

Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA Caretaker Meeting Minutes

Wednesday February 11, 2015

Location: REI Clackamas

Welcome

- Attended: Justin, Rick, Pace, Freefall, Steve P, Tim L, Sara, Jim, Dennis S, Bob A, Busdriver John, Chris K, Ron, Tammy T, Pam, Kelley, Becky, Leif, David, Lamar, Summer, Tami KS, Roberta (23)

Past Events

- 2015 Status through Feb 5: 8 trail work parties; 2 events; 693 hours, 77 specialized hours, 5.2 miles of trail maintained. Great start to 2015!
 - Total of 83 logs YTD (most are not on PCT)
- Card to say Thank You for Bernadette (Annual Celebration) passed around
- Sheet to note time spent for the annual celebration (cookies, making photo boards, etc) passed around

Crews and Events since last caretaker meeting:

1. Jan 15: Logout BOG Oregon Side: Carole and Roberta
 - Roberta: We got 2 of the 3 logs. Didn't get the 3rd because it was too big and Roberta was having problems with the saw not cutting very nicely. They had to cut into small chunks and ran out gas.
2. Jan 17: Only the Essential at Next Adventure: Tyler and Liz
 - Tyler and Liz not here.
 - Jody, a new volunteer, went as well.
 - Tammy: Understood it was good. Talked to Colin and he thanked us for going and helping.
3. Jan 19: Boulder Ridge Logout (Chainsaw Day): Pace
 - Pace: 5 people came out; David & Tyler did all the cutting. It rained on and off for most of the day. They did get 34 logs; the largest being about 23 inches.
4. Jan 20: Multnomah Falls Viewpoint Trail and nearby: Ruth and Roberta
 - Ruth not here
 - Roberta: Yet another "toter" mishap: it went over and has been fixed. Mostly decommissioned trail and did a little work on Viewpoint Trail. Tyler cut a few logs at Wahkeena Trail junction.
5. Jan 25: Boulder Ridge Logout (Crosscut Day): Pace
 - Pace: 7 people came out and we cleared 26 logs (cut 15 and moved 11). It was a nice warm and sunny day but it was a long one.
6. Jan 25: One big log Moody St South: Roberta and Leif
 - Roberta: Leif took care of the log with 7 mighty cuts.
7. Jan 26: Wahkeena Slide Cleanup: Ruth
 - Worked on the big slide on Wahkeena, just past the falls. Cleared that plus decommissioned Perdition Trail from the Wahkeena end.
 - Good work was done.
8. Jan 27: Oneonta Slide Reroute Tour: Roberta
 - Pace, Tyler, and Bill were also there
 - Pace: Went up to look at slide to scope out alternative routes. Scouted one up higher, would take a lot of money to put one in there. Suggestion to improve some of the current hiker alternatives to make them safer. It is currently passable if you take your time; it is slippery but you can pick your way through. We could go in with a sledge and tools and knock a bench in but the trail is still in the middle of the slide area.
 - Leif: We have to just keep cleaning out the muck and rocks; need to get down to the hard stuff and chisel it clean.
 - Roberta: For safety, we have to wait until it dries up so it doesn't come down on the workers.
9. Feb 7: Volunteer Celebration
 - Everyone had a good time.
 - The presentation was excellent.
 - Bernadette ran a little long.
 - If she could have focused on the Oregon and Washington section it would have been better.
 - Roberta: Suggestions for next year:
 - Kelley: It would be nice to have more people attend, maybe market it better.
 - Ron: It is tough getting stuff into newspaper, they just aren't publishing anything.
 - Seemed like less newcomers attended this year.

- Missing a lot of our own volunteers.
 - More info on Facebook (reminders, etc).
 - Mention that if you volunteered last year please come to get your award and bring a friend.
 - If you don't show up the award gets sent back.
 - Maybe mention that the location is easy to find and not that far.
 - Maybe show a map on the invitation.
 - The pictures Roberta showed were better than just showing the map.
 - Nice to see all the peeps from other agencies showing up.
 - Maybe take the time to introduce them next time.
10. Feb 9: Eagle Creek Muck-out: Lamar, Dennis B., Roberta
- *Includes scouting on Jan 7
 - 2/3 was done
 - Lamar needs to work on his tree diameter, was a little off on what the sizes were.
 - A couple people came out, was the same day as the big accident that shut down the road.
 - Rained a bit (torrential downpour)
11. Feb 10: Teakettle Tree Blast: Justin
- Pictures sent around.
 - 4 blasts to get the root wad out.
 - Ken was deferring to Mckenzie, who was going through training.
 - Ken, Denise and Mckenzie (training) are the blasters for Mt Hood.
 - Denise does a lot of maintenance, blows up stuff (certified).
 - Pace: Learned a lot, it was all new to him.
 - Tammy: Spent the day sitting next to the truck. Every time someone came up she had to get out and ask where they were going, tell them that we were blasting and that part of the trail may be closed. Everyone with dogs left to go hike someone else.
 - Some guy did a really slow drive around the cars, it looked like he was looking at breaking into something. He drove around one more time and then drove off.
 - Heard the 2nd blast (the buried one) and the 3rd and 4th. Missed the first one due to a stupid train.
 - The trees were 2.5 miles up from the trail head, all up hill
12. Feb 11: today's caretaker meeting

Future Events

Next Month: Passed around calendar to be updated.

1. Feb 18: Wilson HS Community Fair
2. Feb 19: Bacon Bit at REI Clackamas
3. Feb 21: PCC Wilderness Lit Class: Tami and Roberta
 - a. Includes scouting on Feb 14
4. Feb 21: Boulder Ridge Root Wads: Pace
5. Feb 28: ALDHA-West Ruck at Cascade Locks
6. Mar 5: Bacon Bit at REI Portland
7. Mar 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
 - I'm looking for a volunteer to help run the Bridge Walk. The date is Aug 29. The Port and I would provide lots of guidance but this person would take the lead on obtaining the proper permits, publicizing the event, and ensuring there's proper signage in place. Overall it's probably 30 hours of work, spread over several months.
 - Event is same day as PCT Days
 - Tammy: Easily 30hours
 - Will ask Tammy to send an email to ask the volunteers
 - I thought the Annual Celebration went great!
- Bill

- I would like to know if any Mt Hood Crew-leader is interested in taking on the Packwood Glacier crew. It need not be the full-blown event that it has been in the past. I am not aware of any leaders in the White Pass group that are able or willing to take this on. If there is leadership, I will help to organize pack support.
 - Roberta: Not going to keep fighting for this to be Mt Hood hours, they will be White Pass hours
 - Roberta: It can be as long as you want
 - Leif: It will be 4 days minimum. 1 Day in, 1 Day out (7.5miles each way)
 - Roberta: No interest at this point? If you change your mind, let Bill know.
 - Kelly: Wants to go but not as lead.
 - Tami: Can it be part of the PCT vacation week thing?
 - Leif: This is maintenance, going up to make sure it is still clean and maybe extending the north end from last year
- Budget. Kim
 - Nothing has been put in. Same as last month.
- Tools. Leif
 - Some purchases coming up, will let Kim know.
 - Have hard hats to take care of. Need replacement parts.
 - Will be working on chainsaws. Like to work other angles before we start putting money out.
 - Wind River one back this coming weekend.
 - There is only 2" of snow at teacup. It seems clear to 4000 feet.
- Trail Skills College 2015: Tammy T and Tami KS
 - Tammy: Had a meeting the other night.
 - Going well, Curtis wrote to everyone, feeling ok about Instructors but if someone wants to help out, he will take more. Send Curtis an email if you are interested.
 - Preregistration starts March 3rd.
 - Everyone here can preregister. The email will be sent next week with preregister date.
 - Everyone (volunteers, instructors) will need to register (even if not taking classes) as we use it as a head count for food.
 - Regular registration is on March 10th.
 - Still April 17th – 19th for TSC.
 - Tami: Bring your own place setting will be strictly enforced. You will be charged to rent plate and utensils for the weekend. No more paper plates!
 - This will be on the registration form.
- Saw Certification:
 - Who is in charge: David and Kim.
 - David: Estacada will be March 28th & 29th and focused on crosscut. We will cover initial certification and re-certifications as well as re-certifications for dual (crosscut & chainsaw).
 - For Instructors with cards that have run out, trying to get an evaluation the Friday before as an Instructor certification.
 - Class room is in the Estacada ranger station.
 - Field evaluation will be at the 36 Pit Burn.
 - A lot of trees affected by that burn, the wind has caused big jumbles of blow downs so there is every situation to cut.
 - No lodging available, but multiple campgrounds along the way.
 - Probably will do a few agency people along with volunteers. The Forest Service no longer has any crosscut instructors.
 - Leif: If you come to the class and need a chainsaw re-certification, you can come to the class on Saturday and do the field assessment later (the class is good for a year so if you are in the field with any instructor at any time in the next year, they can re-certify you)
 - Leif: Wind River will be the week after TSC (April 24th, 25th, & 26th) Friday afternoon is chainsaw re-certification. Saturday/Sunday (both days) will be crosscut and chainsaw. If you do the safety part of one you can come 2 hours late (the first 2 hours are the same).
 - The sign up will be sent out soon.
 - No cost.
 - Limited re-certifications on Friday afternoon.
 - Try to keep the group 4:1 (people to instructors).
 - Tami: Can help with food.
 - Becky: All the leftovers from TSC goes to this.
- Training and Safety: Open
- Volunteer Coordinator. Tammy
 - Next week is Wilson High School. Did it last year, had some people sign up but not sure if anyone came out.
 - Lamar will be going with her.
 - Thursday (next week) at REI: Bacon Bit is doing all of the REI's plus a couple of other things (no dates yet). Will need some volunteers to come here, 615pm, to explain what we do.

- Bacon Bit is really good. She did a presentation at Bonneville dam in September. She is very energetic and very tiny, she does a very good presentation. She's really into volunteers (she is a Portland Park Ranger), loves us.
- Sending the email out tomorrow after getting more info from Bacon Bit about what she wants
- OSU Tree School March 23rd. Do we want to do a table?
 - David: He can't do it this year. Last year had good traffic through the table,
 - At Clackamas Community College campus. Indoors, in a very large hall with Forest Service BLM, other Trail Groups.
 - Tammy: We should go. She can get anyone to do anything inside.
 - David: I will point them to Tammy.
 - New poster boards (Sarah did a lovely job with the new boards) would be good for this.

Announcements/Reminders

- Vacancies: Mt. Adams-North; Big Huckleberry; Trout Creek needs a replacement for Jim Webb
- New Sections Added: Chinidere Mountain Trail, Chinidere Cut-off; Ramona Falls Trail
 - Now at 247miles (ish).
 - Justin has taken the 2 Chinidere.
 - Pace: it used to be part of the PCT.
 - Ramona trail (creek side of loop).
 - Pace is taking (north side of falls to PCT)
- Email list moving to Constant Contact
 - Wanted everyone to know before the change happens
 - Will be pcta.org email
- Columbia Dispatch is open 0730-1630 M-F for the remainder of the winter.
- 250+ hours award from USFS: overall hours , not all in one year
 - Pam Owen
 - Bill Canavan
 - Jim Miller (not MHC)
 - Barry Teschlog (not MHC)
 - David Roe
 - Bob Arkes
 - Dennis Beard
 - Kim Owen
 - Jeff Booth
 - Bill Carpenter (not MHC)
 - Tyler Marriott
 - Robert Caldwell
 - Leif Hovin
 - Roberta Cobb
 - Bill Hawley
 - Tammy Turner
- Hope the Forest Service parking pass come out before the end of the month but haven't heard from Jen.

Discussion Items

- Administrative Hours: I am happy to enter them, will send an email at the end of the month.
 - Roberta: Is willing to enter the hours if you send them to her.
- Len Rolph, BCHW packer, wants to pack for us: Indian Heaven to Mt Adams
 - Washington packer. Already sent an email to the area where he packs
 - Talked him out of Tyler's section
 - Where BCHW used to take care of.
 - David: What about the orphan section in white rock?
 - Roberta: He doesn't want to go north of Mt Adams/Potato Hills Road.

Round the Room

- Tom Linde: With John taking over Bill's section and dropping Big Huckleberry I have gone ahead and scheduled the FYS group to do the brushing drainage work and any tread work needed this summer. I also have them scheduled for Kim's section to do full brushing, tread and drainage work since he is going to be restricted in his activities this summer. I will also schedule them to do some work on the Trout Creek to Sedum section. I hope this is okay with you.

- I have a board meeting with the FYS group Thursday and should get an exact number of crew days for the \$40,000 grant.
- I'm putting together another grant request for work on the PCT and other trails to be completed by the FYS program under direction of the PCTA. I will probably be asking for \$40,000. for year 2016 work season.
- Jayme: I just started putting the groups together for April and May. We have plenty of people heading all the way into October. So far only 2 signups for kid's day.
 - May need a Caretaker to sign up for the April one (April 22 – a Monday). Their section may not be open by then. Is anyone willing to host them (Roberta can't, she is leaving the next day)?
 - Roberta: Anything in your section Kelley?
 - Chris: Where His section meets Kelley's needs work: clean up, signage
 - Kelley: there is a footbridge that is uneven, Dana thinks it should be replaced. It is before the switchback.
 - Roberta: They worked not too far from Chris' suggestion last year and it may be a good option.
 - Gentleman Bob: Wahtum may be open
 - Roberta: That is too far
 - Roberta: Will have Jayme contact Chris and Kelley to work something out.
 - Leif: They will probably need sawyers for the New Season section, he can help (depending on wilderness boundary).
- David: a couple of things:
 - 1. Safety related: we discussed last year that there were 2 incidents in 2013 – side bound logs and the sawyers cut through the log standing on the wrongs side and were hit by the log. There were 2 more incidents in 2014 that were nearly identical (one had a broken leg and was thrown on top of the running saw). Will be covering this in saw training. 4 incidents in 2 years on relatively small trees. Never hesitate to have a second sawyer evaluate the situation to ensure safety. These all occurred late in the day when everyone is tired from cutting and moving trees all day.
 - 2. Have been working on 2 saws (designing and making) for the Forest Service to evaluate for trail maintenance. The smaller saw is available for us to check out. The teeth pattern makes the saw so narrow. It only rakes on the pull and there is no compression on the push (so you can use a lot less pressure); slices going in, slices and rakes coming out. It is like a big brother/sister to an ibuki. They are named the Ursa Minor (smaller one) and the Ursa Major as the teeth look like bear claws. They were designed with 3 purposes:
 - 1. As a backup for a 6 foot saw and easier to carry in. It has no problem cutting a 18" hemlock (they under-bucked and then finished from the top).
 - 2. With medium size logs, we have problems getting the wedge in soon enough (before binding) because the regular saw is wider and already bowed. With this, you can get the wedge in 3 inches sooner. It should work really good for the medium, 12 inch, logs we have a lot of.
 - 3. It packs really easily on a horse. It goes into a scabbard that fits under the saddle flap.
- Leif: Box of wedges going back to the Portland Cache. Make sure that if you a bang the wedges and they get damaged, set them aside so they can get fixed. The good wedges are for crosscut and the shortened ones are for chainsaw.
- Becky: We've had some conflict with dates for her section (North section) and are moving that to May (it is all on the calendar). This will eliminate any hassle for the race. Can't get into Pinheads because of the snow. Will be asking Kim for a bigger budget as they are now doing 2 weekends (double the volunteers).
- Tami: Going scouting with Roberta on Saturday and have a crew going up the following Saturday (PCC Wilderness Literature class, 11-17 kids). Hoping to get to Snag Creek after that. Knows there will be tread work to do.
 - Roberta: will need a crosscut to clear the 2 logs Kelley just found on her section. About 1/4 mile east of Dry Creek Bridge. The logs are close together and are 14"-18". Thinking about working from Pinnacle, the kids want to do some camping at Herman Creek. They will have the kid do all the work.
 - Pace: has a crew and can't
 - David: thinks he can help
- Kelley: There is a huge muddy mess about 100 yards in from Moody Trailhead from the spring that comes down. It is a possible TSC project?
- Tammy: Her Dad is home, life is good.
- Ron: Has wood cookies with PCT stamps on them for everyone to take a look at. Every trailhead has had a break in except for Wahkeena, so don't leave anything in your car.
- Becky: Brought crayons for Liz.
 - Roberta will pass them on.
- Gentleman Bob: Mt Adams is pretty white but will go up to see where the snow levels are.
- Dennis S: The Event on Saturday was amazing, the guest speaker was great/humorous. Could have sat through another hour of her talking. Went up to his section 2 weeks ago. The bridge across the Sandy is closed. Went to Top Spur, stopped a mile short of the trailhead due to snow. Once they got to Bald Mountain section there was no snow and it was like a summer day. Some mud slides they cleared last year have been cut 3 feet or lower due to water runoff. You have to leap over these section. What other options (other than culvert, it is wilderness so they can't use

culvert) can you use? Pushed most of the downed trees off the trail. As they were leaving, the snowy road turned into a slush mess. The parking lot was filled. So people are still hiking.

- Jim: Other than deceiving Bob, he stashed the Trout Lake first aid kit in Trout Creek (it has been returned), he took a little trip to see what Tami has been seeing up at Trout Creek.
- Sara: Has looked through a lot of pictures that people have taken. We need more pictures that explain what is going on/tell a story within the picture and pictures that aren't so dark. Before and after pictures from work parties where the pictures are taken from the same spot would also be great. She designed the Picture boards to initiate conversation with the public to peak their interest. Passed around pictures.
- Tim: Also got to see a lot of pictures and is pretty amazed at the stuff that this group tackles and the quality of work that is done.
- Summer: would like to get out to the different areas for photography. Will look at a way to sort/save/archive pictures.
- Chris: On Feb 21, Laurelhurst is having Flip Flop Flip 3, Squatch's movie. The profits go to the PCTA. It is funny, saw a preview. On Feb 28: Ruck at Cascade Locks at pavilion by Thunder Island. Will be a mixture of seasoned thru hikers and people getting ready to do the PCT. Memorial service for Strider, hiked the PCT in 1977, one of the founders of Kick Off. Is Keen doing the shoe thing anymore?
 - Tammy – The board member that arranged that is no longer with Keen. So no. We are working on other things.
- Pace: Forecast is 10 days of sunshine, tempted to switch work party to this weekend but figured wouldn't get anyone on Valentine's Day. Trying to get out for some scouting.
 - Feb 21 – Pace needs 1 or 2 more peeps. Getting the root wads that were left last time, mostly moving root wads. Will try out David's new saw. 2 people doing 9mile trip, the rest working within the first mile.
- Tim L: one of his coworkers just watched Wild and is now inspired to walk the trail, feeling bad for rescue people working the first 200 miles of the trail.
- Justin: Would like to thank Tammy for sitting at the truck and doing the behind the scenes things that constantly make things work.
- Lamar: Thanks to Roberta for helping out on Monday.
- Roberta: Tammy deserves all the thanks for all the things she does.