

Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA Caretaker Meeting Minutes

Wednesday January 14, 2015

Location: REI Clackamas

Welcome

- Welcome: Carole Dearholt, new caretaker of the 400 trail that Leif was fostering
- Absent: Leif, Dennis B.
- Attended: Tyler, Liz, Robert (Pace), Ron, Jim, Tammy T, Tim L, Jerry, Summer, Tami S, Chris K, Ruth, Rick, Becky, Steve Q, Steve P, Kim, Pam, Lamar, Kelley, Justin, David, Carole, Jayme, Roberta, Dana (26)

Past Events

- 2014 Final Stats: 114 work parties; 15,600 hours; 1120.5 specialized hours; 487 miles maintained; 20386 feet rehab (3.9 miles); 400 individual volunteers. 15 events (included Trail Skills College).
 - A lot more people this year. Last year we didn't break 100 work parties
 - We have 35 caretakers
 - We lost a little mileage; Steve Q did a recalculation of each section. 214 miles of PCT, 233 Total miles (with feeders/alternates)

Crews and Events since last caretaker meeting:

1. November 24: PCTA/Gifford Pinchot NF annual meeting
 - a. Roberta not there
 - b. Tami – It was fine, really informative
2. Dec 7: Logout near Tamanous: Kelley and Tyler
 - a. Kelley – It was easy
3. Dec 11: Travel Oregon Hike: Tyler and Liz
 - a. Liz – The best part of that was lunch. Thunder Island Brewing. Travel Oregon did a piece on Thunder Island as well
 - b. Tyler – Met the group at 11am at the brewery, sat around and talked. It was like, they were more interested in lots of other things not just the PCT. Thunder Island Brewing talked about their brewery. Right off Moody St there is a leaner log, talked about what we deal with for work crews and maintenance. Didn't make it to the first switch back and the group was done. Not even a ½ mile
 - i. Liz – Was bringing up the rear and met them coming back
 - ii. Roberta – That's not even a ¼ mile
 1. Tyler – Well, ½ mile round trip
 - c. Liz – They wanted to talk about Wild. Haven't seen the movie but read the book.
4. Dec 13: Logout BOG Oregon Side: Roberta and Tami KS
 - a. With the saw that would not start
 - i. Tami – The cord kept getting stuck at 6 inches, but if you could get it past that it was ok.
 - ii. Tyler – Did it cough?
 1. Roberta– No. It started fine the night before when I was wearing crocs and standing in my driveway.
5. Dec 14: Logout Teakettle Springs/Herman Bridge Trail: Tyler and Liz
 - a. Tyler - The logs were ¾ mile on PCT south off of Herman Creek entrance. On the way up found 6 or 7 little stuff that had fallen down. The main site was a bundle of 6 (pines and maples); 1 was 45 degrees over the trail and if you cut it, the root would come down on you.
 - i. Roberta – Ken Kollas will blast later in January.
6. Dec 15-16 Wahkeena Washout: Ruth and Roberta
 - a. Ruth – It was cool. Planned for 3 days, got it done in a day and a half. 4 gabions put in. Made a hole, filled a hole. 10 feet deep.
 - i. Roberta – went a couple weeks ago and it is holding up
7. Dec 30: Scout Eagle Creek: Lamar (icy)
 - a. Don't go when icy
8. Jan 7: Scout Eagle Creek to Tunnel Falls: Lamar

Future Events

Calendar updated as it was passed around

Next Month:

1. Jan 15: Scout 400 Trail: Carole and Roberta
2. Jan 17: Only the Essential at Next Adventure
3. Jan 20: Multnomah Falls Viewpoint Trail and nearby: Ruth and Roberta
4. Feb 7: Volunteer Celebration
5. Feb 9: Eagle Creek Muck-out: Lamar and Dennis B.
6. Feb 11: Next caretaker meeting

Beyond:

1. May 17-20: 2015 International Trails Symposium <http://americantrails.org/ee/index.php/symposium/2015>
2. Saturday, March 21 OSU Extension Service asking if PCTA would like to participate in Tree School again in 2015.
3. July 11: Mt Hood 50 per website <https://gobeyondracing.com/races/mt-hood-50>
4. September 26-27: Mountain Lakes 100 per website: <https://gobeyondracing.com/races/mountain-lakes-100>

Reports

- Dana
 - Bill is our new North Cascade Regional Rep.
 - He had strong competition but outperformed everyone
 - Reports for areas in GP – copy Bill instead of Dana
 - Tami has to copy both Dana and Bill as her area overlaps both
 - Skamania County Commissioners meeting: They are not in support of 1 more acre of public land in Skamania county
 - Trading sections with public and private?
 - It is hard to do and not our first choice
 - How did we do so many hours last year? “Holy cow”
 - Steve Q – it was about double the hours of the year before
 - John Lyons, a volunteer in Ian’s region (S Oregon/N California) has a horse trailer converted to a work trailer he is trying to give to another group? Something to munch on
- Budget. Kim
 - Sent a little bit of money back to Sacramento. Wait and see what we get this year. Probably the same as last year.
 - Does he owe anyone money for PCT stuff?
 - Tim – Will need supplies for poster boards coming up
- Tools. Leif
 - Tool Day: Jan 31
 - Roberta – anyone available to help?
 - Take all the tools off racks, repaint, sharpen, inventory and put back. Sometimes relabel and reorganize. Start at 830am done by 1pm
 - Tyler, Kelley, Tami, Robert, Steve Q, Tim L, Liz, Justin, David
 - Talk to Tami about high visibility paint from Fred Meyer
 - Tami will email with Leif
 - Our paint color is bright orange
 - Leif’s update via email I have reinharths to get back into working order, one is done for Gentleman Bob and one for PDX I need to work on. Wind River cache saw and brusher is at my house (I think the chain needs to be sharpened.) I need to talk to Dave about getting the crosscut saws sharpened.
 - I will work on getting more brusher and chainsaw tools (files, screnches, spare parts) for other caches.
 - I have two new loppers to replace what I thought were broken wooden handle loppers. Like to get these into service as I think people will grab these and use them over the heavy wooden handled versions.
 - Not much in need of new tools. I still have some rigging items (shackles and connectors) to round out the PDX cache. Other than that, aside from trying to get Sacramento to start the conversation with Oregon (company), Husqvarna and Stihl around our saw program (and future brusher program) and try to get some level of corporate sponsorship for a new saw... ;) Figure it would be worth displaying a banner and pass out promotional material,

if they give us a saw. (Oregon has a Maintenance and Safety Manual that is referenced in the MTDC manual and we want to use some of that info in our saw safety presentation.)

- Steve Q knows someone that works at Oregon he can talk with
- Trail Skills College 2015: Tammy T and Tami KS
 - Tammy – Had a meeting last night. We are going forward with it
 - Becky will supply the same food as last year
 - Ryan’s wife is due (baby) at the end of this month, so Curtis Smith has joined the group to help with the classes,
 - Anyone who was an instructor or wants to be an instructor, she can give your name to Curtis. Curtis has sent an email to previous instructors seeing if they are interested.
 - April 17 – 19
- Saw Certification:
 - Kim:
 - Saw weekend will be the weekend after skills college
 - Same venue (Wind River) as last year
 - David – March 28/29 event in Estacada, maybe scale it back to just crosscut or to a smaller group
 - Roberta – certification good for 2 years
 - Kim – Caretakers/Crew Leaders are all “B” certificates (every 2 years) and “A” certificates are 1 year
 - Chris - Are there any prerequisites?
 - David – Have to have First Aid and CPR. Most people have Intro to Saw
 - Kim – we do training (Intro to Saw) as well as certifications. Will talk about it after the meeting for anyone interested
- Training and Safety: Open
- Volunteer Coordinator. Tammy
 - Saturday the 17th at Next Adventure (Water Sports Location) – Only the Essentials screening. They asked if we could have a presence there. Colin has a 2pm “Hiking the PCT” class, then the screening (40min in length). They would like someone to talk about caretaking and LNT for about 10 minutes before the screening.
 - Tyler – his travel Oregon only lasted that long so he could do this too.
 - Liz – can man the table
 - Tammy will send the address
- Added “Get Outdoors Day” - June 13 in Vancouver to the calendar. Did tell Tracey that we will do the saw demo again
 - Make log cookies with PCT label of some sort because everyone wants one
 - Roberta – Didn’t Steve say that Zig Zag has the brand?
 - Steve – We are not going to get it
 - Ron – Maybe use a stamp on cookies. Get the kids to stamp them?
 - Roberta – Can you look into getting a stamp?
 - Ron – What color ink? Green? He already has about 300 cookies that can be used
 - Liz – If anyone has extra/broken crayons, she can make them into bigger ones for rubbings

Announcements/Reminders

- Vacancies: Mt. Adams-North; Big Huckleberry; Trout Creek needs a replacement for Jim Webb (would like to hand his section of – it is North of Tami about 4-5miles.
 - Tami would like to talk and may be happy to take it on.
 - Kelley could share with Tami
 - Kim could also pitch in and share or do some work (they are flexible)
- Muddy Fork of the PCT covered by Robert unless he chooses to let someone else take it (Geoff resigned from his section – Lolo Pass to Ramona Falls)
 - Roberta – Geoff resigned over the Muddy Bridge not going to be replaced. It is too long for a log crossing and has to be a metal i-beam which will not happen in wilderness. Roberta would like to see some equestrian help maintaining the ford.
 - Tim – Is it passable for horses?
 - Roberta – Not sure, hasn’t been on there for a while. Could use some tread work.
 - Tim – Already taking care of the Sandy River trail, may be able to take it a little further. Would love to go up and take a look.
 - Chris K – The horse crossing is deep
- Jayme and New Seasons are taking Lolo to Top Spur and then Robert is taking Top Spur, Timberline and loop back up on PCT (at least this year. About 10miles).

- Bill Hawley can't be caretaker as he is now a PCT employee. Pigpen is taking Bill's old section and Pigpens is vacant (Big Huckleberry)
 - Bill will continue to be involved in the Volunteer Saw Certification program.
- Gifford Pinchot section is now part of PCTA North Cascades region.
 - Copy Bill instead of Dana
- Robert prepared an extensive crew leader checklist and updated forms for leading one-day crews. These are posted in the Forms section of the MHC website
 - Those that did not participate in October crew leader training. Posted on the website. Geared for 1 day work parties. Very detailed explanations for each section
- Kudos to Steve Queen for a massive update of the caretaker section data on the MHC website. Your mileage may have changed. TCP section has changed for the better.
 - Working on GPS locations
- Columbia Dispatch is open 0730-1630 M-F for the remainder of the winter.

Discussion Items

- 46 trees on Boulder Ridge Trail (wilderness) anyone willing to lead saw crews?
 - Request from Mackenzie
 - Starts near Welches, out of Wildwood Park, it is quite steep, first mile is not wilderness
 - Goes into Salmon Huckleberry
 - Anyone interested in leading a work party
 - Robert can do the upper/wilderness
 - Counted more than 46
 - 24 18-24" logs, 5 root wads that have torn up the trail
 - Half are outside wilderness
 - Tyler – Can do lower half with chainsaw
 - Tami can help as swamper
 - Dave can help
 - Robert – looking at next week – Thursday/Friday
 - Quick talk after the meeting to sort out dates
- Annual Celebration (FKA annual meeting)
 - Starts at 1pm. Meet there at noon for set up
 - Ron - Has flyers to pass around
 - Roberta – Bernadette Murray giving the talk, 1969/70 trip with family ride
 - Refreshments – Leif normally organizes but isn't here
 - Kelley can coordinate the refreshments & finger foods
 - Will need a projector (Steve P to provide along with A/V equipment)
- American Trails Symposium May 17-20, 2015 <http://americantrails.org/ee/index.php/symposium>
 - Sent out a call for presenters/ideas, no one replied and Roberta has no time to do this
 - It is at the convention center
 - Costs \$300+ to go
 - Thought our saw program would fit (theme was solutions) and the saw training would be cool
 - Dana will attend
 - Mt Hood Chapter will not do any presentation.
- Adam Giff wants a crew in July: A couple years ago, my organization (Adamah Adventures) brought a group of teens to Oregon for a 2 week service trip, which included 2 days of volunteering with the PCTA. We had planned another trip in 2013 but had to cancel because of numbers. I'm excited that it looks like we will have enough interest for a trip this coming summer, and I wanted to see about the possibility of again working with the PCTA, somewhere in Oregon. We will have a group of about 7 16-17 year olds along with 2 staff. Will you have any crews that they can join for 2 day in mid-July? We have some flexibility with the dates and location. Our preference would be for central or northern Oregon - our other stops will be Bend, Crater Lake National Park, and the White Salmon River. We will be in Oregon from July 12-23.
 - Anyone interested?
 - Carole is a possible
 - Will need a crew leader to help out
 - Dave – Has some tread repair that may be possible
 - not be a big area, 2 days would be about right
 - Chris – could use some too but it may be too early (snow)

Round the Room

- Justin – It has been cold and dark so not on the trail much
- Lamar – Working with Dennis on Eagle Creek. The Eagle Creek bridge hand railing fell off
 - Jayme – The first ¼ mile of Eagle creek, the tread is muddy and swampy. The bar holding the trail in is kicked off and some trees down.
- Kelley - Takes her Corona saw on her hikes and takes down what she can. There is lots down on Jim's section. Keeps thinking, it's winter and there is going to be a lot more before long.
 - Jim – Has forest service taken down the big one?
 - Kelley – Not yet
 - Kelley - Wants to talk to Tammy about PCT Days as she has some things to get started
 - Roberta – Are you logging hours for scouting?
 - Kelley – No
 - Roberta – please do
 - Kelley - The wild movie was ok, was surprised at how little they showed of the scenery
- Pam – Haven't done anything
- Kim – Quick over view of saw training after meeting in one of the corners
- Steve P – He has a lovely section, easiest section in our area, pretty flat.
- Steve Q – Doesn't do trail maintenance, its lame.
 - Roberta, Ruth and Steve went to Wild at Cinema 21 with a bunch of other hikers. It was funny as half the attendees had hiked the pct.
 - Working on the web a bit, mostly the TCP (causing him the most grief). The theory is that people give him the TCP (trail communication plan) before each project. A lot of the info on the form is redundant and hard to fill out properly. He would like to post the completed forms on the web so that the next time, you can just print off the correct TCP and then update the specific project info. The formats are very different and very inconsistent and some are wrong. So Steve is taking the TCPs he has (about 5% of the total) and going through them with a fine tooth comb and making sure they are right and making sure they are easily reproducible. He is putting them on a spreadsheet with 1 page that is the form and the other are the fillable data. So you can click and print. This will allow us to make a TCP for ANY section in our area (for yourself or if you are filling in for someone else)
 - Tyler – did we get the Steamboat ones figured out?
 - Steve – yes, they are integrated
- Becky – Part of Oregon Equestrian Trails. Bummed she can't go to the annual celebration
 - Roberta – We had to change the date as Dana has to attend a Back Country Horseman of Washington event that was the same day, she got grief for not going last year
- Rick – Got nothing
- Ruth – Her section has a new name: Timberline North.
 - Brought some first aid kits back – Wind River and Trout Lake.
- Chris Kyle – Walked to his section in early December. About 14miles/4000ft, a lot of blow down on the trail. The blow down is right before the PCT junction. It was clear but windy and he was bushwhacking through the snow. Hardly any blowdown until he reached 6000 feet (In wilderness).
 - Steve Q – That is a feeder trail so we could plan to work on it
 - Chris – It would have to be a 2 day trip to get the big trees off the shelter at Paradise Creek
 - Rick – You will get a lot of volunteers for that trip
 - Roberta – With that hike, you will need to do an overnigher for that one
- Jerry – Also part of the Equestrian Group but he rides Mules
- Jayme – "Worm". Started recruiting for the upcoming season. Has about 30 people signed up. 6 work parties - 1 Monday a month, April – September. Planning a kids day, has vendors that are excited to participate. Her goal is to get more New Seasons people out to the monthly meeting and into crew leader roles.
- Tami – Tried to get onto her section few weeks ago, the road has big potholes and the ice was too much. Did get Kelley's emails and may have to look for another place for the PCC February work party. Somewhere down low. Kelley has some work that can be done as well.

- Roberta – Can do a section on mine that is getting pretty badly sloughed out.
 - Tami – That would work if we take some small rocks with bucket into that section by the end. Doesn't think her section will be open for the February work party
- Tim L – Territorial Riders Back Country Horsemanship of Oregon - Equestrian group. Went to a work party in December in the Molalla River Corridor, they rode around sitting in back of pick up, stop, jump out, cut log, get back in and keep going. Cut about 30 logs in 3 hours.
 - Becky – Tim helps her with her section as they can go out from Timothy Lake
- Tammy – Sunday goes to Mexico for Boozy 2's wedding. Will be gone January 19-24. She will have her computer. Weirdly busy with work right now.
- Jim – Finding out there are more trees than usual down. How much is old snags that weren't caught this last year? Have not been up there in the last couple of months
- Ron – Went to talk Bacon Bit gave at Bonneville Dam. Over 3million people passed through Multnomah Falls area. Parking problem is getting worse, 260-300people/hour come through the parking lot.
 - New reporter in the Gresham Outlook, Katie Sword. Will maybe contact Ruth to go out on the trail with her. Trying to get stuff in Stevenson and Skamania papers but Gresham is the only one that still puts stuff in print, should have a good crowd at the annual meeting.
 - Ruth – hasn't heard from Katie
 - Multnomah Falls has not finished the return trail. All they did was put some rocks to make it look like that is where you step. There is also a good crop of Poison Oak along the side.
 - Now is the good time to pull blackberries. You don't get it all but it slows them right down. Rubberized gloves inside a larger leather gloved worked well keeping warm and no thorns.
 - There is a special "pass" for volunteers. Eligible after 250 hours of volunteering with federal agency, allows you into national parks, anything with golden age for free. The 250 hours are accumulated not per year. Not sure who to approach.
 - Roberta – Jen in Sacramento does it
- Robert – Drove up to Lolo Pass last week, barely, turned around in the snow and came back down. Probably the last time to get up there. They locked the gate to Ramona falls last week so you can't get back in. Scouted yesterday at Boulder Ridge, try to get next week to work on it. Can he get a key to the gate?
 - Roberta – It is BLM land, Mckenzie is working on it
 - Robert – It is about a ½ mile hike in as it is
- Carole – Meeting Roberta tomorrow to hike her section (400 trail from Moody Street to Eagle Creek)
- Liz – Waiting for when they can get back in to Steamboat.
- Tyler – Last year at this time he was the FNG (funny new guy). They went up to Steamboat every month but didn't get into it until July. Log out is planned for July 6th spending 3 days, coming out and going to Carson Creek
- David – Travel Oregon re-aired our piece over the holidays, December 24, 25 & January 1, in primetime on KGW (Grant's Getaways). As a result of those broadcasts we have more saws donated to us. Last 2 weeks have been taking a lot of calls to get the saws
 - Tami – Should we have people bring them tool day?
 - David – give them his email and he can determine if it is worth the trip to go get them.
- David – If we use the upcoming project on the national website, what do we use as the contact info?
 - Roberta – Not sure, recommends we don't use them yet but hopefully later this spring. It was a pretty bad fail when we tried to use it last year. We need to work the process out so all the info is giving to who it should.
- Roberta – Can someone create name tags for the Annual Celebration?
 - Tammy – She can do it
 - Tim L – last year he shared a name tag with Sara