

**Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA
Caretaker Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday March 11, 2015

Location: REI Clackamas

Welcome

- Attended: Pam, Freefall, Dennis B, Ron, Steve P, Summer, Tim L, Rick, Pace, Liz, Tyler, Jim, Carole, Chris K, Jayme, Tami, Jerry, Ruth, Kelley, Justin, Becky, Steve Q, Leif, Roberta, Dana (25 people)
- Headlamps from LED Lensers for MHC Leaders passed around. LED Lenser wanted to give something that wasn't "hours" related.

Past Events

- 2015 Status through Feb: 14 trail work parties; 4 events; 1200 hours, 84 specialized hours, 8.1 miles of trail maintained, and 175 feet rehab. 213 logs cleared (only 14 on PCT)
 - Tom Linde has cut 122 logs on roads leading to the PCT

Crews and Events since last caretaker meeting:

1. Feb 18: Wilson HS Community Fair
 - a. Tammy T & Lamar went
2. Feb 19: Bacon Bit at REI Clackamas
3. Feb 19: Lamar scouting/install handrail at Eagle Creek
4. Feb 21: PCC Wilderness Lit Class: Tami and Roberta
 - a. Includes scouting on Feb 14
 - b. Tami: 16 people came out. Roberta & David Roe were crew leaders. David led a crew of 5 and used cross cut saws. Roberta took a crew ahead and re-benched about 200 feet right above the creek past the Pinnacles. Tami had a crew that scraped the Herman Creek Bridge. They did a little brushing.
 - i. Roberta: It was the biggest class they have had. The instructor made it a requirement this year. Need to make sure next year's project involves boulder moving; they loved that.
5. Feb 21: Boulder Ridge Root Wads: Pace
 - a. Week before took out 2 trees up above. Pulled out with rigging and grip hoist. Everyone had fun playing with the grip hoist. Rick and Dennis built a rock wall to rebuild part of the trail.
6. Feb 28: Scouting Snag Creek: Tami
 - a. About half scouted: 25-30 trees that are down in the first 3 miles from 2070N. Wondering if anyone would like to help get them out? Biggest one about 17". Nothing past the last waterhole. Tami is free this weekend and next.
 - i. Tyler: can help – maybe Sunday?
 - ii. Kelley: Is it an all-day project?
 1. Tami: Probably.
 - a. There are some other projects that will need to be done later this year: trail needs to be re-benched and widened as well as a rock slide way down at the end. Would like some advice on how to fix it. Can't get through this section on horse at all.
 - iii. Leif: North of 2070?
 1. Tami: They are below the switchbacks, when you get to the top there are 3-4 just past waterhole. Passed around pictures
7. Feb 28: Scouting Muddy Fork: Pace
 - a. Went in on 29th, got into crossing on upper and lower. Went to look to see if Top Spur has snow. Trail was bare. Went back last week to do a loop on all 3 trails, was able to get on Ramona and Upper Muddy Fork. Ran into a slide that got covered over from last year, tried to dig it out but ground was frozen. Went back in from the north and able to dig out the slide as the ground had thawed. 56 logs on his section: planning a log out this Saturday on Lower Muddy Fork and Ramona and then the week after on the Upper Muddy Fork (30 trees to cut this weekend; 8-12 inches). Similar to how many logs as last year.
8. Mar 5: Bacon Bit at REI Portland
9. Mar 9: Logout BOG Oregon side: Roberta, Carole, Kelley
 - a. The leaning tree near Moody dropped, and Leif took care of it earlier.
 - b. Roberta used Dana's bigger saw. It was a nice day.
10. Mar 9: More scouting Muddy Fork: Pace
11. Mar 11: Scouting 400 Trail: Carole

- a. Went out this afternoon and found 2 trees down. It was her first scouting. Took a picture of the tree and measured it. Also 2 banks on the down side of the switch back that have crumbled.
 - i. Leif: That may have to be re-routed
 - ii. Carole: Would like someone to help clear it
 1. Tyler: Has not been on that section and can help
12. Mar 11: Today's caretaker meeting

Future Events

Calendar passed around for review and updating

Next Month:

13. Mar 13: Bacon Bit at Estacada Public Library
14. Mar 14: Muddy Fork Logout: Pace
15. Mar 14-15: The Mountain Shop Ultralight Clinic
16. Mar 17: Bacon Bit at REI Tualatin
17. Mar 21: Muddy Fork Logout: Pace
18. Mar 21: OSU Tree School
19. Mar 27: VSI Recerts
20. Mar 28-29: Mt Hood Saw Training/Certs – Estacada
21. Mar 30: Scout Top Spur-Lolo Pass: Worm
22. Apr 8: 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>
5. Skyline Crews:
 - a. July 17-July 23, Upper Lake, Mt Hood NF, leaving from Olallie Lake TH
 - b. July 31-Aug 6, Ski Hut, Willamette/Deschutes NF, leaving from Maiden Peak TH
 - c. Aug 4-Aug 20, Mesa Creek, Willamette/Deschutes NF, leaving from Devil's Lake TH
6. Sasquatch Crews:
 - a. Aug 28-Sep 3, Cispus Pass, GP NF, leaving from Walupt Lake TH
 - b. Sep 11-Sep 17, Horseshoe Meadows I, GP NF, leaving from Williams Mine TH
 - c. Sep 25-Oct 8, Horseshoe Meadows II, GP NF, leaving from Williams Mine TH

Reports

- Dana
 - Updates:
 - Series of things going on trying to spread the greater use message. One of the things: committed to posting a LNT (Leave No Trace) post every month for this year and then republished in various other formats. Helped write a Water Cache article that has been published (trying to discourage people from leaving stuff along the trail). If you have a cache on your section that keeps reappearing, we can work with other agency partners to make it go away.
 - Roberta: Jerry ever notice a cache on the 26 road and the shortcut to the parking lot?
 - Jerry: Have seen it once. Will keep an eye out for it
 - LNT: writing about campsites that are too close to lakes and creeks. Working on case by case basis with agency partners to add campsite decommissioning as something that we keep an eye out for. Every wilderness has slightly different regulations (usually about 100 feet) so you have to consider each set of permit rules. If you see people, try to direct more acceptable campsite or further away. When we do decommission campsites (always talk to your agency partner to see if they have a history and are making an exception) we want to notify the app makers (Guthook and Halfmile) to remove it as a campsite.
 - Thanks to:
 - Tyler for making signs.
 - To Steve for helping with the map data project (miles in wilderness vs non wilderness)
 - To David for dealing with a lot of calls from people that want to donate saws.
 - Someone stepped up to organize the bridge walk. Will probably still happen with PCT days. ODOT may not let us, last year was allowed due to a loophole.

- Remind crew leads to actively recruit less experienced sawyers to work with their experienced saw crew leads. We need to pass these skills on.
 - Reminder of Estacada Saw Cert Saturday and Sunday March 28-29.
 - Crosscut initial cert (two days)
 - Crosscut recert (Saturday)
 - Dual recert - crosscut and chainsaw (Saturday)
 - Reminder of Volunteer Saw Instructor certification in Estacada, Friday, March 27. So far I have enrolled:
 - John Cunningham
 - Kim Owen
 - Bill Hawley
 - I have two spaces open in Intermediate Crosscut Saw Sharpening Workshop.
 - Leif : Wind River will be April 23, 24, 25. Emailed to everyone shortly.
- Training and Safety: Open
 - Volunteer Coordinator. Tammy We have a lot of tabling events this month and next, mostly Bacon Bit, but she pulls a pretty good young crowd and we do get a few folks signing up each time. It seems worth it. I'm doing Friday night at the Estacada Library and then the Ultralight fest on Saturday & Sunday. Still wouldn't mind a couple folks for that, but it should be okay. Have all the rest of this month's covered!
 - Roberta – heard it is a good presentation and worth going to (bacon bit)

Except for Tree School. I have two new volunteers that offered to do it, but no one who has ***actually*** done trail work. Steve P. stepped up to attend.

Announcements/Reminders

- Vacancies: Mt. Adams-North; Big Huckleberry; Trout Creek transition for Jim Webb (Tami)
- Email list moving to Constant Contact
- Columbia Dispatch is open 0730-1630 M-F for the remainder of the winter.
- Note from Bernadette: Here is my presentation from the PCTA Mt. Hood Chapter Annual Meeting. This was my first presentation on the PCT. I ran out of time, so some things are out of order, and I did not do a dry run. I talked from notes for a bit, and then just spoke from my heart. I did it after working on it for a series of 20 hour days. The night before I got only 2 hours of sleep. So, please excuse my bloopers. ;-) I know that it has flaws, and I am working on perfecting it for my next presentation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSk0Slg4AFQ>

I have been asked to speak at the Skamania County Interpretive Center in late April. If you would like I will keep you posted. I plan on taking my presentation and working hard at making it more solid. I really appreciate the momentum that giving the presentation at the meeting has given. Made me dig in and go!

Roberta – may send a table there

Discussion Items

- Scouting hours and reports: send results as well
 - Roberta: must tie hours to a project.
 - Pace: scouting hours separate or tied to the work crew?
 - Roberta: doesn't matter. As long as the hours are captured. 0 miles covered/maintained if you are scouting. If you are solo you can't count work done as maintenance.
- NW Forest Passes should be received by now. 40-hour shirts sending at end of March.
 - Roberta: getting an extra 10 passes for people who were missed.
 - People who didn't get one in the mail: Summer, Justin, and Dana
- From Sandra: The Mid-Oregon Allingham Trail Skills College is in need of instructors. The Allingham TSC is June 4-7 near Sisters, OR.
 - Roberta: let Sandra know if you are interested.
- Tyler- Signs project
 - Tyler: right now they are set up for 2 lines. Did figure out a way to get a 3rd line. Not sure if we have planks wide enough for 3 lines. Dean said we cannot use "PCT" it has to be "Pacific Crest Trail 2000". Making the signs is an imperfect process with many steps.
 - Justin: do different forests have different requirements?
 - Dana: according to forest service, you are supposed to avoid abbreviations, except Tr for trail, as per their manual.

- Tyler: Dean was talking about the signs in the wilderness are scalloped on the edges, but I don't know how to do that.
 - Dana: Is it a requirement or preference?
 - Steve: The book requires chamfered in wilderness (scalloped)
- Dana: Has more signs in her office that need some Tung oil.
- Justin: If you need 3 line or different font he has a CNC. Doesn't like using it on wood a lot as it for metal primarily.
- Tyler: It was fun working in a real shop.

Round the Room

- David: I will be moving the schedule for the Pinhead Buttes section up much earlier due to nearly non-existent snow pack. Normally this is done the week after the 4th of July in conjunction with Becky's crews working out of Clackamas Lake and Triangle Lake. I should have a target date by our meeting in April.
 - After yesterday's log out, I dropped by the Thunder Island Brewery with Beth and Patrick to get some dinner. We sat inside because of the wind. While waiting for the food, the transfer valve on a 500 gallon fermenting tank blew out resulting in a geyser of beer aimed directly at our table. Beth and Patrick had their backs to the tank and were completely drenched in beer before they even knew what was happening. I fared better because I could see the blowout and duck to the side. I managed to just soak my shoes, socks and pant legs while wading out through a pool of beer.
- Steve Q: Summer does awesome minutes, but be careful what you say, it might be noted. Trail Maintenance is cool.
- Becky: No snow at Olallie Lake, you can drive all the way in. Maybe have the work party May 15 weekend?
 - Tim: You may not be about to use chainsaws late in the summer if you wait.
 - Offered Vet Wrap to anyone who wants a roll. Was on sale at Wilco.
- Ruth: Reviewed the first aid kit suggestions from Sacramento. We are going above and beyond their recommendations.
- Tyler: Has been up at Trout Lake making signs. Some people he has talked to have driven all the way up to 23. Next time they go up they will try to get up there. Formatted the scout/log out for late June/July. Plans to drive up, hike 1 way (7 miles); go back to top of hill for 2nd day; 3rd day go to a restaurant for breakfast and then hot springs. They may be able to do it earlier than planned this year.
 - Went to Anza-Borrego Desert. Worked on 12 miles of trail. The 1st day we went out and did 2 miles of heavy treadwork. The next day they worked on a 4-5 mile section. Then the 3rd day went to another road and worked all day until they ran out of time. It was interesting because it was all desert. They did a lot of brushing. The 4th day he went scouting with the "Official Scout". The trail is narrow with lots of brush and way too small for a horse. There are big rocks that the Scout just goes around. It was really strange to scout with people that just walk right past stuff that would impede horses. Some places along the cliff the trail narrows due to brush on one side and they said it was good/clear. The scout said everything was fine but there were trees and rocks and brush. They are not following the 3-3-10-10 at all. Great weather, 72F, very pretty.
- Liz: Mt Adams was just gorgeous. Helping Tyler with the signs. They stayed at the Trout Lake Valley Inn: the rooms are like log cabins and had a gas fireplace, hot tub. Very nice if you have a chance to go up there.
- Pace: It is like July on the west side of Mt Hood. Ramona Falls gate is still locked at the Sandy River. Mackenzie said she will try to unlock it by spring break. Scheduled 2nd log out the following weekend, if anyone wants to join a log out, hang around after the meeting (wilderness). There is a log on Jayme's section, just 20 yards onto the trail. When he goes for the second weekend he can take care of it. The log it about 13/16".
 - Roberta: Can do it with a cross cut when they walk the section on the 30th
- Justin: Not much new, will try to scout this month. Holding off until all the things that are going to fall, fall. Looking forward to Robert's log out
- Rick: Interested to hear what Tyler says about snow. Can't imagine there isn't snow at 4800'
- Tim: Territorial Riders are talking about fish packing to supplement some of the lakes.
- Jerry: Going out to log out his section not this weekend but next
- Summer: Spent the last month looking at collaborative photo sharing so we have a place to store photos from work parties and the different sections. So far Yogile seems to be the best option, however, they have a yearly fee. Trying to talk with them about waiving or lowering the fee for the PCTA (for being a non-profit). PCTA currently has a Google Drive set up for this if you upload pictures, make sure to share them with volunteer@pcta.org. Contact Summer, Dana, or Roberta for login/password.
 - Dana: The worst thing is if people just dump all of their photos. Maybe have them just upload their top 5?
 - Tami: Has worked out a hierarchy/structure system for ease.
 - Tim: It might be nice to have more than just their top 5 so we have a large amount to make selections from.
- Tami: Thank you to Tyler for his help.
 - Snag creek, three corner rock, the whole area: we have a lot of mountain bikers. Lots on roads and signs of them on the trail. It concerns her.

- Dana: We need to get some signage. Talked to DNR, it might be easier to get signs through Eden.
 - Roberta: Might have a few no biking signs in the cache
 - Tami: It might be a good project to load up the car and post them on the trail heads
- Tim: Any enforcement possible? Who do you contact?
 - Dana: It is illegal. PCT is closed to bicycles (was signed in 1988). Most places don't have adequate signage. Waldo lake area is really bad. As per ticket writing, 95% of people will do the right thing if they are informed. Need signage up first.
 - Leif: Who has jurisdiction?
 - Dana: The Forest Service
- Jayme: Very excited. New Seasons crew planning is in full swing. Original crew size is 9. Vega was looking for new volunteer opportunities so 3 Vega people will be there. Crew sizes (on Monday) will be between 7 and 12 people. If you have need of a large party, let her know. Scouting her section with Roberta on March 30.
- Dana: Meant to mention that PCTA has hired new land protection member. The Skyline and Sasquatch work party sign ups will be available in the next week or so.
 - Roberta: This will be added to meeting minutes and calendar
- Dana: For those who helped at Herman Creek last year at TSC, they will be finishing it this year. Will need more gravel brought in. No one was nominated for Regional Trail Maintainer of the Year for this Region. If you want to nominate someone, message Dana. Will be out of touch for the next week.
- Chris K: Made it up to his trail last weekend. It was interesting. Snow was really light, 5500 feet. Had to blaze up the 778, made it up to the upper meadow. Mostly pine trees that are down. It is in dire need of work. Parts are unpassable that you have to go around.
 - Roberta: We can plan a work party up there.
- Leif: Up near Hidden Lake, 3700', the lake is froze 85%. (it only gets morning sun).
- Ron: The Rangers would rather give tickets to cars vs. people. We have 1 LEO (Law Enforcement Officer) for whole national scenic area.
- Dennis: Just working on walking again. Will go up on Moody Street for some nice easy walking. Someone tried slacklining across Punchbowl Falls. Didn't make it.
- Jim: Waiting to see what the weather/wind is up to. Looking forward to working with Kelley and Tami to see what/how things will be divided
 - Kelley: Saw 10ish logs
 - Tami: The first mile is clear
- Kelley: some logs down in her section. There is a tangle that you have to climb over. Not a huge project if someone is already out. Would like to get more reassurance signs. Where to get them?
 - Dana: Has a whole bunch of plastic ones in her cache. Just know that every one of them gets stolen so use something extra to help keep it there
- Freefall: Just checked out his section to top of Table Mt and there is no ice, completely dry. Planning a joint crew with Kelley and New Seasons Markets Crew end of April. Need some 4x4post – will talk about with Dana.
- Roberta: Hear anything about media requests? Someone wanted more volunteers with K9 or equine companions to talk about why they volunteer, they wanted people between 25 and 45 years old and had to be available this weekend. But never heard back.
 - Dana: We get so many media requests that we are trying to make sure we aren't wasting volunteer time and that it gets our message out
- Pam: we were in the snow in DC