

CAPE FOULWEATHER

NEWPORT AREA SHOOTERS GUIDE

VIEWPOINT

GULL ROCK

MARINE GARDENS

OTTER ROCK

DEVILS PUNCHBOWL

SECRET ACCESS ROAD

STARFISH BEACH

CRITESERS

YAQUINA HEAD

NEWPORT

TRESTLES

PUBLIC DOCKS

YAQUINA

PARK

MARINE SCIENCE

MARINA

RIVER

DEAVER CR.

BEACH ACCESS

TRAIL

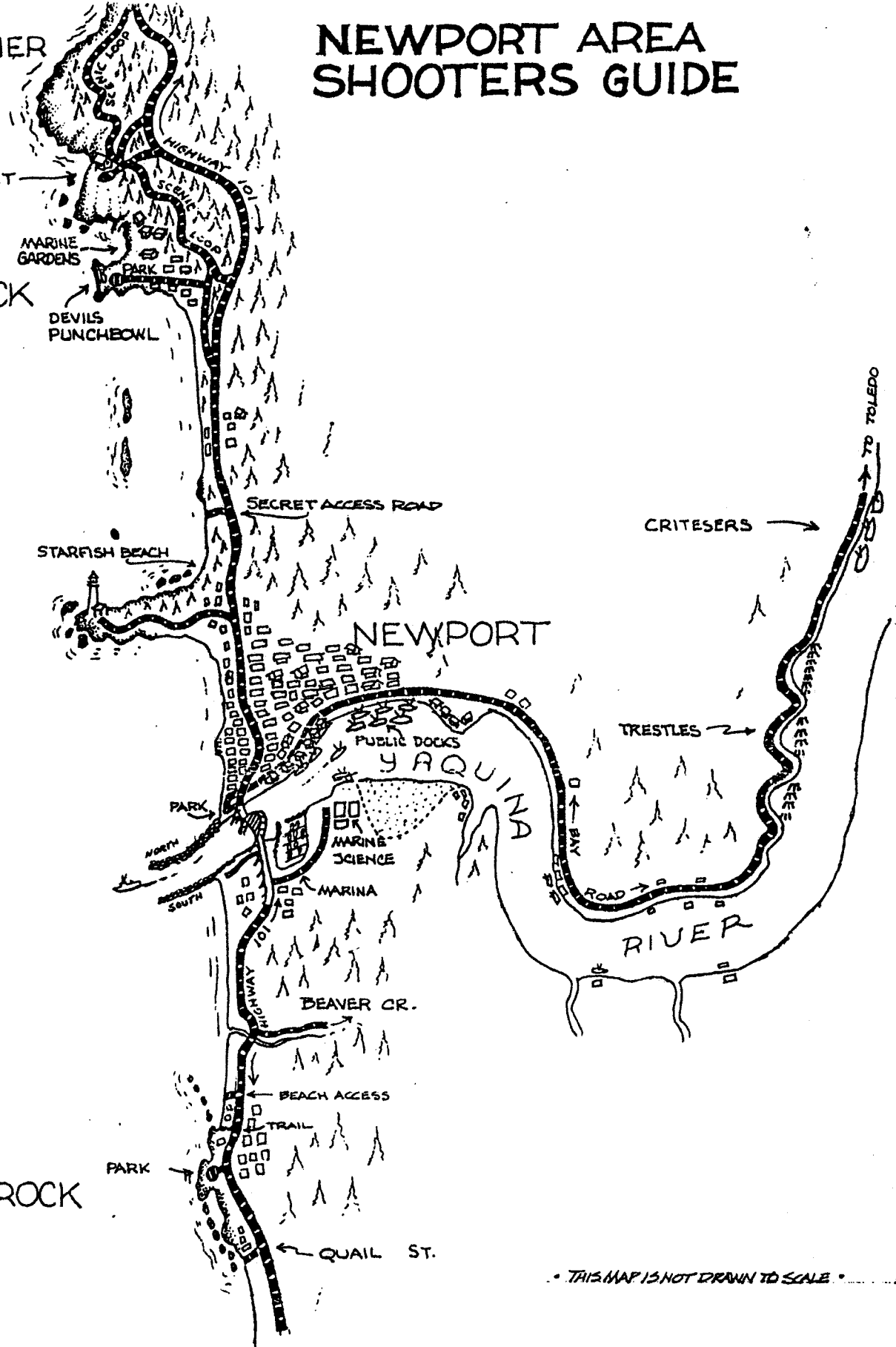
SEAL ROCK

PARK

QUAIL ST.

TO TOLEDO

• THIS MAP IS NOT DRAWN TO SCALE •



MORNING SHOOTS

Cape Foulweather: There's an all-time great view to the south from the top viewpoint just off 101 on nice mornings when some of the ground fog conditions are occurring. Usually a better evening shot. Cape Foulweather is shown at the top of the map and is the very prominent landform about 10 miles north of Newport. One of the real highlights.

Otter Rock: The tiny community of Otter Rock is located at the base of Cape Foulweather, immediately to the south and includes Devils Punchbowl State Park and Marine Gardens. Except for Marine Gardens (see below) this area favors evening light. An exception might be the south point in the park which will someday yield a spectacular shot to anyone who arrives there at sunrise when the surf is big and breaking on the point (occasionally in the winter) and first light isn't obscured by clouds (very seldom).

Marine Gardens: This is one of the best tidepool shoots on the entire coast. This area is accessed by an official paved trail from the parking lot just northwest of the restrooms in the park. This trail is not signed well but there are a couple of small signs so look closely. **IMPORTANT:** This area is dependant on good solid morning minus tides to work well so check your tidebook. The lowest and best tides occur every second week during the summer months. Also, you can vastly increase your effectiveness in this area by wearing a good pair of knee-high rubber boots. At the south end of the beach, at low tide only, is the access into the Punchbowl. The tidepool areas extend the full half mile length of the beach. The absolute best area is at the extreme north end. It's best only because it requires scrambling over stretches of slippery rocks to reach, which eliminates nine out of ten people. This creates an absolutely pristine three hundred yard section loaded with thousands of purple urchins and hundreds of starfish and anemones. This area is home to the occasionally unusual creature and is worth the effort of the determined photog. Just beware the slippery rocks and proceed with caution.

Yaquina Head Lighthouse: Trust us, the very best light for morning shoots occurs in the summer. Then the relatively seldom shot angle from Starfish beach, just to the north of Yaquina Head is great at dawn and for the first hour or so of morning. It can be a nice shot during other seasons too. Starfish beach is one of the nicest and least populated beaches in the Newport area. It lies off the beaten path and seems relatively little known, possibly because it can be a long walk at low tide or inaccessible at higher tides, unless...one knows the secret access road. A one lane, gravel road, unmarked, descends to the beach and a good parking spot. To find this road proceed north from Newport on 101 and drive on past the lighthouse access road in Agate Beach. Then, as you descend past the hilltop beyond Agate Beach look for the road on the left at the bottom of the descending grade, in a small draw a few tenths of a mile past the lighthouse turnoff. During the winter, it may be as productive to drive to the lighthouse and walk down the stairs to the beach below for a nice view of the lighthouse with a good foreground.

Newport Public Docks: Newport's famous docks and commercial fleet are well situated for morning shoots all year. There are many angles and many variations. Those of us who are morning light addicts will arrive early, at least a half hour before sunrise. From then the light will be good for at least an hour. You can shoot from the docks but stay out of the way of the working fishermen and don't even touch the boats. Also, see the storage yards adjacent to the east end of the docks. There the many piles of brightly colored nets can serve as foreground objects in wide angle shots of the boats, or can be colorful subjects themselves.

The Bay Road: A long time favorite morning drive, this paved secondary road is an eastward extension of Newport's bayfront main drive and follows the Yaquina Rivers' north shore for several miles up to Toledo. Very estuarine in mood and has some of the most beautiful morning

conditions anywhere on the coast. On the frequent good mornings, there always seems to be something going on. Fog can be an important element and frequently adds to the mood. One highlight on some mornings can be the striking old abandoned railroad trestles about eight miles up. The trestles are situated well for sunrise shoots, and with a calm morning reflections can play a part, too. At about ten miles above Newport, Critesers Marina has some of the nicest, prime old wooden salmon trollers docked there, and is a potentially strong sunrise spot. The shoreline along the road is frequented by Blue Heron and White Egrets can be seen seasonally along with a occasional Bald Eagle.

Yaquina Bay Bridge: The #1 Newport icon, this bridge has been done from every angle one could imagine. The bridge is commonly shot from a couple of easily accessible spots within the State park at the north end, so everyone has some of these. Your dog has shot pictures from these places. One good strong alternative is to descend the trail at the park's extreme south end (near the historical sign). From the trail's end on the beach, walk around the south end of the point and find a angle near the end of the North jetty. At low tides, one can move out on the smooth rock shelf for a selection of closer angles near the jetty. The sunrise is behind the bridge at various advantages throughout the year from these angles. be careful if you pursue an angle from the beach east of the bridge as the Coast Guard likes to run subversive photographers off "their" beach there. One seldom used "secret" spot is on the cliff-line directly under the north end of the bridge and only a few yards off the paved road there. If you can find this place, which is on the cliff's edge and a few yards east (upriver) from the bridge, you'll have an unusual perspective. This is a good wide angle view down the structure's east side and takes in the winter sunrise sky nicely. On certain sunrise conditions, the light reflects off the metalwork of the bridge brightly, and gives this angle an unusually nice, strong touch.

Beaver Creek: This pristine estuary is located just off 101, about seven miles south of Newport. Turn east off 101 directly opposite Ona Beach State Park. Beaver Creek's estuary surrounds the first mile or so of this paved road. This area can have some lovely light in the morning and some strong ground fog moods.

EVENING SHOTS

Cape Foulweather: The westward facing cliffs soak up the evening light and present numerous opportunities. There are many spots along the road throughout the north end of the scenic loop which allow the photographer to look back along the cliffs to the south. This area is at its moody best during winter and the accompanying storm surf which will put on a show along the cliffs. Once again, the best chance may be the strong view off the top of the mountain, from the viewpoint which is located just off 101, and is signed on the highway. This viewpoint commands a sweeping view of the coastline for 35 miles to the south, and gives a bird's eye view of Otter Rock and Marine Gardens directly below to the south. This spot is mentioned briefly in the morning section, but is generally a better evening shoot.

Otter Rock: (Devil's Punchbowl State Park) The attraction here, besides a panoramic sunset view behind the offshore rocks, is the warm colored sandstone rocks below the park. In this terrace, the Punchbowl itself, which is a collapsed cave in the terrace, is the most obvious subject as seen from the park. It's a challenging subject since it's in deep shadows while the surrounding rock is well lit. Probably shoots the best on an overcast day or in the morning before the sun lights up the terrace. As is described in the morning section, the Punchbowl can be entered from below, at low tide, from the Marine Gardens beach to the north. For the adventuresome and relatively athletic photographer, there are two rugged and steep trail/chutes which drop down to the terrace to either side of the Punchbowl. However, one must first hop the cliff-line fence which may break some law, and scramble down to the terrace. To this writer, this is the best shooting at Otter Rock. For sure, the terrace area

is relatively un-shot, and to those of us who have shot from there (Craig Tuttle included) it is a very worthy rival to the overdone Cape Kiwanda. In evening light the warm color of the terrace rocks is amplified and contrasts nicely with the cool tones of the ocean, as is seen in shots of Cape Kiwanda. With the terrace rock's nice sculpted shapes, this could be a good black and white shoot. 4x5 types could do well from the terrace.

Yaquina Head Lighthouse: To be sure this lighthouse has been shot nearly as much if not more as the bridge. One can almost find the tripod holes around the structure's most obvious angles of view. Perhaps a bit of originality is called for. So, once again, we'll offer the Starfish Beach view. This beach, which is situated to the immediate north of Yaquina Head, has great sunset possibilities during fall winter and spring. See the directions to this relatively secluded and lovely area in the morning section. An evening low tide during the winter months reveals numerous tidepools and rock formations, which provide good foreground shapes. The lighthouse itself is perfectly fixed on the Head in the background of any shot you might compose. During the summer months, the sun sets so far to the north, that shooting from starfish is not as good as driving out to the lighthouse itself. Once there, instead of joining the throngs shooting from the parking lot, why not descend the stairs to the picturesque beach below for a look at some of the possibilities.

Yaquina Bay Bridge: This dominating structure happens to be oriented most favorably for winter sunsets, those most fickle of sunsets. To the determined soul, a bit (or a lot) of exploring around the waterfront will reveal some winter angles. A look around the eastern end of the waterfront will probably be the most fruitful. Arguably the most popular sunset view requires driving across the bridge into South beach and following the signs towards Marine Science. Turn off to the left into South beach Marina and park. A short walk out to the marina reveals several varieties of views which include the docks there as foreground with the bridge towering in the immediate background. This area favors the wide angle lens, so close is the bridge.

Seal Rock: Seal Rock is located right on 101, about 8 or 9 miles south of Newport (and at the bottom of the map). It includes Seal Rock State Park. This area is a prime spot for waves and sunsets and can be shot in the morning too. Since it is completely open to the evening light, it favors sunset conditions. Should one visit the coast during a spectacular winter storm this area would be a good choice to shoot (along with Otter Rock, described above). Seal Rock has tidepools also. Look, Steve Terril shoots here so what's that tell you? There are two secret spots here which Steve probably doesn't know of. The first is hidden at the extreme north end and can be seen from the park area but there's no access from there. This area can be reached by a secret trail which descends off the shoulder of 101 directly opposite the Seal Rock Community center, which itself is located to the east of the highway and north of the park entrance. Or, if you need the exercise, one can reach this north area by walking in from a public parking area maintained by the county. This parking area is located about a mile north of Seal Rocks and is a good access point for the beaches north of Seal Rocks. The second secret spot is the extreme south end of the rocky area and can be easily reached from the end of Quail Street, which turns off 101 less than a mile south of Seal Rock. Both of these places provide some nice evening opportunities, and the south end can also provide some morning tidepool shots. The state park has trails to the main beaches of Seal Rock proper. There are also trails to the beach from the several turnouts along 101 above the beach. This area can be quite crowded during nice weather and low tides.

Of course, there are many more areas which can provide some good photo opportunities, such as the north and south jetties for various views of the bay and boat traffic and the bridge. But this information should get you started and no telling what you can discover on your own. Good Shooting!