

FEEDBACK REPORT – 2013



Note: This is a compilation of the feedback received from the forms submitted during & after the Fair and via email. The responses are recorded as submitted with minor corrections for spelling and syntax without negating the respondents' intentions. "***" represent the number of signatories or similar responses. Personal names have been included when celebrated and omitted when negatively criticized. The coordinators, committees, and management will receive relevant information with respondents' contact information.

Thank you, all!

2013 OREGON COUNTRY FAIR FEEDBACK

AAAA

Why does the public get to park in alter-abled close up in front when we work hard as family and pay for our pass as well? I had to park far away as an alter-abled person. I go home at night and work hard at the Fair. I need my car to be close because of my disability. It's hard to walk far. It seems like you care more about money than people (Fair family). (received late 2012)

The help offered thru the Alternately Abled Assistance folks was a lifesaver for me!!! Also the bike/cabs!!! I hope to see more and maybe even be able to reserve a ride from campsites to and from the fair!!

ADMISSIONS

I work at ATC/toe gate, noon to six, Lot Crew. I have observed (deliberately) the number of people who ride share in vehicles outweighs the number of single people in cars that buy parking passes on site. Seems it would be a good idea to add the parking fee (\$5 or whatever bucks) to the ticket price. People would not have to stop to get a parking pass. The guys doing the parking pass sales will still be needed because of the myriad re-routs of cars and questions people have can be answered. Just a thought.

BAREFOOT FRIENDLY

*****The new children's loop is wonderful. Bark chips by kids area are splintery and upset the little kids, & adults, also. They need that area to be barefoot and it's not good for kids.

For the second year in a row, the mulch selected for the child area is the splintery type, not something like hemlock which is inexpensive, that doesn't have splinters. Numerous kids got splinters in their hands, legs and feet as they played in that area which had to be removed or caused pain and potential infection.

I would like to see a surface other than wood chips; something little ones can crawl on without getting splinters. not great for a play area or coming off slides....Please bring back straw or hay – doesn't leave splinters on or in the feet.

Same thing happened around the sand area near Main Stage.

BARTER FAIR

***We want our Barter Fair back.

BUDGET

I have a couple of issues I learned about at this years Fair regarding the way OCF is spending and controlling money.

#1) The spending of any Fair money towards the private 4th of July fireworks should stop! \$4500 is a lot to waste for a private non-Fair party! Hidden away in some secrete fund???

Why are you charging vendors more this year? Should we all be paying the same? We (the Fair0 should take more care of our family. (received late 2012)

BUS

went home on the bus to get something I forgot and rode with a busload of people who came out here without a ticket that had to go back to buy one. Most were from out of town & disappointed to lose several hours. An easy solution to this would be to have Fair bus drivers ask to see tickets as they used to do. There were Fair signs before leaving at bus terminal where people boarded. The signs could say ticket required. No tickets sold at the Fair.

CAMPING

Wanted to say camping (Piggy's) was great, very open fire lanes, well organized and Corey was so helpful getting us a site.

CARTOGRAPHY

It's great to see smoking signs on the maps this year to help direct people to smoking areas!

Your posters around the fair showing the map layout were hard to read and the 'you are here' things were almost impossible to see! it is hard enough to find your way around that maze you need to make it more user friendly.

CARTS

Last year on Wednesday night before Fair, I was clipped by a fully loaded & very heavy pull cart by a young man in dark without any audible warning. The cotter pins in the wheel hub tore a half dollar sized chunk of flesh & blood vessels out 1/2" deep. The 3 docs at Whitebird did an amazing job stitching it up & stopping bleeding. I remained and was able to work on my crew but with severe pain. The wound became badly infected with MRSA and took 3 1/2 months to heal. I told several staff folks about this who said they'd give info to your cart people. This year, I have seen six carts with the identical situation. The cart people simply HAVE to address this ongoing safety concern. Cap the ends, after bending cotter pins safely out of harm's way. Reinforce cap with duct tape. If a child or old person was hurt lie this it would have certainly been much worse. I don't care about the scar and the infection finally healed, but the problem obviously continues. It wouldn't take too much effort to inspect & modify all carts and to give all cart users a safety/protocol primer prior to issuing the carts. Three people should be with each cart – 1 in front & 1 in the rear of the cart pulled by a third person ideally. Thank you for your time and for all you do. The Fair is awesome and I am so appreciative of being here.

CIGARETTE SMOKE

- The whole camping should be no smoking!
- In the nighttime festivities, smokers are not being mindful, considerate or aware of the smoking areas
- Some of the smoking areas were really close to the walking path with no way to really escape walking through the smoke.
- I do not appreciate cigarette smoke smell, but it did not seem to be a problem this year at our booth (received late 2012)

Please create a really cool smoking lounge shady area that is larger than the small bench area by the Ritz. Off path a bit so it doesn't offend non-smokers. You know – a smoking lounge conducive to conversation & community that is comfortable to sit at. Thanks

Yippie!? Is it true?! Banning smoking at the Fair is a great idea! Please move in this direction! Our booth would benefit greatly from a non-smoking Fair (our back is next to a 'designated smoking area.'

Only other aspect that was difficult was the enormous amount of ambient cigarette smoke, at times in the 8, and honestly in Far Side, it seemed I couldn't get a breath of oxygen but was inhaling nothing but smoke.

I was rather horrified to learn on the Thursday before fair that Peace Park which is next to my booth (224) had become an assigned smoking area this year. This had the following effects on me. Huge clouds of cigarette smoke drifting into my camp and booth space. Lost customers, i had at least 4 people who commented that they could not stay there because of the smoke. Permanent damage to belongings, my tent and clothes smell like tobacco smoke. Also this act had the following effects on the rest of the fair. A water fountain is located in Peace Park by placing a smoking area here you have forced people to cross through toxic air space to reach the most needed element for life. There is an abundance of food booths in this area and in the past people have used peace park as a place to sit down and eat this was completely lost this year. Even smokers do not want to eat in an area this smoky. Finally i have to question whether this area works as a smoking area, if the purpose of a smoking area is separate the smoke from the general public than this fails miserably. It is too small and enclosed by fences on three sides, when the wind blows in the right direction huge clouds of smoke blow out on to the main path making it unavoidable by the public. This was a very very, very bad idea PLEASE don't do this again next year. thank you.

Please do not use Peace Parker as a smoking area again. The smoke, especially Friday, tended to "hang" in the neighboring booths. There is a water fountain in Peace Parker, anyone who wanted to drink had to go through the smoke and ask the smokers not to lean on the fountain when someone was drinking. Really difficult for children to do. Thanks!

I was really displeased with the disrespectful cigarette smoking at Fair this year. I saw many people, often with staff wristbands, smoking in non-designated areas. Smoking on the path, in the audiences, in areas paved with dry straw, and in eating areas. In addition, I saw literally hundreds of cigarette butts all over the ground. At night, the paths were filled with cigarette smokers, all dropping their ash on the tinderbox dry ground. This is not only a tremendous fire hazard, but a real health hazard as well, and I would like to see the fair take a more active stance in keeping cigarette smoking to designated areas and off the paths. Thank you!

I have seen the OCF transform and evolve throughout the years and I think it's overdue for the fair to become a cigarette/tobacco free event. In living up to the claim on OCF's main web page that it "creates events and experiences that nourish the spirit, explore living artfully and authentically on Earth, and transform culture in magical, joyous and healthy ways" I strongly believe that the fair should take this final step into the future, at least during the daytime. Thank you for heeding this request

TOO many smokers in the 8, being careless. Cigarette butts everywhere Sunday dawn, every level space was used as ashtray. would like to see lighted designated smoking areas at night in the 8 and having more enforcement to get them used. Smokers are the fair's entitled public safety issue.

While I greatly appreciated the designated areas for smokers, I was disappointed by the lack of areas for nursing or changing your baby. It seemed that the majority of areas that had seating and were off the path were all for smokers. I know there are seating areas for food, but I don't think anyone would have appreciated me changing my baby's diaper where they're trying to enjoy food. Thanks!

It's Friday morning, Fair hasn't even started yet, and I have seen cigarette butts all over the ground. Please be more emphatic that this is unacceptable. I saw no mention of it anywhere on Fair info, and it's really, really gross. Thanks!

Smoker volunteers to maintain "Butt Can". I as a smoker have noticed the cans becoming very full. Kindness of my heart, I done my best to keep them empty. Maybe we could get a group of smokers to work together to keep area clean and butt cans empty. Call me. Love to help with this.

***We are requesting that the Oregon Country Fair remove the new cigarette smoking area from our neighborhood – the new kids loop at the entrance, down from PixieWillows booth, Les Castle's Massage group, Birthsong Midwifery (and Gypsy Caravan Stage), to the outskirts of the Fair – not the middle of it. It is very unhealthy and uncomfortable. It really impacted our area last year – having to breathe second-hand smoke & dust all week.

COMMEMORATIVE SALES

Please make and stock enough OCF t-shirts of each style & size to be able to sell through Sunday afternoon. You were sold out of the green and yellow tie-dyed OCF shirts on Friday and out of 2014 bumper stickers on Friday. Hint: If you make too much you could sell or donate the remainder from your website or at other OCF related events (Veneta Farmers Market for example) after the Fair.

CONSTRUCTION

Please provide a shade (rainbow cloth/decorative cloth, etc.) behind person currently using cash machine. In the morning, the sun shines directly onto the ATM screen and people cannot read the screen. People were taking 1-2 minutes each more time to get cash because they couldn't see what they were doing. A little shade will make ATM lines move twice as fast.

Put steps up to the hand washing station at Upper River Loop bathrooms. It is currently only available for giants to use.

Thanks for the pier block next to the hand wash station across from the library. There is the metal tab that looks a bit scary, but for kids & short people it's a BIG improvement – a step up would be even better.

Please put hooks on bathroom doors (the new ones by Community Village)

HERINALS

Great job on the herinals near Community Village! It could still use better signage, though.

New herinals at Shady Grove, while still miles better than no herinals at all, had the troughs set too high for elder gals who have trouble relaxing to pee while straining to keep our butts up off the trough. Also I liked it better when we could toss the paper while still in a crouch, rather than clutching it tight while hoisting up on the bars to the level of the tossing area.

Design flaw in new women's urinals by Shady Grove six-pac. Trough lip is too high. In squat position, you are forced to use muscles to keep your ass from hitting the edges of the trough. When squatting, you should be able to relax your butt downwards, not try to hold up an extra few inches. By the way, I have a skinny ass. This would be even worse for larger butts!

I like the concept of urinals for women. But there are some problems with the current design. I used the Herinal (sp?) at Politics Park quite a bit. The thing I found dysfunctional was that the place to put the TP after you used it was so high up that you could only easily put it in after you were done and stood up. Being fairly hairy hippie women, many of us need to do a second little post-wipe (TMI, I know), so that was awkward - what do we do with the first TP before we are done? And many just didn't "get it" and put the TP in the pee canal which backed up the flow. Everyone I talked with in the Herinal agreed that the TP disposal holes were in the wrong place, should be closer to eye level when you were squatting.

I can see why they did that, as the TP went into 55 gallon drums behind the wall, which are kind of high, but it might be better to get shorter drums or cut them off (or tilting them). Did they actually consult with real women before making the final Herinal design? Bad feng shui.

As for squatting, which someone complained about, I am lucky that my knees still work pretty well, so I didn't mind the height of the Herinals and can't imagine a better height for women. But where I would really like a squatting option is for #2, and we don't have that. The current toilets in Politics Park are definitely more stable than the old bucket models, but still pretty precarious to squat on. I'd love it if they made a few of the individual potties a squatter design. At the Okanogan Barter Faire my favorite potty has a flat surface with a toilet seat, so if you want to squat you put up the toilet seat and have a surface that is easy to balance on.

CRAFT

Sadly this year I ran into a booth selling mass produced tapestries from Bali as the main wares....I believe that to be a booth at OCF the goods must be handcrafted/unique/etc. I only wish I had recorded the name of this booth! At the time I was surfing the happiness wave of the day and didn't think much of it. After getting home, I realized the booth is actually hurting other crafters at OCF, friends and family of mine. The imported goods are sold at a slightly lower price than most of the handmade, loved, and often one-of-a-kind products being sold. This seems wrong to me. When I saw a link on FB about feedback I was inspired to pipe up. Thank you for listening

This was the first year that I had time to walk the entirety of the fair during fair hours. It was delightful and I had more fun talking to the One Year Only crafter than I can express.

The artists who have been here for years and years and decades have been producing largely the same crafts for years and years and decades, and it is such an amazing breath of fresh air each time I come across a new artist's booth. The quality and imagination of these crafts are often (but certainly not always) of a MUCH higher level than every year artist and they should be easier to find.

I was saddened to hear (from your Information booths) that the fair does nothing to help promote these artist other than the little (hard to find) butterfly.

The index in the Peach Pit lists them as TBD. I know this is in part because it is printed before those booths are decided. But, there should be SOMETHING done.

I would like to suggest a one-page sheet with the entire One Year Only artist and their booth numbers.

Thursday afternoon I noticed there was blanket vending on the corner on the entrance to the meadow on the right. I talked and they were indeed imports. I did not confront him in any way. I went to Security camp and told the man that had been leading the meeting and that the matter would be looked into, but nothing happened. There was also rummage sale clothing being sold at the same location. Security respectfully walked by and they remained until dark.

I find it incredibly disappointing that big companies are allowed to sell at a "handmade craft" fair. The refusal of OCF to do anything about this situation after YEARS of inquiries is a huge black mark when it comes to the integrity of OCF crafts. One needs to only look at their website to see that they're made in a FACTORY.

A NY Times article from 2006 states that they planned on selling 15,000 pieces that year. And that was SEVEN years ago. You really think that one person can make 15,000 pieces by themselves a year? What are you guys smoking? This business even has TWO STORES: in Seattle and LA.

This is true with another clothing booth. Big company, big warehouse, and a FACTORY. These are not HANDMADE CRAFTS. Locally made, but not by the "designer" anymore. They are made in a factory. This business started out at Saturday Market, and is no longer at Saturday Market because THEY ARE NO LONGER HANDMADE.

And yet, when I keep bringing this up to people within OCF, I keep being told "well, they say that it's handmade, so we have to believe them..." BULLSHIT. Stop believing them. The first business is LYING to you. Do some research, grow some balls, and KICK THE CORPORATE CRAP OUT OF OCF. Please. This is RIDICULOUS. It's not fair to all the crafters that try to get in year after year, and

it's not fair to those who actually make their craft and have to compete with big corporations that have factories.

I'm sorry if this sounds angry.... but I'm incredibly disgusted at this point. Again, it only damages the integrity of OCF. It makes you look bad, it makes you look like hypocrites. Do something about it. Please.

DAY-TRIPPER

I first came to the Fair in 1976 when it was the Renaissance Fair and I came until 1986 when I left Eugene and returned to Europe. I came back to Eugene in 2011 (as was always the plan) and was enchanted that the OCF has to a large part retained its essence and spirit.

This year, however, it was noticeable on several occasions that groups performing on the stage would make reference to the wonderful and crazy happenings of the evening and night before. We even had one group saying "come and meet us by the saunas tonight".

They need to be aware and sensitive to the 'day punters' who pay a considerable sum to support and enjoy the Fair until 7:00 p.m. and who are not able/permitted to enjoy the subsidized activities of the evening and night. Obviously, no one should ever begrudge an honest volunteer their evening/night's enjoyment but the individuals and groups performing should perhaps be made aware that the vast majority of the people in front of them during the day are there ONLY during the day and mention of the 'fun and frolics' should be better left unmentioned. It's probably just a lack of knowledge by the groups of how the Fair functions - but I think that it would be nicer out front if we weren't constantly reminded of what we are missing out on.. Carpe noctem! –

ENTERTAINMENT

Royal Famille du Caniveaux is better every year.

Fighting Instruments of Karma Marching Chamber Band/Orchestra parade is still a huge thrill twice every day.

Apologize!! To Scott Huckabay for incredibly poor treatment for a long-time favorite performer! Not a "Fair" treatment – can't believe the OCF would do such a thing. What happened in Fair court?

Band recommendation for Main Stage – "She's Not Dead" – YouTube/Facebook/shesnotdead.net. I have gone to the Fair for 22 years. I have seen the bands on Main Stage. This band is popular and would be very good for the Main Stage.

How about a set of signs to hand to path performers suggesting gently to come in closer so they don't clog the path. "I don't bite and it sounds better up close" "I promise if you come close I will only ask for volunteers from the back row." Etc....

Please have a stage (new loop?) dedicated to more hip-hop/electronic dance music. The young and old are very well represented at Fair with their own spaces, but the 20-30 year olds are often under-represented in music & culture. Thanks!

I think utilizing a new performance stage on the new childcare loop to showcase contemporary hip-hop and electronic music at night would help the promotion and collaboration of different genres of high quality performance art that the fair is famous for. Having another location to host impromptu jam sessions at night would make for more of a diverse medley of sounds.

We could really use some greater variety in music. – A lot of us Fair fools would be happy to have some hip-hop/electronic/plugged-in/non-jam band music around. What about that new stage in Crafts Lot? It's time to evolve.

I watched much excellent music over the three days of the Fair. And, I enjoy every opportunity to listen to the Shook Twins but on the Friday I felt that whoever the sound engineer was at the Main Stage at that time did a very poor job or was deliberately trying to sabotage their performance on the Main Stage. I heard other groups on the Main Stage and the sound levels then were fine. For the Shook Twins the sound levels were all over the place, usually too muted, and did not do justice to the performers. The next day on the Blue Moon stage the sound engineer there did a superb job of balance and levels for the Twins. On the Shady Grove stage on Sunday the engineer there did a fine job with the Twins on a small stage. But, for me, the whole sound experience on the Friday was frustrating rather than uplifting - what could be the reason? Thanks for listening.

Brian Keogh, Entertainment Coordinator responds Humm, Well they used their own sound engineer for the weekend & he did mix @ all 3 stages, so maybe your crowd placement was too close to the stage & the on stage monitors were interfering with the house sound??...That's just my guess...

FEEDBACK

The feedback process would be more meaningful if people could identify, where appropriate, the date and approximate time as well as the location concerned so that the crew in question can use the feedback to learn and tailor their response. Without this data the value of the feedback is not always useful. For example - "We never got any water during our shift." Without knowing where and when this happened we can't adjust for next year.

FOOD

- Sharps containers near food.
- Food booth prices are outrageous and not fair to volunteers.
- Need a tea room/tea area for Japanese tea/Chinese tea/herbal tea room
- Ordering food at the new Village Restaurant was awkward because the counter's so high.

Is the Fair still in America? cause the Price fixing of a cup of coffee is un- American! Fair forcing any business to raise their price is very concerning??? One food booth's coffee price forced to raise \$1. (This sounds like a rumor; the Fair does not set prices on any item sold by vendors.)

I know that there was a little scuttlebutt about Cafe Mundo's booth and it's rebuild but, I'd like to offer a glowing review of their food and service.

The fair hours menu was delicious and well prepared, and their afterhours menu was amazing! Grilled Cheese Sandwich and Tomato Soup were not only perfect for the slightly tipsy, but tasted like mom would have made it with healthy bread and great quality cheese. I was impressed with the quality of the ingredient and the prices, as well as the friendly and up-tempo service. Well done! Well done!

I think it's important that the Country Fair take a leadership role in the community and have food booths list GMO and non-GMO ingredients. If we want to see a change, we have to be the change. We're asking that the food industry to comply therefore we need to take the initiative. It is not difficult for each food booth to research and list the identity of the foodstuff they are selling. (Saturday Market needs to do this as well.) Eugene is non-GMO strong. We need to amp it up!

"Strolling food vendors are reduced sized food booths which must have the ability to move their booth when called upon to do so . must be no larger than 4'x6'. Storage must extend no further than 3 feet behind booth and must adhere to the aesthetic guidelines of the food committee. Booth placement must be such that it does not interfere with traffic or visibility of other booths." There is a guy who sets up along the main path near our booth, to the north of the recycling kiosk. His booth is definitely more than 4'x6', and his storage likewise is more than 3'. And, yet he continues to get away with this year after year. He also blocks the flow of traffic. I usually am at the northernmost orange juicing station in

our booth, and since he has been there, a lot less of our business comes from that direction. I really wish someone with power would call this guy on his actions.

Hi folks, after being an S.O. last year, this was my first year on an actual full-time volunteer crew (Hospitality/Kitchen). The OCF is pure magic. That said, I was again surprised by how many food vendors did not use sustainably raised, free-range meats. (The opposite of animals raised in containment pens, wading in their own poop, fed unnatural foods, growth hormones and antibiotics.) I don't know if there's anything you could suggest to the vendors about the issue, but boy does using tainted meats like this go against the grain of the Seventh Generation Intention you espoused in the Peach Pit. Just wanted to point this out. Thank you!

GLOWSTICKS

While I agree with the glow stick ban I want to address how it played out in my world.

I bought my kids LED glow sticks. I must have heard 20 people yell across paths, approach my girl (7 and 11), stop them etc telling them glow sticks were banned.

I told them to hold it towards the nanny state hippies and turn it off and on until they got the message. Several didn't. This was a huge hassle for my kids. And me. I followed the rules and nosy hippies still got in my face.

People, we have a huge staff and in some cases they even know the rules and policies. It is THEIR job to deal with people breaking rules. Not yours.

Perhaps addressing the issue of having the people responsible enforce policy, not just any nitwit with an attitude. Peace.

PS, if people keep hassling my kids about their LED glow sticks I'll be forced to resume using the chemical ones. They're much cheaper and since they get the hassle anyway..... Just kidding.

HOSPITALITY ~ SHOWERS

Hospitality showers were problematic for quite a few folks I spoke with. My personal experience was that the new showers in Miss Piggy's were consistently out of water. 4 out of 5 times I attempted to utilize them there was no water (mid morning Thurs - Mon). Monday there was water, but only cold. I heard this was the case most of the time.

Though I didn't use them, the showers at Piggy's were nice. But, for folks with kids or elderly, etc. having to hold the water on while showering sounds difficult.

Showers up above Marshall's (NOT Flowing Notes) had very long wait times for the amount of people there and on more than one occasion there was clear favoritism. I know this first hand as I watched some friends walk up and after a short exchange with the gal with the list went right in. I asked them later if they had been on the list from earlier and they admitted they were not. (And they weren't on recycling crew - many of us wave the recycling kids ahead of us when they show up to hospitality showers). This is frustrating; a few other people on my crew & I just bit the bullet and paid to shower at the Ritz (every day) as waiting an hour to bathe or walking from shower to shower was not an option. Years ago the people running hospitality showers had it really fine-tuned. I recently ran into one of the women and she lamented that there seemed to be a political shift and herself and her family stepped back. I don't know about all of this, I just know the shower situation this year was unfortunate.

LOST & FOUND

Thank you Thank you Thank you! I lost my wallet in offsite parking Friday night. Dark. Couldn't find it. It was just returned to me at Fair Central. All the money & everything were there!

MISC

Hi. I'm 12 years old and my parents work on External Security (Robin's crew). I have been going to the playground behind the sauna for 3 years. It is just a bunch of really fun swings. All of a sudden, these kids just tell me to leave so I do. But, I was thinking that they weren't allowed to do that. So, I

talk to some sauna people and they said they've never heard of that rule. So I wanted to talk to you about it and see if you could make it ok for kids beside sauna kids to go back there. Thank you.

Having the Om circle in moving waves so the public could join us this year was way more fun than getting stuck in one spot guilt tripping whichever booth ended up in sight when everybody stopped.

PATH PLANNING

I hope the dust abatement program continues next year. It really makes a difference during a hot, dry fair. 610 Shady Lane was enjoyable with no dust.

far less congestion on all the paths noted this year-great fair

I bet families, elderly and any fair attendee would really appreciate more available seating near food vendors

What I and many others experienced was that by 2pm there were so many people we could not move and not only was this totally impossible for EMS if needed to get to someone hurt, more so it was no longer an enjoyable experience for myself and others and we left by 2:30.

- Limit your ticket sales
- Expand your general area
- Don't allow performers on the path ways
- Have signage to the stage areas
- Label/signage on the pathways (red/green/yellow)
- More trash cans and restrooms.

Please note: This is my last year ever unless this is addressed and I would be available for consolation as I have been a contractor and in development for 35 years and own common sense....

My (traffic) shift is 8-12AM at Bus Rd & Suttle. Since the campgrounds west of our location have greatly increased in size, we have had to deal with an excessive amount of foot & bicycle traffic at our busiest time of day. Our customers are at serious risk of injury as well. We would like to see a new path from those campgrounds established that would allow access from those camps via South Trotters Rd to Chasem or something similar. If that is not possible, perhaps a shuttle could be arranged from those campgrounds west of us.

I was at the fair this year. I had an awesome time as I always do. I just thought I'd throw out a suggestion. Something that would make the fair better is if there were more activities that typical fair goers could participate in. As it is now, most people are either watching performers or purchasing others' food or art. It would be better if there were art, music, and cooking classes that people could take. Learning something new and taking something home that was self-made would make the fair experience even better. I'm not sure how you could go about making that happen, but I think it would be worthwhile. I just figured I'd throw it out there

While I greatly appreciated the designated areas for smokers, I was disappointed by the lack of areas for nursing or changing your baby. It seemed that the majority of areas that had seating and were off the path were all for smokers. I know there are seating areas for food, but I don't think anyone would have appreciated me changing my baby's diaper where they're trying to enjoy food. Thanks!

PEACH PIT

I missed the flamenco performance at the spirit tower because you did not list it as flamenco! I saw the flamenco at the gypsy caravan stage but learned too late about the other.

There are many of us aging hippies that would appreciate larger font on the OCF site map.

Print single page maps. Many folks just tear off the map page to carry & toss the Peach Pit. Save trees.

It would be very helpful if within the Peach Pit the name of the craft booth were listed as opposed to the person who is leasing the space.

Make Peach Pits available at Zumwalt campground

I see that this year again (6 years now) I am not listed in the Pit directory. There are strolling vendors listed, but not me. Not under accessories, not under clothing, not under fiber arts. What's up? I have sent in numerous requests to update and correct. (numerous requests for years) Please explain. Thanks. My children will no longer be crafting but another member still does – again, not listed..

Vendor Directory --Could you please include business names where possible? I was looking for a specific business (clothing) in the directory and couldn't find them because vendors are only listed by booth owner's personal name. I have no idea who the vendor is, personally. I ran into this problem several times. Alphabetical within category would also help. Thanks!

Perhaps, the directory could include a note saying that each info booth has an expanded vendor directory with various cross-referenced sections.

Please, could the Peach Pit have a numerical order listing in addition to the alphabetical by category? Would make it easier to scan for what's up on a particular path or choose meeting places. Thanks.

I just wanted to let you know that 90% of the people who come up and grab a Peach Pit from us (*at the Info booth*) are looking for a replacement map. I think we would save a ton of newspaper if Info booths had a stack of 1-page maps to hand out.. I've had at least 5 requests for that option from people asking for directions. Thanks again!

PHILANTHROPY

I have heard in the past that when the country fair is around, the food banks just get drained by the extra demand.. There were obvious "travelers" outside Safeway Friday with a "hungry!" cardboard sign. Great that the fair paid for the LTD buses for three days, but a donation to Food For Lane County would have been a more direct help! I stood up for half an hour on a bus to the fair the first year-- decided the trip was not worth it.

PRE-POST

My only other observation would be traffic flow on Monday. There was no clear communication getting people in and out of craft lot and the meadow. Phun gate was jammed. There was a lot of bottle necking and I encountered some nice security guys trying to direct traffic thru the meadow and past Zenn acres. Once people got diverted out by Hoarse Corral instead of trying to drive thru it was unclear where that road went and many times other vehicles were trying to come into the meadow via that road or to campsites. There was no one helping with the traffic flow. Maybe everyone was trying to leave at the same time instead of going to Barter Fair. I don't know?

RECYCLING

Dan's Burgers & Nearly Normal have always enjoyed our composting crew – arriving after we are open in the morning. It lets us fill up the barrels more and provide them with some food. Is there any way to change their schedule back to Pre-2012. A reply is appreciated.

I was saddened by the amount of trash in Chela Mela. "We" made this trash; the Fair family, not the public. Why are we so disrespectful of our wonderful venue? Perhaps, some way to encourage education of the "partiers". I don't think there is a way to enforce it, but if the SO's & non-working partiers had to spend 2 hours cleaning up trash.... O, I know, not constructive. Guess I'm just venting. Thanks for all you do!

Perhaps, a small reward such as a picture or hugs could be granted to folks for picking up trash on path! (received late 2012)

REGISTRATION

More vehicle passes for booths would be most appreciated.

What about the tails on wristbands? The tails get in the way when you wipe yourself after going to the bathroom, and then you go back to your food booth – the tails can get in the food or dishwasher that's contamination and it's unsanitary... What are you thinkin'? (received late 2012) *(This year, Tony showed us an approved way to tuck the tails in before fastening.)*

Have a separate line at the registration area for booth workers and other fair staff who only need to purchase a parking pass. I stood in line for nearly an hour in the cash transaction line to buy a pass on Wednesday morning - this after having stood in line for an hour to register. Better yet, let booth and other staff buy their parking passes at the same time as when they register and get their wristband. It would make everyone happier.

I have observed, over my many years at the Fair, that many people are unaware of the Guidelines. Crew leaders do not always make them known/available either. It makes sense to me that copies would be available at Registration/Admissions as people get their wristbands/passes.

SAFETY

Please have wristbands for little kids more easily obtainable – such as at all Info & First Aid booths. Thanks. We "lost" a child on the first day of the Fair for 10 minutes and it was super-stressful. So, child wristbands easy to get would be helpful!

SANITATION

Also, the smell of the portapotty near the Shady Grove stage is really intense. The Fair needs to model appropriate technology in terms of bathrooms! Composting toilets! Humanure!

You are amazing. The toilet/waste removal system could & should be in line with the 7th Generation Principles. Composting the bodily waste of the community would be not only the "right" thing to do, but would be so much more enjoyable for everyone. There is a nasty waft-over from the current (very nice) but stinky toilets next to Shady Grove....Humanure for OCF! 2014

Bark dust for the toilets! One scoop after each use. Cuts down on smell and helps composting!!

The wooden outhouses behind the Youth stage would be improved if the urine was separated – male & female urinals and if the solid/poop had wood chips or lime to sprinkle on top.

Urinals by the Youth Stage are toxic, and should not be used during the Fair. The Honey Buckets are nearby and cleaned/pumped out daily. (received late 2012)

Really. Honey Buckets/other toilets are unsanitary without hand washing stations! Who wants ecoli? Please restore FarSide toilets with hand washing!!

My family camps in FarSide at the meadow, and for the first time there is no hand washing station on the south side (near the 4 portas). Lots of families with unclean hands (sanitizer ran out quick. Thanks!

We need kid friendly hand washing stations.

Outhouse smell strong at our booth – use more lime, enzymes, deodorizers? People come to our booth for a therapeutic experience and this can obviously take away from that. It would also help with general magic of Fair for first time fairgoers, etc.

And a reminder to do away with/better clean/change to urinals the bathrooms next to Youth Stage They stink! And the stink drifts go our booth all day long – yuk! Affecting the peace and atmosphere of the booth.... Especially the relaxing massage recipients! (received late 2012)

I think it's time for a crew (maybe teen?) to be responsible for going to all the bathroom areas, say each and every hour, and pick up litter (give them a garbage can and a few tools). This is so low cost, and would help everyone feel better!!!

SIGNS & BANNERS

Please consider putting the schedule of performances on boards like the maps. This could be at the info booths & at the crossings.

Directional signage very poor. Hard to find stages. Walked past Stage Left 3 times before finding "Stage Left"

Put up large, clearly readable and obvious speed limit signs on all roads and in all parking lots within the fair -- especially in a few spots along the entrance road, and right at the entrance. I saw many parking lot attendants screaming at cars that were going over 5 MPH, and they even ran after cars at times screaming like maniacs to try to get the cars to slow down. Yet, there was no expectation set at all that cars need to go 5 MPH at the fastest, because there were NO SIGNS to indicate this, except for one very small sign near the SCOF lot that said "5 MPH", and this was on the exit road, not the entrance road.

River Loop 6-Pack needs obvious sign in front of the toilets high up visible to people waiting in line, advising of men's urinal in back left, women's herinals in back right. It's not obvious. Too many people waiting in line to pee.

Please post a sign on either side of Dharma yoga & meditation area to please not play music or busk there. Buskers playing right outside dharma quiet area meant I couldn't hear the meditation teacher/lama. Thank you.

I'm very sad to see the black & white educational signs on Aero & Chickadee. Have we collectively become immune to our own creativity such that we ignore our responsibility to each other and this tribal gathering spot of ours. Just to clarify, I found consciousness raising to be more aligned with our values and effective when done with beauty and/or humor.

SITE

Fill pothole in front of info booth (didn't say which Info booth)

SOUND & LIGHT POLLUTION

I have been the booth rep of a crafts booth for the past 34 years. My booth is in a very quiet area of the Fair by Maple Common Par. Everyone in our neighborhood enjoys our quiet ambiance especially at night. A little ballroom dancing on the path or kids playing chess on the giant board is about it. The past 2 years with the giant "disco party" is like a slap in the face. What happened to "No Electrified Music"? Instead, we get blasting speakers (well over the sound limit) & flashing strobe lights. There was no way of hearing the person next to me at our neighborhood wine party. This kind of noise belongs out in the parking lot. Bring us back our quiet, nighttime village. (received late 2012)

I am requesting that the board conduct a survey of booth vendors regarding their feelings about after hours amplified music and stage time cut-offs.. For the past few years there seems to be an increase in amplified music at night and less consideration for vendors who have paid to camp in their booths and hope to get at least a few hours of sleep a night for the duration of the fair. I have read what the handbook states and have been told that there are hundreds of security staff on hand to handle over sights. In my experience, this has not been the case. I will say that a booth in my neighborhood that has set up as an all night amplified rockathon open mic noise station, did turn down their volume a bit and cancelled the open mic (previously running from 1:00 am to 4:00 am). I appreciate staff speaking to them and getting them to behave in a way that somewhat resembles what I read in the OCF handbook and exhibits some common courtesy.

Still - I do not think the booth is an approved stage?? and I do not think they had an amplification permit. What I am really looking for is clarification and enforcement of established guidelines. If any booth can set up an amplification system and play any noise they like all night long, it should be stated clearly. I think many vendors would buy fewer camping passes and just hire security guards to stay in their booth to protect merchandise, while renting a hotel room. If it is going to remain that approved stages need permits for amplification and that amplification ceases at midnight, I would like to know this and I would like to know specifically who to contact to have this reinforced. Also, I think it would be helpful to put a reminder in the "Peach Pitt" so people are clear and we can avoid some of the hostility that was present in our neighborhood this year. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

We had 'issues' with noise in the Far Side camp. There were drunks in the dome on 2 mornings at dawn making a racket; once with loud talking and laughing, this morning a group with a boom box too loudly playing hip-hop. They stopped both times when I asked them to do so, but REALLY, this should not be necessary.

We also had a camp (with the Rasta flagpole) by us playing loud hip-hop and rasta until way past midnight every night. I finally asked them to turn it down last night to get one night with rest before an early departure. They were not very cooperative and turned it right back on in 10 minutes, but did

turn it down around midnight or so. They did this even with another camp across the street trying to enjoy playing actual acoustic instruments. We had people we did not know stop at our camp and comment about the noise. I looked around for the camp hosts, but did not find them, or did not know where to look that late at night.

This morning the same group insisted on having a camera on a tripod not be moved. It was right in the way of our vehicle getting out. The guy was a real dick about it and got angry when we got near it. We finally just had to move it and leave rather than wait for him to make some other arrangement. I guess he was pissed after my asking them to quiet down last night

I totally understand partying, but there is a place for it IN the fair after hours. The camps should be refuges to get away for needed rest. This is true at all hours, and essential at night. We are all not able to party late and function to work our shifts, let alone enjoy the fair ambiance when subjected to noise abuse by uncaring neighbors.

Also, the camps ought to also be welcoming to acoustic music and singing, not recorded mass-market music. It is very difficult to strum, sing, fiddle, etc when loud recordings are being played.

I watched much excellent music over the three days of the Fair. And, I enjoy every opportunity to listen to the Shook Twins but on the Friday I felt that whoever was the sound engineer at the Main Stage at that time did a very poor job or was deliberately trying to sabotage their performance on the Main Stage. I heard other groups on the Main Stage and the sound levels then were fine. For the Shook Twins the sound levels were all over the place, usually too muted, and did not do justice to the performers. The next day on the Blue Moon stage the sound engineer there did a superb job of balance and levels for the Twins. On the Shady Grove stage on Sunday the engineer there did a fine job with the Twins on a small stage. But, for me, the whole sound experience on the Friday was frustrating rather than uplifting - what could be the reason? Thanks for listening.

Brian Keogh, Entertainment Coordinator responds: Humm, Well they used their own sound engenieer for the weekend & he did mix @ all 3 stages, so maybe your crowd placement was too close to the stage & the on stage monitors were interfering with the house sound??...That's just my guess...

From the guidelines: "If you are planning an event involving amplified sound at any time of year on the Fair site, you must obtain a permit from the Site Manager or the Operations Manager for your event. During the OCF event week, all permits will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Sound Amplification Permits may be determined, in part, with consideration of some or all of the following criteria: sound sheds, decibel levels, respectful interactions, and other permitted amplified events in close proximity or on consecutive nights in the same location. During the event week, the shut down for sound amplification is 12am Monday Thursday and 2am Friday through Sunday."

On Friday night, right after Main Stage mercifully shut down, maybe around 11 PM, a disco scene happened on the path just north of the Main Stage field. It was canned music, obnoxious to many of us, and totally shut down any hope of doing acoustic music jams on the path, which used to happen near there. I can't believe this was a permitted event, but I didn't know what to do about it, who to ask to shut them down if they were in fact not permitted. It's great to have guidelines, but we need a way to enforce them.

Night sound was cacophony this year. We had no less than 5 very amplified parties (full volume) well past 2am. As a person who works 9am-9pm Fair days, this is beginning to be very hard to handle. Saturday night sound did not stop til 4am, then started again at 6am. I really don't want to be one of the old farts but.... Seriously, it was painfully overwhelming. In the daytime, the auditory experience is wonderful – easily sway from one venue to the next. At night, just felt like an assault. I don't have a solution, just would like to make note – this was a crazy sound year.

I'm finally joining the chorus. What, you can't hear me? OK, I'll try shouting within my own camp. The music from Main Stage on Thursday & Friday nights was too loud. This would have been mitigated a little had I enjoyed the bands, rather I found it boringly repetitive. I missed drifting off to sleep to the acoustic jamming on the path.

The not so silent rave

We love listening to live acoustic, pleasant, positive music near our booth anytime! The new food booth has a travelling DJ with a silent rave that in the past years played one night til 2am. This year it was so awful. He played this gig Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights – all night. There was no nice, live music. We want the joy of live music back in our neighborhood. Thank you!

The Country Fair was an amazing experience for me. Everybody was very friendly and welcoming. I had a great time except at night it was hard to sleep because of the silent rave just outside our camp. It seems to go all-night and early into the morning. If they would just move away from the campsites, that would be great. Thanks!

***Move the silent rave at the newer food booth to the parking lot, out of the way. It isn't silent because for 4 nights in a row, till 5am, we heard yelling & cussing, and a megaphone. Our wonderful ambient, live music has disappeared. We want that back.

This was the worst fair ever for me in the 29 years of being a member! Ever since the new food booth moved in a few years ago, the young guy has been having "Silent Raves" all night long. He continues to have them 4-5 nights in a row. He has horrible blue lights that ruin the ambiance of the Fair. Because of his "silent" raves (they are not silent because hundreds of people show up drunk, drugged-out, and disorderly all night long, every night – stomping up dust and being very loud) we had a very hard time sleeping – noise & dust all night. We have had no live music around our neighborhood for years now. We used to have wonderful, live, acoustic music to listen to as we fell asleep at night. I thought it was against The Rules to have pre-recorded music at the Fair! On the third night of Forest's All Night Raves, I went over to Fair Central tower above Odyssey to ask someone to please have them stop at 2am Saturday night. The new girl at the counter said she would pass on the message. She told me to have a talk with them myself.

At 2am, I went to my neighbors to ask them to please stop now. I was ignored. I stayed until I got his attention. I asked him to please be kind & merciful & stop. He told me "it isn't about kindness & mercy. I am making money and I have hired DJs to come in every night to play pre-recorded music." (On top of the money they make from the food booth.)

I explained to him that I have worked hard all year to create my art and went through cancer treatments, that we wanted to sleep, would he please stop on this third night of causing loud noise & lots of dust from the stomping feet. He said, "No".

At 7am, when the Recycling Crew came by he blasted his megaphone, and rapped to them for 20 minutes on full blast. That was really mean as we didn't sleep much that night and then to be awakened so rudely.

It is really sad to me to be treated with such disrespect and to not get to enjoy the ambiance of the Fair with the magical candlelights and live music because some young punk wants to "rake in the dough."

I was very disappointed after I tried to get help with this by going to the Board meeting and not being heard and then writing a letter that I sent to the Board members, and going to Fair staff at the Fair. :(

I do love the Fair and all the goodness it provides and I still love all the people and sharing my joy with them.

Too much light

After long days of working in the booth, looking forward to strolling around in the evening, far too much light to enjoy that. Went back to camp only to be assaulted by overly loud & uninspiring bands on Main Stage on Thursday & Friday nights. Can we please dial this back a bit. I'd like to enjoy my evenings again.

When did nighttime on E 13th become downtown Las Vegas. OK, that's an exaggeration, but, I did have the feeling that I was approaching the great, white way as I exited Community Village and pondered which route I should take. Sadly, repelled by the glare, I usually headed in the opposite direction. I almost miss the propane lanterns, although their light was harsh, it was only momentary and intermittent.

Lasers

Yay glow stick ban! Now can we get rid of the finger lasers or the inconsiderate, artless abuse of them. I like a good light show, but most folks are just unaware that the light is shining into/damaging another person's eyes, causing headaches and possibly seizures. It literally makes my head spin and feel nauseous.

I had an experience this year that I thought should be shared. Sunday night at the fair I was wandering on the path with my brother and a guy with a laser on his finger was coming towards us. In the swinging of his hands he brought the laser across my eye which was very unpleasant. At this point I yelled "Hey, that was my in my eyes". He then proceeded to do the same thing again. At this point I turned to my brother and said something about him being an asshole. Granted this was not the best thing to do but in my inebriated state it is what happened. Apparently the individual heard my remark and as he walked by he got in my face about how I called him an asshole for shining a laser in my eye. I felt that this was rather ridiculous and shows the general lack of respect by all of the people that bring these things to the fair.

This whole issue with the fingertip laser is not anything new to me. Every year I hear from people that they get these shined in their eyes which is rather dangerous. Given the power and distance that they have, the user generally can't see far enough into the darkness to actually be able to tell if they are going to rake someone's face with the laser. I don't know anyone who likes them anymore because of the eye issue that happens quite frequently.

What I am wondering is if there is any way to regulate this so that people will not get the lasers shined in their eyes. I am by no means proposing a ban on all lasers but instead some way to control it and stop people getting them shined into their eyes. A couple of ideas that have been floated are:

1. Ban the fingertip lasers as they are the primary problem.
2. If you were going to have a laser on the path it would require some sort of laminate that you would have to show security. If the laminate was not present you either shut the lasers off or lose them.
3. Regulate a minimum height that the lasers have to operate at. This would mean people could walk down the path with them but they would have to attach the device to a pole or such and it would have to be off if it was below the minimum height.

As I mentioned above I totally understand people wanting lasers at the fair and I myself love a good laser show. However, it has been my experience for quite some time now that the people who bring them are either irresponsible with the fingertip lasers and/or very disrespectful when they do hit someone in the eye. Thanks for reading the rant.

TOWING

When I pulled into the crafts overflow lot to park, the parking attendant told me to park in a spot. As it turns out, it was a handicapped row he directed me to, and my car was towed. I don't think it's right that I should have to pay when I was told to park in that spot. I want my \$80 back.

I arrived a week before the Fair to volunteer my time. On arrival Security asked me to park in Trotters for the duration of the Fair. (I was the only auto there then.) At some time during the week, they unhooked my trailer and moved it to Tower lot and charged me \$80 to retrieve it. Your staff asked me to park there during the Fair. I put in many hours helping out the Fair!! with a proper parking pass. The staff needs to know the rules if they change. For 13 years, I have parked in Trotters and would have parked elsewhere if told. I would like this addressed with a refund of \$80 or future staff pass compensation. Note: they towed my trailer only – not my car from Trotter's.

TRAFFIC

Train your parking lot attendants to not scream "MOVE IT! MOVE IT!" at a car that is patiently waiting for another car to move, and to ask directions from the lot attendant. This happened to me about 10 minutes after I showed up on Tuesday evening, July 9th, near the SCOF lot. The person at the intersection near the SCOF lot screamed this at me, and I almost got out of my car to ask this man why he was screaming at me like an angry ogre when I didn't immediately move my car within 0.5 seconds of him waving his hand at me. This happened at about 6:00 PM on July 9th. I stayed in my car and slowly drove forward and stopped to ask him a question, and he calmed down a bit and answered my question.

I was totally shocked at how rude, impatient and angry he was at first. I determined to not let it ruin my night or fair, and it didn't. Still, that person should not have been in that job if that is the way he handles the "stress" of two vehicles patiently awaiting instructions from him as to where to go.

If it had been my first year at the fair, I probably would have immediately left and never come back.

Luckily, the other parking lot attendants I interacted with over the 7 days I was at the fair were positive, helpful and friendly.

Put up large, clearly readable and obvious speed limit signs on all roads and in all parking lots within the fair -- especially in a few spots along the entrance road, and right at the entrance. I saw many parking lot attendants screaming at cars that were going over 5 MPH, and they even ran after cars at times screaming like maniacs to try to get the cars to slow down. Yet, there was no expectation set at all that cars need to go 5 MPH at the fastest, because there were NO SIGNS to indicate this, except for one very small sign near the SCOF lot that said "5 MPH", and this was on the exit road, not the entrance road.

The cars I saw going over 5 MPH were going no more than 10 MPH, and there were very few people around at those times and those people who were around all saw the cars and were at least 15 feet away from the road, yet the lot attendants took off screaming angrily at the drivers, "Five miles per hour! SLOW DOWN! FIVE MILES PER HOUR!"

Being screamed at to slow down is a very rude way to be greeted at the Oregon Country Fair, a place that is supposed to have a festive spirit and a positive attitude.

If you want people to go no more than 5 MPH, post signs saying so. It will make it WAY EASIER on your staff and on people at the fair, and it will help maintain a friendly, positive attitude among all people at the fair. Well, that's all I have to say. Keep up the great work! And get those speed limit signs in the future - nobody likes to hear angry screaming at OCF, especially as one of their first impressions of the people working the fair.

WATER

Sinks by Shady Grove Herinal have huge mud puddle. More straw/sawdust please? Love the new herinals trough design, though!

The hand washing stations are so broken and run down, with no one to do repairs during fair. The hand washing at History booth this year had only one working faucet, and also flooded for hours. Sorry, but Crews should work the whole fair not just before/after. Upgrades Please!!!

Great to find so many spouts designed to fill water bottles whenever I needed one. I think I only had to inconvenience folks who wanted to drink from a fountain once.

I work at the OJ booth in Graceland. From where I was, I could see that the "mistors" at the water structure were putting out way more heavy a spray than just mist. By the end of the Fair there were two really mucky spots, and wouldn't you know it, the last thing I did on Sunday night before bed was to step in one on my way back from Politics Park.

It seems like if someone is setting up mistors, they should be responsible for sticking around or checking back to see that they are working right. I am pretty sure those particular ones never did work right, and they just got left that way.

We did not receive water barrels this year. We are the main booth on the corner & keep dust down. I would like to respectfully request permanent allocation of barrels. We would like and use 2 for main Chela Mela corner. Thanks.

I hadn't attended OCF in several years. I was happy to be bringing in several out of state friends for the 2013 event. Happy until we couldn't buy bottled water anywhere at the site. Being told by a food vendor that we would have to use the onsite water fountains we went to one. The vendor had given us cups to fill. After watching an entire family use both sides of the fountain area, putting their mouths directly onto the fountains, we decided not to use the onsite water. As a group we found this disgusting and unsanitary. Two of our groups also have a phobia about germs. We visited as many of the fountains as we could. And found the same problem over and over again. I do not carry bleach wipes with me and don't plan to do so ever. I also don't want to be forced to buy a sugary or caffeinated drink to stay hydrated. I am willing to buy water in a bottle. And am willing to re-cycle in the appropriate receptacle. What do we have to do to get bottled water available at the faire?

WIFI

I lost sales due to crappy wifi, and overloaded cell towers. If you're gonna have a world-class fair, then the technology needs to be world class for our customers and our crafters. I love the ambiance, but brothers and sisters, we need to help our crafters make a living. Please, get back to me.

After hearing from several vendors about the wifi fail and then to hear they could not submit this form i thought i would try. not to waste time i want to make sure fair understands that vendors feel very let down about wifi; lost sales, unhappy customers and a feeling of helplessness to change the situation take some of the peachy from their fair.

Response from Tony Clementi, Operations Manager:

We understand many vendors had an expectation of a full, complete and robust Wi-Fi network for credit and debit card processing at the Fair this year. We wanted to explain the status of the Wi-Fi project and the complexities of what some people may tend to easily over-simplify as just "providing some Wi-Fi". We understand crafter's needs and desires for access to an urban/business-class Wi-Fi Internet network for their business needs. We understand this ability is essential in this day and age to be competitive and to survive as a crafter. Obviously our event location exists in the woods of a rural floodplain with access to only a 1.5 Mbps DSL connection and upwards of 900 vendors spread over

countless wooded acres. Anyone that has Wi-Fi at home can understand the challenges of getting a good signal in all rooms of the house. Now imagine our forested setting, much of which sits underwater for many parts of the year. In 2013 The Board allocated over \$5000 for equipment upgrades to begin the process of implementing a vendor Wi-Fi network, and by Fair time this year, 60% of that network was up and functioning, and for many vendors it worked great. This entire project, like all other facets of the fair is being implemented by dedicated volunteers who must have not only advance networking skills, but advance tree climbing skill-sets to climb dozens of trees annually to connect and disconnect awkward and heavy transmitting equipment. Our volunteers designing and implementing this complex system and network thank you for your patience as they continue to install, test, refine and unroll this un-paralleled technical venture at the Fair to provide vendors capabilities that would otherwise only be available in an urban, or traditional event facility environment.

KUDOS

- I really loved the Fair this year! Thanks for the excellent entertainment
- I love the Fair and we love all you hard working volunteers!
- Thanks for a great event and for having it be cooler this year!
- And still.... it was the best Faire (for me) to date!
- We'll still have fun when the mosquitoes come back, but it was pretty special having them take a year off.
- Fair experience was amazing! Always an impressive display of logistical and fun-spirited awesomeness.
- One of my best fair years yet! Each year new things, as well as old, become magic in such a place. Thankyou for that! And the love! Volunteers care and it shows!
- Was happy to see family going along with glo-stick ban. ;-) best weather in a long time. no mosquitoes. music was awesome, best fair ever, best crowd, bus idea was genius

I'd like to extend my compliment of such a stunning and functional play structure in the new kids loop. And now a few things done well:

- Parking and transportation
- Performer s /Acts
- The energy level off the staff

Thank you to all who work so hard to make the Oregon Country Fair such a success. I'm very grateful that you continue to sustain such a lovely event year after year. May the Spirit of the Fair be with us always.

Again Far Side camping/security crew was very friendly and helpful (I mentioned this last year but want to say again), seem to have completely smoothed out the past problems of seriously aggressive/unhelpful interactions.

I'd like to thank everyone involved for making the OCF happen. Last year was my first year working at the fair, and I returned again this year to work at Sonny's India House for a 2nd time. I had an all-around great time, and hope to return for many years to come. The fair is well run, and I only have a few suggestions for ways to make it a better experience for everybody:

Hi! I just wanted to commend the OCF staff on a job well done. From our first encounter to the last, all the staff was friendly, out-going and really embraced the beautiful sense of community that is OCF. Also, parking/traffic, both entering and leaving was PHENOMENAL. I can't remember ever seeing such a well-organized and enchanting entrance to any event. And leaving was a breeze. Just my humble thank you to all hardworking and dedicated staff. Thank you :)

I had heard about the Country Fair here and there over the years but as life happens I had never previously attended. I myself am fairly liberal however my wife, Lindsey, is very conservative and reserved. I'm not sure what prompted me to look up the dates for fair a couple months ago but I did and I bought tickets for my wife and I to attend. When I told Lindsey that I had bought the tickets she wasn't sure if she wanted to go because she thought she would feel uncomfortable. I asked her to just let down her guard and go with an open mind; she did. I must say in all honesty that we both had the most amazing time! Your staff was fantastic; exceptionally helpful as we were fair virgins. The people who attended were equally fantastic. The food, sights and feeling of real community were things we had never experienced before. Lindsey has already put it on our calendar for next year and we are both so looking forward to attending again. I sincerely want to extend my gratitude to all those involved for putting on an amazing event.