Gorge Tech Alliance Newsletter

June 2016

Diamond Sponsor

GTA Members

Welcome to our newest members!

- **Coffman Engineers**, *Full Member*
- Rick Borek, *Associate Member*
- Sean Corcoran, *Associate Member*

June 30 Deadline: Matching Fundraising Challenge for GTA College Scholarship

The June 30 deadline to have your donations to the GTA's college scholarship fund matched is fast approaching! An anonymous donor has issued a challenge grant so that **every dollar you contribute to the GTA's Corwin Hardham Memorial Scholarship before June 30 will be equally matched.** In other words, your $50 contribution becomes $100 in the fund.

This college scholarship supports students like Connor Abbot (see next article) from the Columbia Gorge pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering or math. The fund is managed by the Gorge Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, so your contribution is fully tax-deductible. **Click here to donate now to our scholarship fund.** Please click the "Donate Now" button and then enter "Corwin Hardham Memorial Scholarship" when prompted where to direct your donation.

Thank you for your contributions so that we can continue to offer and grow the scholarship!

Connor Abbott Selected as First-Ever Scholarship Recipient

The GTA is pleased to announce that Connor Abbott of Goldendale is the first-ever recipient of the Corwin Hardham Memorial Scholarship, our new scholarship to support Gorge students attending college for science, technology, engineering or math degrees. Connor recently graduated from Goldendale High School with a 3.758 GPA and a passion to save human lives through use of robotics. He excelled on his high school's VEX robotics team and will be attending Washington State University this fall to focus on Mechanical Engineering. With a single, working mom and a sister close in age preparing for college, Connor needs all the financial help he can get to realize his dreams of developing better bomb disposal robots or interstellar rovers. We hope to have Connor at our July 19

Summer Party so you can all meet him!

GTA Member News

- **Many congratulations to Gorge Networks for recently celebrating their 20th Anniversary!**

- **Insitu** and **Hood Tech** have been working on FLARES, a new quadcopter-based system to launch Insitu's ScanEagle, and plan to have it ready for production in late 2017. Read more and check it out here!

  GTA Members, don't forget to share your news with us!

STEM Education Updates

- **The Columbia Gorge STEM Hub has an immediate opening for a Coordinator. This is an important role to support and develop STEM education opportunities in the Gorge. Please spread the word.**
- **Hood River Hobbies** is giving away several hundred rechargeable batteries to support the creative projects of Gorge inventors, robotics clubs, makers, etc. Send them your idea by July 30! View the flyer for more information.
- The GTA is helping host a **free coach workshop for FIRST LEGO League** on July 30 in Hood River. Read more about the event and how to register here.
- The **Hood River STEM Fair** planned for June's First Friday was rescheduled for July 1, 5-7pm instead. Stop by Oak and 2nd Streets for hands-on fun.
- There are some **great local STEM summer camps** to get your youngsters engaged this summer! Check out those provided by:
  - Cascade Mountain School
  - FIRST LEGO League camps hosted by Hood River Valley High School's robotics students
  - Gorge MakerSpace
  - Wasco County 4-H

GTA Updates

- Thanks to the all the members who took our recent member survey! Congrats to Jonathan Lewis of Hire Electric for winning the Springhouse Cellar Winery gift certificate given to one lucky survey-taker!
- The GTA recently refreshed the look of our website and we would love your feedback! Head over to crgta.org to check it out.

GTA Events

June 28: Featured Event with SOAR Oregon.
Looking for a grant to help your company's UAS project? How can you and why should you use Oregon's UAS Test Ranges? Come find out! June 28 at White Buffalo Wine Bar (4040 Westcliff Dr., Hood River). 6:30pm networking with introductions, 7:00pm presentation. Appetizers provided. Free for members, $10 for non-members. Read more.

July 19: GTA Summer Party!
RSVP now for our annual GTA Member Summer Party! Connect with your peers in the region's tech industry while you enjoy burgers and beers on the patio at Zepher. Planning is also in the works for some fun games to pit our members against each other!

GTA Members-only. RSVP required. July 19, 5:30pm at Zepher (310 South Larch St., Bingen).

July 27: Geek Lunch on Tools and Tricks for Software and Productivity
For this summer get-together, we are inviting software developers and power users to share their development tool and project management setups and processes. This will be informal and can range from simple verbal discussion of your tools and tricks, to plug in your laptop and give us a tour! You could discover some cool ways to do things faster, simpler, better. Noon at China Gorge in Hood River. Free for all, no-host lunch.

Job Openings with GTA Members

The Gorge is hiring!

- 4-Tell is seeking a Business Development Leader.
- Cloud Cap has a number of openings, including Business Development Manager, Senior Software Engineer, and Program Manager, among others.
- Custom Interface has openings for Purchasing Clerk, Assembly Specialists, Customer Support Specialist and Inside Sales Manager.
- **Electronics Assemblers Inc**. is seeking an Account Manager (job info) and a Manufacturing Engineering Tech (job info).
- Google The Dalles is seeking Data Center Facilities Techs.
- Gorge.net is seeking a Network Engineer.
- Innovative Composite Engineering has openings for a Manufacturing Operations Manager, Technical Sales Engineer and Composite Techs.
- Some of Insitu's many openings include Material Coordinator, Fall Internships, Mechanical Engineer and Engine Design Engineer, among others.
- Sagetech is seeking a Lead Hardware Engineer and Software Engineering Intern.
- Sightline Applications is seeking a Video Algorithm Software Engineer.
- Seeq has openings for an Analytics Engineer, Back End/ Full Stack Engineer, Software Engineer and Sales Executive.

FAA Announced Important Rules for Small UAS This Week

In a long-awaited move, the FAA announced the release of Part 107, new rules for commercial operations of small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS) under 55 pounds. To quote Chuck Allen of SOAR Oregon: "The really big deal is that now, under Part 107, instead of 5500 sUAS operators flying under a patchwork quilt of exemptions and waivers, within the next few months, there will be thousands of commercial drone users operating under formal rules. For many applications, Part 107 is all they need to commercialize their operation.

"Part 107 creates a legitimate way for most operators to get into the air quickly and legally...With the removal of the hassle of the 333 exemption, we expect to see a lot more innovation come quickly. The larger platforms will facilitate larger payloads and more creative applications."

This is great news for the Gorge's UAS industry! (And just so you don't have to Google it, the ScanEagle is 44 lbs.) Read the FAA's press release here.

Win $10,000 for Your Cleantech Startup: July 15 Deadline

Are you ready to launch or grow your cleantech startup? Apply

by July 15th to present your business plan to a panel of investors and compete for the [Cascadia CleanTech Prize!](#) They are seeking launch-stage and growth-stage startups from Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and British Columbia who have compelling clean technologies and viable business strategies. In Oregon BEST FEST's second annual Cleantech Pitch FEST, nine cleantech startups will compete for $10,000 in non-dilutive funding, in-kind prizes, and introductions to angel investors.

Virtual Incubation Program Looking for Gorge Businesses

The Oregon Technology Business Center is offering a great program for our rural entrepreneurs this summer: a Virtual Incubation Program. Get all the help from their top-notch programs with mentoring, workshops and lots of support, all online in a virtual environment so you don't have to drive into Portland. The program starts July 12 through August 16. [Learn more or apply today!](#)

Drive Oregon's Matching Grant Program Open

Drive Oregon offers grants of up to $50,000 to support businesses developing new technology, products, or services in Oregon for electric vehicles.Their Matching Grant Program is now open and accepting applications through September 7, 2016. Successful applicants will receive a direct pledge to match up to 20% of their other funding sought, with a minimum award of $5,000 and a maximum award of $50,000.
[Click here](#) to learn more about the program and how to apply, and [here](#) to see a list of previous awards.

Oregon State University Offers UAS Remote Sensing Course This Fall in Corvallis

Oregon State University is again offering the Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Remote Sensing course (FE 423/523) in Fall term in Corvallis. This is an applied UAS course that requires students to design and complete a UAS-based remote sensing project. Their platform is the 3DR Solo but skills learned in this course should translate to other platforms. [View the syllabus here](#) or contact the professor [Michael Wing](#) with questions.

Learn about the "West Coast Electric Highway", June 30 with Drive Oregon

Join Drive Oregon on June 30th for a "trip" along the West Coast Electric Highway, the first and longest electric vehicle charging corridor in the United States. This public/private project provides electric vehicle drivers access to DC fast chargers and Level 2 chargers along the I-5 corridor through Washington, Oregon, and, in the near future, all of California. The Highway is a testament to the creativity and collaboration between the three West Coast states, which partnered to design and implement the project with the support of federal funding. June 30, 3pm, Kell's Irish Pub in Portland. [Read more.](#)

TAO Offers Webinar Series on HR Benefits

Join the Tech Association of Oregon on Wednesday, July 20th for the first of a three-part webinar series geared to help ease the busy summer season of benefits decisions. The lunchtime presentations and discussion will provide HR professionals with a well-rounded panel of speakers reviewing industry benefits.

Part one of the series will focus on benchmarks and trends involving benefit design for HR employees to consider. As the health needs of employees evolve, there is an increase of creativity needed vs. just copying traditional benefit packages from year to year. Questions to be answered during this session:

- What are the types of alternative benefits that are trending and/or fading?
- What kinds of creative examples have employers offered for benefits cost sharing?
- What are some of the sharable learning lessons around increasing value of benefits without the cost?
- What are examples of the successful companies that are balancing innovative and traditional benefits?

The first webinar is July 20, 11:30am to 12:30pm. Read more or register here.

Event Calendar

Great events in and out of the Gorge of interest to our tech community:
June

- June 28: GTA Featured Event with SOAR Oregon. 6:30pm at White Buffalo. More.
- June 30: Drive Oregon West Coast Electric Highway. 3pm in Portland. See above.

July

- July 15: AUVSI Cascade Chapter Summer Party, 5pm, Camas. Register.
- July 19: GTA Summer Party, 5:30pm at Zepher. More.
- July 19: OEN Workshop: Beyond Angels - Understanding the Complete Funding Landscape. 3pm, Portland. More.
- July 20: TAO Webinar on HR Benchmaking and Trends. See above.
- July 20: OEN CEO Roundtable with Dave Shanley: From Starting Up to Scaling Up. 11:30am, Portland. More.
- July 20-21: Drive Oregon's annual Electric Vehicle Conference, Portland. More.
- July 27: GTA Geek Lunch on Tips and Tricks for Software and Productivity. Noon at China Gorge.

Looking Ahead

- September 8-9: Oregon BEST FEST, Cleantech Innovation Conference in Portland.
- October 17-19: Pacific NW Software Quality Conference in Portland.
- October 19-21: AUVSI Cascade Chapter Fall Conference in Portland. Save the date!
- October 20: PNDC Supply Chain Opportunities Conference in Portland.
- October 20-21: Oregon Connections: Generation Mobility Conference in Hood River.