. **February 3** - A Norfolk Southern freight train carrying hazardous materials derailed in East Palestine, Ohio. An evacuation order is issued for the area within a mile radius of the train crash. The order is lifted on February 8. After returning to their homes, some residents report they have developed a rash and nausea.

February 6 - More than 15,000 people are killed and tens of thousands injured after a magnitude 7.8 earthquake strikes Turkey and Syria.

February 7 - Lebron James breaks the NBA's all-time scoring record, surpassing

February 23 - Harvey Weinstein, who is already serving a 23-year prison sentence in New York, is sentenced in Los Angeles to an additional 16 years in prison for charges of rape and sexual assault.

-Sweetheart Day brought love birds and just friends at RCTR for the crisp weather and a nice wintery ride that included some warm coffee and hot chocolate compliments of the office. Many came to fill their thermos for the cold ride.

MARCH

March 2 - SpaceX and NASA launch a fresh crew of astronauts on a mission to the International Space Station, kicking off a roughly six-month stay in space. The mission — which is carrying two NASA astronauts, a Russian cosmonaut and an astronaut from the United Arab Emirates — took off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

March 2 - The jury in the double murder trial of Alex Murdaugh finds him guilty of murdering his wife and son. Murdaugh, the 54-year-old scion of a prominent and powerful family of local lawyers and solicitors, is also found guilty of two counts of possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime in the killings of Margaret "Maggie" Murdaugh and Paul Murdaugh on June 7, 2021.

-If you were hoping to be done with winter, Punxsutawney Phil had bad news to share -- 6 more weeks of winter was in store.

March 27 - A 28-year-old Nashville resident shoots and kills three children and three adults at the Covenant School in Nashville. The shooter is fatally shot by responding officers.

-A reminder was sent out to let all members know that campsites are audited. Campsites will continue to be audited throughout the season to make sure ALL structures on site are up-to-date and recorded in our database.

March 29 - Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich is detained by Russian authorities and accused of spying. On April 7, he is formally charged with espionage.

March 30 - A grand jury in New York votes to

indict Trump, the first time in American history that a current or former president has faced criminal charges. On April 4, Trump surrenders and is placed under arrest before pleading not guilty to 34 felony criminal charges of falsifying business records. Prosecutors allege that Trump sought to undermine the integrity of the 2016 election through a hush money scheme with payments made to women who claimed they had extramarital affairs with Trump. He has denied the affairs.

-The office closes for the Easter holiday.

-The rules pertaining to what trash you can toss in your trash can are the same guidelines to follow when using Rausch Creek dumpsters. 2 bag limit per campsite No Tires No HazMat Waste NO Appliances PERIOD (to whomever put a whole dryer in the dumpster; your suspension shouldn't be a surprise) NO Electronics NO Metal.

APRIL

April 7 - A federal judge in Texas issues a ruling on medication abortion drug mifepristone, saying he will suspend the US Food and Drug Administration's two-decade-old approval of it but paused his ruling for seven days so the federal government can appeal. But in a dramatic turn of events, a federal judge in Washington state says in a new ruling shortly after that the FDA must keep medication abortion drugs available in more than a dozen Democratic-led states.

-Due to dry conditions and the red flag warning by NWS, RCTR enacted our burn ban caution status. Small campfires were permitted only where adequate precaution was taken.

-We were so THANKFUL to the 91 members and guests that came out for the adopt a highway spring cleanup. What beautiful morning it was! Everyone enjoyed their homemade free meal afterward.

April 13 - 21-year-old Jack Teixeira, a member of the Massachusetts Air National Guard is arrested by the FBI in connection with the leaking of classified documents that have been posted online.

MAY

May 2 - More than 11,000 members of the Writers Guild of America (WGA) go on strike for the first time since 2007. On September 26, the WGA announces its leaders have unanimously voted to authorize its members to return to work following the tentative agreement reached on September 24 between union negotiators and Hollywood's studios and streaming services, effectively ending the months-long strike.

May 6 - King Charles' coronation takes place at Westminster Abbey in London.

-Memorial Day weekend brought members by the droves. It's always the busiest weekend of the year.

-The office extended OPEN hours an extra hour...

from 4pm-5pm.

-The beginning of June, members were reminded the land we ride on is "working land." The active mining on the property moved closer to the railroad tracks. Stay away from the area. Signage was posted. Many times in 2023 did we have to remind members to pay attention to signage.

JUNE

June 18 - A civilian submersible disappears with five people aboard while voyaging to the wreckage of the Titanic. On June 22, following a massive search for the submersible, US authorities announce the vessel suffered a "catastrophic implosion," killing all five people aboard.

-The treasure hunt had some welcomed new comers and beautiful weather with lots of dust to eat. We all need to send a BIG thank you to the local businesses who were so nice in donating some great prizes. The Grand Prize being a FREE 2024 membership.

-The busy Independence Day holiday weekend had the RC office sending out safety notifications about stringing up clothes line at specific heights (basically if we can reach them on our foot pegs, it's coming down) as well as a reminder to every one of the speed limits while driving in the campground.

-Again another non-appreciated Member Appreciation Luncheon where we were left lots of leftovers...should we continue this luncheon?

JULY

July 13 - The FDA approves Opill to be available over-the-counter, the first nonprescription birth control pill in the United States. New tshirt were designed and put on the shelves to add to your Rausch Creek apparel collection.

July 14 - Rex Heuermann, a New York architect, is finally charged with six counts of murder in connection with the deaths of three of the four women known as the "Gilgo Four."

-RC Santa gave presents to all at the Christmas in July guided only Trail 7 ride.

-The office handed out scavenger hunt tickets to kids and boy they surprised when they brought back all their finds and were given FREE ice cream as a reward.

-We had a blazing good time at the Bonfire. It was definitely a fun camper burnin' kind of day! We raised \$600 for the Hegins Valley Fire Rescue team who said it would help purchase some much-needed gear.

August 8 - Over 100 people are killed and hundreds of others unaccounted for after wildfires engulf parts of Maui. Nearly 3,000 homes and businesses are destroyed or damaged.

Got lots of reports of free-range dogs. Instead of annoying your neighbors with your free-range dog visits; bring your dog to office for a treat and some love from the office staff. We love animals!

August 23 - Eight Republican presidential candidates face off in the first primary debate of the 2024 campaign in Milwaukee.

-RCTR office hours change back after Labor Day to closing at 4pm on the weekend.

-What an eventful Labor day weekend at RCTR! The Mud Run ride was fun and everyone had a great time.

SEPTEMBER

September 12 - House Speaker McCarthy announces he is calling on his committees to open a formal impeachment inquiry into President Biden, even as they have yet to prove allegations he directly profited off his son's foreign business deals.

-Remembering 9/11 forever.

September 14 - Hunter Biden is indicted by special counsel David Weiss in connection with a gun he purchased in 2018, the first time in US history the Justice Department has charged the child of a sitting president. The three charges include making false statements on a federal firearms form and possession of a firearm as a prohibited person.

September 28 - Dianne Feinstein, the longest-serving female US senator in history, dies at the age of 90. On October 1, California Governor Gavin Newsom announces he will appoint Emily's List president Laphonza Butler to replace her. Butler will become the first out Black lesbian to join Congress. She will also be the sole Black female senator serving in Congress and only the third in US history.

September 29 - Las Vegas police confirm Duane Keith Davis, aka "Keffe D," was arrested for the 1996 murder of rapper Tupac Shakur.

OCTOBER

October 3 - McCarthy is removed as House speaker following a 216-210 vote, with eight Republicans voting to remove McCarthy from the post.

-The railroad police were on the prowl. Making change the berm by the yellow gate at the railroad be completing reconfigured in good spring. The law implies that we must stay 30 ft clear of the railroad tracks at all times; only crossing the tracks at the designated railroad crossing areas. Please pay attention to signs to avoid the fine. There are signs posted all over the area.

October 8 - Israel formally declares war on the Palestinian militant group Hamas after it carried out an unprecedented attack by air, sea and land on October 7.

New warm RCTR apparel arrives! Why not be in Rausch Creek gear to stay warm?! We still have some in stock stop in and check out the Hoodies and Zip Ups.

October 25 - After three weeks without a speaker, the House votes to elect Rep. Mike Johnson of Louisiana.

The secrets out...the new 2024 season rates were listed...not great but also not to bad...

October 25 - Robert Card, a US Army reservist, kills 18 people and injures 13 others in a shooting rampage in Lewiston, Maine. On October 27, after a two-day manhunt, he is found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot.

-RC Campground Trick or Treat—what a great turn out!!! The campsite decorating contest was so cool and fun...winning one lucky member a FREE 2024 campsite.

-Our annual Bob Ober Memorial Fall Foliage ride to Trail 7 had nearly 90 riders. What an honor for Bob.

NOVEMBER

November 13 - The Supreme Court announces a code of conduct in an attempt to bolster the public's confidence in the court after months of news stories alleging that some of the justices have been

skirting ethics regulations.

-The final event of the year brought many members to the Turkey Feast and feast we did. A little ambulance visit for a poor volunteer and Tiffany almost setting herself on fire...we made it out alive, healthy and ready for the new year to begin. The donation race between the bikes, quads & side x sides ended with the quads winning again. The final count raised was \$1095 for the local food closet and animal shelter. KERNALS OF CORN-The first kernel of corn reminds us of the autumn beauty around us. The second kernel of corn reminds us of our love for each other. The third kernel of corn reminds us of God's love for us. The forth kernel of corn reminds us of our friends.

The Texas Rangers won baseball's World Series in **November**, defeating the Arizona Diamondbacks for their first championship in franchise history.

November 19 - Former first lady Rosalynn Carter passes away at the age of 96.

-RC Fall back—turn back those clocks already!

DECEMBER

And at **December's** United Nations Climate Change conference, nearly 200 countries agreed to transition away from fossil fuels. A hopeful crowd cheered the announcement.

-The new green helmet stickers are being issued to renewing and new members.

-The RCTR office closes for the holiday.

-Getting in the holiday spirit; the office announced new beanies and baseball hats for sale.

-Membership renewal reminder info was sent out that your membership expires December 31st and your campsite renewal is due by the end of February. Remember a new application must be filled out each season.

2023 was another turbulent year, marked by political dysfunction at home and two major world conflicts. No matter what happens, 2024 is sure to be an eventful year, just as 2023 was.

Thankfully Rausch Creek Trailriders corner of the world is still the favorite of our members and even though the RC outsiders don't understand...we as a Rausch Creekian community understand this is truly your "happy place." Cheers from RC to a year full of memories and so many more to come.

Happy NEW YEAR EVERYONE!!

LOTS OF RAIN FALL

The wind and rain were in abundant over the last week. The campground suffered damage to roadways and some stone that has washed away but no property damages to report.

DO anticipate many trail changes due to the rainfall. Take your time as your venture out on to the trails and the campground. There may be fallen trees and new washouts from the storm. Please report any notable damage to the office.

2024 Event Schedule

February 17 Sweetheart Day

March 16 St Patty's Day Ride

April 20 Spring Cleanup

May 4 Sarge's Memorial Ride

May 25 Members Only Poker Run

June 15 Treasure Hunt

July 6 Member Appreciation Day/Swap Meet

July 20 Kids Scavenger Hunt

July 20 Christmas in July Ride

August 3 Bonfire Bash

August 31 Mud Ride

October 6 Dual Sport Ride

October 19 Trick or Treat Day

Local To Do's

Every Friday afternoon & evening, Crossroads Farmer's Market is open on Route 25 between Gratz & Berrysburg.

Sky-Vu Drive-In-- Gratz is CLOSED for the season

January 13th-The Joliett Firehouse is hosting a steak and fish dinner. Price of the steak dinner is \$20 and price for the fish dinner is \$12. The dinners come with your choice of baked potato or french fries, corn or green beans and includes bread and a salad with your choice of dressing. Pre-orders are due January 8th. If you would like to place an order please message the page, contact a member, or you can leave a message at 570-695-3624.