

Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA Caretaker Meeting Minutes

Wednesday August 12, 2015

Location: REI Clackamas

Welcome

- Welcome: Dawn Stender, Trails Supervisor for the Gorge NSA
- Attended: Lamar, Leif, Worm, Pace, Kelley, Rick, Steve P, Becky, Jerry, Chris K, Justin, David, Marijke, Scott, Tim L, Jim, Ron, Ruth, Summer, Dana, Roberta (21 people)

Accomplishment Summary/Statistics

- 2015 Stats through July: The awesomeness continues!
 - 106 Trail Work Parties
 - 16 events
 - 6 saw certs/TSC
 - Vol Hours (unaudited)
 - Events: 149 hours
 - Trail Maintenance: 7267 hours
 - TSC: 3729 hours
 - Total Vol Hours: 11185
 - Specialized Hours: 487 (includes TSC)
 - Miles of Maintenance: 185 (Includes TSC) <<= are we counting them differently?
 - Feet of Rehab: 5340 (over a mile!, includes TSC)
- In comparison, for 2014 calendar year our accomplishments were:
 - 114 trail work parties
 - 15 events attended
 - 1073 logs removed (218+ xc, 858+ chainsaw)
 - Over 400 volunteers (includes TSC)
 - Over 15,600 volunteer hours (includes TSC)
 - 1120 Specialized hours
 - About 487 miles maintained
 - 3.9 miles of trail reconstructed

Past Events

Crews and Events since last caretaker meeting:

1. July 11-12 Paradise Park Loop + PCT: Ruth and Chris K.
 - Chris: Planned for 4 days of work but was able to cut a day off. They cut 20(ish) logs. All the brushing is done. Most important: They rerouted the trail around the old Paradise Trail shelter (it was destroyed in the 90s) and removed the trees that destroyed the shelter. Almost the whole shelter was under the tree.
 - Roberta: Can you see the old shelter?
 - Chris: Once we cut the far side of the shelter to reroute the trail, we threw the shelter pieces back into the frame/floor of the shelter. There is a sign up there now too. We also moved a bunch of logs and rerouted the whole thing.
 - Roberta: Congrats on one of your first big crews.
 - Chris: Yeah, we had a great group.
2. July 11: Indian Springs Logout: Busdriver John
 - Note: also on July 11: Mt Hood 50 per website <https://gobeyondracing.com/races/mt-hood-50>
3. July 14: Muddy Fork brushing: Pace
 - Pace: It was about 10 people. Brushed out Muddy Fork, Top Spur to lower crossing. Had a good crew, worked close to the trailhead. We did have a few new people: 2 people from the volunteer center there and 2 from North Face. One of the guys from North Face talked a couple of his buddies in to coming on Pace's next crew.
 - Roberta: Tammy said we may have to do a corporate work party with North Face.
4. July 15: NSM Kids Day at BOG Oregon Side: Roberta

- Roberta: Can't remember how many people; maybe 5 kids and 5 adults. Thought we would do a lot Stinky Bob pulling, we did a lot of Blackberry pulling instead. We composted on site. They all had a good time, NSM want to do it again
- 5. July 17-23: Skyline Crew at Upper Lake/Olallie Lake
 - Dana: Did lots of stuff. Focused on drainage and re-benching and decommissioning trails in the meadow. Haven't seen it but the report looks good. There were 9-10 volunteers and 2 crew leaders. They had a good time.
- 6. July 17-19: Potato Hill: Karla
 - Roberta: It went well, Pace was there. Bill had wanted to do work north of there but we didn't get there. We did a drum circle.
- 7. July 20-21: Adamah Adventures (GA college group) near Pinhead Buttes: Tami
 - Cleared 27 drains/water bards, 300 feet of slump, 400 feet of slough & berm fixed. Over the course of both days we encountered 24 thru-hikers. Two of them were traveling Southbound. The kids had some great interactions with the thru-hikers. We had crew members from Georgia, Los Angeles, Paris, New York, Israel and Michigan. There was much to talk about on the trail. It was one thru-hikers birthday so the crew sang to him! I would be happy to work with Adamha Adventures in the future.
 - David: Good opportunity to get rid of issues on the back log for years. They also got a lot of drainage put in at the site of last year's burn. It was good to get the trail restored in that area. I think Tami did a great job. She did amazingly well.
- 8. July 21: NSM at Timberline North: Ruth
 - Ruth: It was good. We worked more on drainages. Walked a mile, fixed Zig Zag Canyon and came back. Fixed some mud flows. Made a nice crossing across Zig Zag River – they wanted people to have options so they made 2 crossings.
- 9. July 22: Boy Scout Trail Work: Kim (don't know if this happened)
- 10. July 23: Scout Eagle Creek: Lamar
 - Lamar: Did a little brushing, a little trimming. Have to re-plank the first bridge and the 7 mile tunnel to do. There was a bike in a tree off the trail.
 - Dawn Stender: There are supplies for the bridge. A rock came down and broke the railing and planking.
 - Lamar: We can tackle that at any time.
 - Roberta: We built that way back when.
 - Roberta: How many miles is the bike?
 - Lamar: About a mile. The sheriff was there looking to see if someone was there with the bike. They sent some people up to look around.
- 11. July 24: Logout BOG Oregon Side, one log: Pace
 - Roberta: Want to thank Pace for removing 1 lousy little log, that looked like an alligator, from her section
 - Pace: Took his niece up with him. Not sure if she would do it again. She had fun once we got there and started sawing.
- 12. July 30: Upper Muddy Fork Washout Repair part 2: Pace
 - Pace: Had 3 guys from North Face. It was a strong crew. Got all the way into the worksite in 35 min (4 miles with tools) got it cleared off and cleaned up debris to prevent the next washout from taking over the trail. It should survive the winter runoff this time. The river crossing had more water. Had to ford the north crossing both ways but could hop over the southern crossing.
 - Pace: Done with washout repairs for this year. Heading out of town for a couple weeks. Probably do more brushing in September. Mackenzie said someone came in to complain about a wash out on Yocum. It is a bad one. The Mazamas are working up on Yocum. The slide is sandy and keeps sloughing out. Told Mackenzie we might need to do some blasting or reroute. Putting it off for the easy stuff.
- 13. Aug 2: Benson Plateau Tread Work: Justin
 - Robert and another friend joined him. They bribed his wife to shuttle them from Herman Creek Trail to Wahtum Lake and then they walked back to Herman Creek. Worked 7 miles – drain dips, brushing, concentrated on trees coming onto the trail, substantial stuff. Some brushing still needed on upper section. Got rid of some trees (1 on horse trail by lake). Moved a rock (rolled down hill – had to use webbing to move it). On trail for about 10 hours. For a small group we got a good chunk of it done. The rest is up top, will do another crew in September or October. There are some signage issues to take care of.
- 14. Aug 8: Wahtum Lake Tread Work: Busdriver John
- 15. Aug 10: NSM at Top Spur: Jayme and Roberta
 - Jayme: We did some brushing, filled some holes in the sand. Sang a lot of loud songs, a lot of laughing. Did this with her old store (NSM Hawthorne). Picked out what she wants to do next: there is a log along the trail and wants to widen the trail there.
 - Roberta: We walked over to have lunch at Pace's Vista
- 16. Aug 11: Timberline Trail Meeting (Elliot washout): Pace
 - Pace: Map of the proposed change passed around
 - Pace: The meeting was hosted by TKO, they are coordinating to get it done. Clair was up with the Forest Service engineer. It will be about 1.5mile of new trail and a total reroute. They are interested in volunteer help

with it. They want to get the environmental report done this winter. There may be some internal funding. They are estimating \$100k, no bridge in the plan. Looking at possible contractor with volunteer work.

- Leif: Could be a reroute/alternate route for fires.
- Chris: The Stewards are interested in helping.
- Pace: The plan is to send a contract out in spring, work through the summer and then volunteer work in August/September. It will depend on the season and when the snow melts.
 - Chris: I think they will have a really short window to work on it.
 - Ron: It's nice that you can drive up and don't have to hike in.

17. Aug 12: Today's Caretaker meeting

18. Skyline Crew Orientation - Dana

- They used Jim's old section to train the crew leaders. We worked on a little section where it descends quickly to the creek. Installed some big rocks, a FYS crew was working there at the same time on the other side. Bill was working with FYS crew.
 - Marijke: Joined them on a section by Bunker Hill. They worked on a new turnpike, cleaned up a section, did a bunch of brush work off the PCT. She worked 2 days with them.
 - Dana: We need to get some reports out of Bill for that.
 - Roberta: Tami worked 1 day with them.
- Dana: Jim and Sue helped us learn about packing.
 - Becky: They said they felt it was very well received

Future Events

Next Month: schedule passed around

1. One more log near Herman Bridge Trail: Roberta
2. Aug 21-22: Urban Youth: Dana
3. Aug 28-30 PCT Days: Kelley
4. Aug 28: PCT Days Work Party: Roberta
5. Aug 29: 3rd Annual Bridge Walk
6. Sep 4-7: Packwood Glacier Crew: Kelley, Karla, Roberta
 - a. Also Sept 5: Bunker to Bonneville 50K Run
7. Sep 7: Mountain Music Festival at Timberline Lodge
8. Sep 9: Next Caretaker Meeting

Beyond:

1. September 25-27: ALDHA-West Gathering
2. September 26-27: Mountain Lakes 100 per website: <https://gobeyondracing.com/races/mountain-lakes-100>
3. Oct 3: Volunteer Picnic at Guy Talbot State Park

Reports

Volunteer Coordinator. Tammy

- Tammy's travelling until the 16th.
- Possible corporate crews: The North Face, Danner Boots, Columbia Sportswear
 - Roberta: North Face – maybe, maybe not. They were trying to tag on the NSM crew not knowing what it stood for (New Seasons Market)
 - Roberta: Danner Boots are very reliable according to Angie
- Kelley needs volunteer help on PCT Days. Please help her out.
 - Kelley: Everyone was sent an email about stepping up for a crew.
 - Roberta: Is leading it. Planning on weed pulling on BOG. Stinky bob and holly pulling right at the power line. It is really easy walk. As far as the rest...
 - Kelley: Several people responding for shifts but she needs more.
 - Lamar: Can help on Saturday (10-2:30)
 - Jim: Can help in the afternoon
 - Pace: Can help Saturday morning
 - Kelley: Crosscut saw presentation again. 4:30-5pm. Need a log, preferable about 10" diameter
 - Dana: Last year took Leif and found a log at Herman Creek. Tyler picked it up and dropped it off.
 - Summer: Will check her log pile to see if there is something.
 - David: Where are the saws coming from?
 - Dana: She has saws. They may be sharp.
 - Leif: Knows that the Wind River saws are sharp.
 - Dana: Hers should be sharp.

- Roberta: We want double buck for sure
 - Leif: There is one at Wind River
 - Kelley: Do we need hard hats and stuff?
 - Leif: it's just a demo, so no.
- Kelley: PCT days is not on Thunder Island this year.
 - Dana: It is on the east side of pavilion.
- Kelley: Is Sarah working on boards for pictures?
 - Tim: We have 3 boards. Will be at triangle lake that weekend but will meet up with Kelley or Roberta on the 26/27
- Dana: Just lost the volunteer that was organizing the Bridge Walk. She needs help with the walk. Most is already done but we need someone to do the last minute volunteer coordination. ALDHA West and Friends of the Gorge are sending people out. We are only allowed to have 750 people on the bridge at a time so we need people counters, crowd control.
 - Ron: Can be a clicker
- Dana: Also have an information table for adding a pedestrian lane. So need a volunteer to help people sign the form. We are not collecting money this time but will be applying for a grant. The bagpipes will not be there.
 - Kelley: There are some bagpipers in Stevenson, she can ask
 - Dana: Please.
- Pace: What is the status on the engineering study?
- Dana: Due to be finished in about a month. Trying to figure out how to work it into other things the port is working on for the bridge as part of the ports 10 year plan. Our engineer is the ports new engineer. So he gets to make the new plan and include our lane. The port is applying for a STIP grant (ODOT – bridge project grants). He is helping them write their application which will include our lane.
- Dana: The package that the engineer is recommending (deck needs replacement, strengthening) combines their work and our pedestrian lane. It is about \$25 million worth of work. And makes sense to do it all at the same time.
- Dana: Would love a volunteer wrangler. Also at PCT days there are a couple of really cool people coming, both in 90s. One wrote Trails for America, wants to come and sit at our booth. 1-3pm. They were just really happy that there is a big festival of people that love the trail and want to be there
 - Jim: Dana - Bryce is approaching 95 and should be invited to join those guys at PCT Days. Bryce and Rita were at the bridge walk last year.
- Tammy will set up a recruitment event with Montbell after she returns
- Roberta: Picnic logistics: Are we doing an event?
 - Request food donation from NSM – what should we get?
 - We have a date and a location. A chance to thank the volunteers. Having it at Guy Talbot State Park. Oct 3rd (Saturday). We've got the shelter reserved.
 - Ron: If you have charcoal, there is a big bbq already there.
 - Becky: Is the access off the scenic HWY?
 - Ron: Yes. Just past Latourell.
 - Roberta: What do we want to do for the picnic?
 - Kelley: There is a chance I can't be there
 - Pace: What are you offering?
 - Roberta: We have done hikes, geocaching (not well attended). Should we just have a picnic?
 - Pace: There is a good hike up to the falls
 - Roberta: It is a nice easy hike
 - Ron: A group of interesting group of trees on the hike.
 - Roberta: Will do a little discussion offline.
 - Ruth: Can we get the email out now so they can get it on their calendar
 - Becky: We should get a save the date out there
 - Roberta: Ok.
 - Leif: Same fare as before?
 - Roberta: We can ask for NSM donation and get more than hot dogs and buns.
 - Jayme: I've requested a \$50 gift card but haven't heard back.

Dana:

Help for Urban Youth project, rescheduled to Aug 21-22

- We're also going to pull weeds on BOG section. Might also pull more weeds on Fort Raines section and work on culvert at Moody Street as well. I've been working on forest planning stuff, lots of policy stuff. On the 24th all regional reps are going to a seminar on visitor impact.
- Kelley: There was an article about our little map in the Stevenson paper today.

- Dana: Keep your fingers crossed for the Gillette Lake parcel. The FS has it under option. So we are that much closer to it being public land.
- Has some free stuff from Patagonia. They said to give it away to good volunteers. There are some shoes. Doesn't want to bring any of it home. It was from an assistant crew leader for Skyline.
- The ultra-marathon, Bunker to Bonneville is Sept 5. They are asking for a work party on August 29.
 - Roberta: Wasn't Chris Sanderson helping with that?
 - Dana: I thought it was the first time it had come up. He did have some other group working on his section but not sure if it is the runners.
 - Dana: If anyone has work and is available, we would prefer if Anna had one of our people with her while doing a work party on PCT.
- Dana: Bill Carpenter is the Roberta in mid-Oregon, they've got some problems with people finishing up their log out. If anyone is interested in more log outs, let her know.
- Roberta: Tyler already signed up but needs a swamper and more help (done in Mt Jefferson)
 - David: Can help.

Bill:

- Roberta: We have 14 for Packwood Glacier and got approval for exceeding wilderness levels. We're the crew leaders (Kelley) but Bill is doing all the work.
 - They only has 8 for Cispus Pass. It is the week before Labor day (PCT Days weekend). It is a full week. Thursday through Wednesday.
 - Packwood Glacier Crew leaves as soon as they get back.

Budget. Kim

Tools. Leif

- Kim: Radio reprogramming back on-line
 - Roberta: Read a note that this is back on line
- Slightly defective trail signs to be used at events
- Leif: Tools – we got em.
- Roberta: All our pruners/loppers need attention. The blue handled ones are the best. Someone has a long term checkout of 1 blue lopper and a katana boy.
- Leif: There are sharpening tools in there. He will stop by.

Trail Skills College 2016:

Saw Certification: David

- National saw policy changes
 - We are asking for full reciprocity with FS and BLM and all districts within FS. A card from any agency is good anywhere on the whole PCT.
 - Age limit is 18, chainsaw is 16. PCT is recommending crosscut to 13. Not sure if he is in favor. Unless restricted to apprentice
 - Asking for a volunteer rep on the tech advisory group
 - Imperative that if we need to use the national database to issue cards we must have access to the database.
 - Asked for little more formal definition of what is complex.
 - Right now it lists 3 types of complexity
 - Using all the same evaluation forms. Separate forms for crosscut and chainsaw users. PCTA has requested a bucking only form.
 - One of the changes is that volunteers will be able to get "C" cert for complex without having to be an instructor. It will give people a change to progress to "C" level without having to be an instructor
 - New designation – cross cut sawyer trainee (apprentice – see above)
 - If this passes as is, we will no longer be issuing cards from the PCTA, they will be coming out of the national database.
 - First aid/CPR requirements not changed. Jennifer be asked that it be waived for apprentices
 - All "C" sawyers will have to be evaluated by 2 people to get "C" card. Instead of a single instructor as is current. "C" cards go to Winston or to the forest league sawyers. Adds a layer of redundancy/complexity
 - All cards good for 3 years
 - If you are interested, end of business day to tomorrow to add input. Email Jennifer
- Recent volunteer accident (crosscut sawyer/fatal): Last week in northern California. Head injury while working in Sierras on Wednesday. They were Airlifted out to Fresno where he passed away Thursday. In these cases, they don't release any details. Does not know what happened. Always a prelim accident report within 7 days. If they find out anything they will let us know. This was an extremely experienced cross cut (15 years) sawyers. Logged over 4000 hours. However, it appears through informal discussion that he was rigging and not actually sawing.

Rigging is very hazardous. Also bear in mind in Northern California/Southern Oregon, the volunteers have a lot more leeway with the FS (blasting trees, etc) so he may have been working above the level that we work at.

- David: For those of you who are instructors and got the email. Read it today, it is the PCTA response to the National Saw Policy. Responses have to be back to her by end of business tomorrow. If you wish to submit a separate comment you have until August 17.

Training and Safety: Open

- CPR Recertification set for Nov 21 at Estacada Public Library. What else to discuss?
 - Roberta: Often have full day meeting to cover the other hours. Any ideas? Let her know.

Discussion Items

- Need additional assistant crew leaders for the B-Corp event on Oct 13? Freefall
 - Chris Sanderson. About 30 people are signed up. On his section.
- Roberta: If you can help him out let Roberta or Chris know.
- Dana: It takes a couple of hours to get there and get back.

Announcements/Reminders

- Vacancies: Mt. Adams-North; Big Huckleberry; Trout Creek transition for Jim Webb (Tami/Kelley)
- **Columbia Dispatch** is open 0730-1800, 7 days a week.
- As of July 10, all areas are IFPL III or equivalent. No power tool use.

Round the Room

- Leif: hard drive crash.
- Jayme: Excited to work with Ruth next month
- Pace: Notes from Bill "Little Brown": July 7 – rained on me 3.5 days. Raining or snowing for 20 days so far. Friday – finally hiking Eagle Creek with daughter. Get to Washington this weekend.
 - Pace is leaving tomorrow for the trail - Gone for 2 weeks
- Kelley: Her section is crispy, there are lots of thru-hikers. Out there doing brushing. Going to Montana (Flathead Lake). Need to discuss Jim's section – who's taking what.
- Rick: Back from 50 miles in Eagle Cap area. Makes me appreciate how well maintained our trails here – theirs have ruts, logs, a little bit of a mess. Apologize for being AWOL, just trying to get back out there
- Steve P: apparently Mt Hood 50 is done, no complaints from them
- Tim: Ran into some people from the Mt hood 50. Didn't hear anything pro or con. Met them while I was doing trail work (they were practicing)
- Becky: Triangle Lake work party to repair corral rails is the same weekend as PCT Days. We need to fix the water tank and several other things to do at the camp. Brought lots of garden veggies, please take what you would like.
- Jerry: Regional forest office to Eagle Cap to get some work done. Rode last Sunday and ran into 3 different swarms of bees
- Chris: Need to get a group for 7-8 of the last logs. Really long hike in. We could use a mule, may be soliciting some help. Would like to do it early September. If we get a group of hearty souls, we could do it in a day. Will also need help to lead and a "B" sawyer (will do all the paper work).
 - Big fire on Mt Adams.PCT not closed yet. Lightening caused
 - Justin: Can join Chris for the September work.
- Justin: Out of town for next meeting. After would like to do a work party or two
- Marijke: Helped Forest Youth Success group. The Post is saying 3 fires between St Helens and Adams. Our section looks good. Happy to help out. Been putting up no bike signs, trail crossing signs. Had a bunch of hiker coming through.
 - Kelley: Ever get the log that was really high up? Half mile south of 68
 - Marijke: A couple south-bounders have mentioned one we would like to get up to
 - Kelley: needs some of the signs
 - Tim: Should get some for Timothy Lake as well
 - Dana: Will put them in her cache at BOG. If Marijke could show Kelley how to put them up would be great. And if you want to go to Timothy Lake...that would be great.
- Scott: Marijke's husband. It's good to be here. Did the trail 2 years ago. Live off Panther Creek Rd (Cedar Creek Rd).

- Tim: Rerouting Sandy River Trail, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from parking lot. Do 300-400 feet there. FS wants us to try to replant the vegetation. Will have a work party to relocate some vegetation. We may have an easier time using the old trail.
- Jim: As a retiree, it is no longer his section. So he did say he would be responsible through this year. Hiked Panther Creek to the river with grandson and camped. They didn't take rain gear. Went to sleep and 3am it started raining and rained through the next day to the point they had water coming out of their shoes. The trail looked great and really please to turn it over to Kelley and Tami, however they decide to divide it. Will now call it Kelley and Tami's section.
- Ron: Don't send anyone up to Multnomah Falls or Oneonta. There is no parking. Go to exit 35 and come back if you must go there.
 - Dana: We tried to highlight hikes that are less popular in our Gorge map.
- Summer: new truck. We offered suggestions for getting in and out.
- Roberta: Dennis Beard and I are meeting Friday consider being the assistant to handle the data. Her family reunion went great. Thanks to Kelley for helping to find vacation spots.
 - 1 was in Glide, Or. That was right by the fire. The other was in Lincoln City.