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Meet the “Rebels by Bus,” champions of slow travel

Taking the bus saves money, no doubt, but it can also be a grand adventure according to Gail Johnson and Mary E. Williams. The two public transportation activists and intrepid bus riders will discuss using public transportation for leisure travel at the [Olympia Timberland Library](#) on Thursday, April 21 from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

The Rebels will share some of their best tips for trips around the greater Puget Sound area from simple one-bus outings to complex excursions around the Olympic Peninsula. They'll also show the audience around their blog at www.rebels-by-bus.net that features dozens of trips starting from Olympia and elsewhere. Itineraries include what each destination offers, which buses to take at what time, things to see and do—and how to get back. Their new brochure outlines three of their favorite excursions: Lake Quinault Lodge, the Theo Chocolate Factory in Seattle, and the monthly Tacoma Artwalk.



Some of the dozens of resources on the website include Bus Basics, Greater Puget Sound Transit Systems, Trip Planning Resources, Other Bus Blogs, one-two-and-three bus trips, Bus and Train Combos, and From Downtown Seattle. There's more, but that gives an idea of the wealth of information the Rebels offer.

Applying the values of the slow cooking movement to travel, Johnson and Williams hope to inspire people to use public transportation. They also think of bus travel as a kind of rebellion, declaring "...our independence from oil and the culture that says we must rush, rush, rush around. The bus rides themselves are also... a gentle reminder that people are helpful and friendly no matter where you go." Incidentally, they also point out that the National Safety Council rates bus travel as 25 times safer than car travel.

Johnson and Williams are Olympia-based, experienced retired teachers, writers, and public administrators. They provide the Rebels by Bus (RBB) blog as a public service—and, one suspects, because it's fun.

The Olympia Timberland Library is located at 313 8th Avenue SE. For more information, please contact the library at (360) 352-0595 or go to www.TRL.org.