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Black Butte Ranch opens \$5 million Lakeside pool, rec center



Spending a summer day at the new Lakeside recreation center, with swimming pool and dining at the bistro at Black Butte Ranch in central Oregon, eight miles west of Sisters. July 29, 2015. Terry Richard/Staff

Terry Richard | [The Oregonian/OregonLive](#)

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By **Terry Richard** | [The Oregonian/OregonLive](#)
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on August 09, 2015 at 6:30 AM

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Gonna be another hot summer weekend? You could be relaxing at Black Butte Ranch's new Lakeside recreation center with swimming pool and bistro.

The \$5 million development opened in June. You must be a home owner or overnight guest at the ranch to use the rec center, but lots of people have done that over the years.

Black Butte Ranch opened in 1970 as a destination resort, the closest in central Oregon from Portland and Salem, just over Santiam Pass on U.S. 20 before you get to Sisters. The location gives the resort ranch a great view of the central Oregon volcanoes, though peculiarly the Middle Sister is blocked from view by the North Sister when viewed from Lakeside.

Well, two of the three sisters are better than no sisters at all.



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-- Terry Richard
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gorgegirl12

9 days ago

@Moderate Extremist Even in the 80's, you needed a code to open the gates into the residential areas. I don't think that has changed. My former roommate and her husband have lived there for 25 years now.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



Carson Andrew

9 days ago

That settles it, I'm never going to Sunriver ever again!!!

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



abbazabba08

9 days ago

And the Californication of Oregon's natural beauty continues...

1 [Like](#) [Reply](#)



synesisveritas

9 days ago

@abbazabba08 -- Newsflash -- It's been happening since you and your white friends arrived in the Oregon Territory just over 200 years ago.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



SilverFallsAndrew

9 days ago

Looks beautiful. Almost makes me want to vacation there...I'll save it until I'm a few decades older and can't sleep on the ground after a long day hiking or fishing.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



Kev

9 days ago

@SilverFallsAndrew

I know the feeling..i am getting up there in age..but i use a cot now when camping (of course its car camping, but you can get up to quite remote places with a car if your inventive and dont mind a bit of damage .

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



Ed Numrich

10 days ago

Lots of memories of BBR from 1972-2000.

Like the nice sunny day in August having a drink in the bar while watching Nixon resign the presidency . . .

3 [Like](#) [Reply](#)



7azguy7

10 days ago

@Ed Numrich I recall being there in november of 84 when the Great Reagan destroyed boring, inept, disjointed walter f mundale. 49 states to 1. A wonderful evening.

3 [Like](#) [Reply](#)



Zebra151

9 days ago

@Ed Numrich

Ha, Watergate is chump change in scandal considering all Hillary Clinton has partaken in without even yet being president.....and by the way, won't ever be.

Good luck there limousine liberal, gonna be a tough 8yrs for you.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



yohocoma

10 days ago

Why celebrate a bunch of buildings, pavement, and other "development" - human intrusion into natural beauty? Black Butte is comfortable people using pretty mountains as a backdrop for practicing their wasteful lifestyles. Let them learn how to hike and camp. Disappointed that Terry Richard highlights this place.

2 [Like](#) [Reply](#)



kurmudgeon123

10 days ago

My friends and I like to do 8-10 mile hikes each day, and return to a place with a pool, and a nice hot tub to ease the pains of our aging bodies. Followed by a nice dinner out.

We do it because we're not that young anymore, we're not struggling just-out-of-college wage earners, and because we can afford it.

I enjoy the great outdoors ... But I also appreciate a good mattress and a hot shower.

We've coined the term "hotel hiking".

3 [Like](#) [Reply](#)



metrosucks
@yohocomma

10 days ago

Just cause it's legal now doesn't mean you should smoke pot 24/7, you know?

2 Like Reply



anotherOregonian
@metrosucks @yohocomma

9 days ago

Are you sure?

Like Reply



11rack
@yohocomma

10 days ago

" Black Butte is comfortable people using pretty mountains as a backdrop for practicing their wasteful lifestyles."

Those are the successful people, the job creators of society. Without them, pdx is an economic wasteland.

They have brought clean water and greenery to the baren sagebrush, their taxes and investments and developements also provide the many hiking/biking trails, which we all can share. Swimming and golf are two excellent forms of recreation and excersize, are you against health and fitness, as well as success?

God does not want you to die as a miserable lonely keyboard curmudgeon, begrudging the skilled hard workers of society some fun in the sun. Try it sometime, it's far healthier and more fun, than sitting on your __ss

hurling insults at your job-providing superiors.

2 Like Reply



sintos
@11rack

10 days ago

so we have these people to thank for Portland's economic state?

gee... uh... thanks?

(what point were you trying to make?)

Like Reply



11rack
@sintos @11rack

10 days ago

Neither bush nor obama did our economy any favors,
but yes, the successful employers who have kept at it, despite
massive tax and regulatory burdens, have done well against the
odds.

In a tanking economy, the slackers and troublemakers
get laid off, the survivors work harder, inovations are birthed,
and the business doors stay open another year.

My point is 'live long and prosper:
hating successful people is dumb.'

2 Like Reply



PDXdeej
@11rack @sintos

10 days ago

But taxing them isn't.

Like Reply



gorgegirl2
@11rack @sintos I wouldn't blame Bush and Obama as much
as I would blame the people of Oregon who don't want to give
up the personal income tax for the sales tax. It's the Oregon
taxes that are awful - including the property taxes.

9 days ago

Like Reply

11rack
@yohocomma

10 days ago



" human intrusion into natural beauty? "

God created this natural beauty, and the creatures in it, -->for humans<--

We are to be good stewards of this world, so that it can be better enjoyed and wisely utilized. Architecture, cooking, travel, agriculture, husbandry, mining, work ethic, invention, and play time, to all these things there is a season, You can enjoy them. Turn turn turn
You have permission.

Look at pdx, it is the oposite of Black Butte. Trash thrown down everywhere, strip clubs everywhere, thieves, dope dealers and gangbangers everywhere.

Old neighborhoods have crackerbox housing wedged in every space defined as a lot, parking is a mess, where it exists. People are tense and angry, ready to pull a trigger for any minor offence. Progressive? I don't think so.

And it's all getting worse. Wait til the new premiums and deductibles arrive, and people find out had bad they've been Madoffed.

2 Like Reply



PDXdeej

10 days ago

@yohocomo Jeeze...and you'd only be happy if we were living in huts until the day we die?

1 Like Reply



Zebra151

9 days ago

@yohocomo

I don't care for the place because I am cheap and would never join a place that would have me as a member, but knowing 100% positive you won't be there is enticing to join.

Like Reply



kurmudgeon123

10 days ago

Looks like a great facility ... Especially for only \$5M. Nothing City of Portland, or any metro area municipality, couldn't do for \$25M.

1 Like Reply



metrosucks

10 days ago

@kurmudgeon123

I'd go with \$100 million, especially in Portland.

Like Reply



11rack

10 days ago

@metrosucks @kurmudgeon123

It really needs a train form pdx, call Moonbeam, Hales has fortunes in consultant fees to hand out, now that the bridge to the 'couv is on hold.

1 Like Reply



Kev

10 days ago

Looks nice and happy for those that enjoy this type of thing.

Drive past it a lot in the summer when camping (somewhere like Blue Lake or along the Metolius).even if i had the money i would still like tent camping better.

To each his/her own!

1 Like Reply



11rack

10 days ago

@Kev

Every high schooler should get to row a lap around Blue Lake, as part of P.E. Then ride horseback in the mountains.

Do our black students realize there are great cowboys and cowgirls in their ancestry? Or does that not fit the common kore mold?

Like Reply



trolololo

10 days ago

Looks nice but doesn't hold a candle to Sunriver's SHARQ.

1 Like Reply



Sunny

10 days ago

@trolololo We went to Sunriver once, probably over 25 years ago, and I think we've been to Black Butte and Eagle Crest once. There's always a tendency to NOT go to places that are within a few miles. My bad.

1 Like Reply



trolololo

10 days ago

@Sunny @trolololo When I get down there (central Or), nothing seems far, 30+ miles to Hosmer lake seems like a trip to the grocery store. When I'm in PDX, 15 miles seems like a never ending journey. Some day I will retire in central Or, unfortunately, that day is not soon enough.

2 Like Reply



11rack

10 days ago

@trolololo @Sunny

There are careers in central Oregon. The lack of stress, lower crime rate, healthier environment in general, might be a medical miracle. If it meant you downsized the paycheck and lifestyle a little, remember, there are no U-Hauls allowed at the pearly gates...

1 Like Reply



gorgegirl2

9 days ago

@trolololo @Sunny If you are still young, try Lake Billy Chinook. Lots of waterskiing and coves to swim in while watching the wild mustangs on the Warm Springs Reservation. You can rent houseboats -

Like Reply



G2B

9 days ago

@trolololo BBR and Sunriver have always had a different feel. BBR under the radar, Sunriver, more commercial, more advertised, etc. To each their own.

Like Reply



Chuck

11 days ago

I wonder if Black Butte Ranch still bans motorcycles? I remember about 20 years ago when my wife and I were on our Honda Goldwing and they would let us in the gate. They said no motorcycles were allowed in Black Butte. But, Honda Goldwings? They're more quiet than most cars.

Like Reply



orsx

11 days ago

@Chuck Motorcyclists are usually part of a socioeconomic class that is not welcome at Black Butte. Blaming the motorcycle is their way of avoiding accusations of discrimination.

1 Like Reply



WashougalCommuter

11 days ago

@orsx @Chuck If that's true they should look at the cost of a fully loaded Goldwing...30-36k easy.

Like Reply



orsx

10 days ago

@WashougalCommuter @orsx @Chuck Motorcyclists tend to be the loud, beer belching, rowdy types with tats and beards. Black Butte wants the corporate board room look that sips fine wines.

1 Like Reply



Sunny

10 days ago

@orsx You sure paint with a wide (false) brush. My husband rode Harleys for decades, he's quiet as can be, hasn't had a beer in 30 years, never been in a fight of any kind, doesn't have a single tat but he does have a well-trimmed beard.

2 Like Reply



orsx

10 days ago

@Sunny @orsx Your husband isn't what Black Butte wants. The Harley and the beard won't cut it. They want aging frat boys.

Like Reply



Kev

10 days ago

@orsx @WashougalCommuter @Chuck

LOL your funny.

Most that drive those expensive bikes are professionals with good careers.

3 Like Reply



WashougalCommuter

10 days ago

@Kev @orsx @WashougalCommuter @Chuck How was I funny? I never said what most riders of Goldwings are - did you notice that? So, I am unclear how your comment makes any sense at all in context. Was it your inability to read in context i.e. your misunderstanding that prompted your 'lol' - indeed. And that is funny.

Like Reply



WashougalCommuter

10 days ago

@orsx @WashougalCommuter @Chuck That's almost certainly true.

Like Reply



Chuck

10 days ago

@orsx @Chuck

I still think the reason for the ban is noise. They probably had issues with noisy motorcycles in the past.

Like Reply



11rack

10 days ago

@Chuck

"They said no motorcycles were allowed in Black Butte. But, Honda Goldwings?"

Maybe call ahead, and chat with a manager? Offer a ride to Sparks Lake...

Like Reply



gorgegirl2

9 days ago

@Chuck It's more the noise than the motorcycle itself.

Like Reply



barttels

11 days ago

There's always one sister who tries to hog the show.

I stayed at Black Butte with my father for some legal convention when it first opened. Central Oregon was so open then.

1 Like Reply



Terry Richard | The Oregonian/OregonLive

11 days ago

@barttels The North Sister does overshadow the Middle, even though the way the sun shines it should be the other way around.

1 Like Reply



orsx

11 days ago

Freezing cold for 10 months out of the year. What a joke.

Like Reply



Terry Richard | The Oregonian/OregonLive

11 days ago

@orsx OSU extension service says this: Central and Eastern Oregon; short growing season of 90 to 120 days; frost can occur during any month. This is from 2010 and they may need to take into consideration the changing climate

The BBR outdoor pool is for use during the main ranch visitation season, May to October. The Lakeside Bistro will be open year round. It is a very nice new amenity for a cherished Oregon vacation destination.

**blazerbeav**

11 days ago

@Terry Richard | The Oregonian/OregonLive @orsx Definitely a great addition to one of my favorite vacation destinations - can't wait to check it out!

Like Reply

**barttels**

11 days ago

@Terry Richard | The Oregonian/OregonLive @orsx

I checked the prices on the website and they're not bad at all!

Like Reply

**robvolz**

11 days ago

@orsx Now we have never met, but I've noticed a pattern with your posts; they are always negative.

Central Oregon is beautiful year-round. The fall is crisp and the hiking is great. The winter months are breathtaking.

Try not to be so down in the mouth on every single article O-live posts and get out there and look for the beauty in life.

10    Like Reply**Sunny**

10 days ago

@orsx I've lived in CO for over 15 years and you don't know what you're talking about. 300+ days of sunshine a year beats the heck out of 300+ days of overcast and rain.

Like Reply

**orsx**

10 days ago

@Sunny @orsx If you like Juniper trees, rattlesnakes and freezing cold, which I don't. LOL

Like Reply

**Sunny**

10 days ago

@orsx I'll agree about juniper. But in all these years the only rattlesnakes I've seen have been on the roads (where I do my best to eliminate them) and I live way out in the country surrounded by rocky canyon walls -- maybe they just don't like my property? As for freezing cold, we don't have very many days where it stays under freezing. There are so many valley transplants over here and I've yet to meet any who'd trade Central Oregon for anywhere else in Oregon.

Like Reply

**barttels**

10 days ago

@Sunny @orsx

Nobody likes it, don't you understand? That's why it's exploded over the last couple or three decades.

2   Like Reply**11rack**

10 days ago

@Sunny @orsx

Them rattlers are mighty tasty when seasoned and browned, then simmered in a mild or spicy colorado sauce, served with fried potatoes-onions, and plates of buttery biscuits, with hot coffee.

1  Like Reply**11rack**

10 days ago

@orsx @Sunny "If you like Juniper trees, rattlesnakes and freezing cold, which I don't. LOL"

My grandfather replaced hundreds of acres of Juniper, with lush green alfalfa fields. The Cattle knew what to do with a rattler. The cold is even better when changing irrigation lines in the early morning, boy that alfalfa can soak up some dew.

1 Like Reply



11rack
@orsx

10 days ago

" Freezing cold for 10 months out of the year. What a joke."

What's your beef? Making love by a crackling fire in some central oregon vacation spot,

is one of lifes greatest pleasures. Hot coffee in the morning, crisp clean fresh air, a leisurely walk, or spritely jog somewhere to get the blood flowing, sun warming things nicely in the blue sky afternoons.

Maybe it's you Occupy wannabees in gang-central pdx who are cold at heart, 24/7?

1 Like Reply

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