

Exhausted Mountain Biker Rescued

by Cheryl McDermott

An exhausted mountain biker who suffered scrapes and bruises from several crashes throughout the day was rescued from a trail west of Bend Sunday night when it became too dark for him to see without his glasses, said authorities.

Dennis Vogt, 56, of Bainbridge Island, Washington began biking with his companion Rob Johnson, a 52-year California resident from Irvine, from the North Fork/Flagline Trail about 1 p.m. October 1, but badly misjudged the amount of time required to complete the ride.

Vogt, exhausted, scraped and bruised from several mishaps during the day, was increasingly unable to see without his glasses as it grew darker and sent Johnson for assistance, said Sgt. Dan Swearingen. Johnson hiked out to a roadway, flagged down a passing motorist and hitched a ride into Bend where he summoned help.

Shortly before 9 p.m., the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office received a report of a possibly injured and tired mountain biker at Swampy Lakes Shelter. Members of the search and rescue unit located Vogt in good condition, and he and Johnson were transported to their vehicle near Tumalo Falls, said the sergeant.

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