

Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA Caretaker Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2016
Location: REI Clackamas
Notes by Summer

Welcome

- Attended: Freefall, Kelley, Pace, Little Brown, Mike, Summer, Liz, Tyler, Ron, Tim, Becky, Tammy T., Ruth, Tami S., Steve P, Busdriver John, Gentleman Bob, Jane, Underbucker, Roberta (20 people)

Breaking News

- Gentleman Bob moves back to Mt Adams South. Barlow Pass to Frog Lake is vacant, but there's an interested party.
- No December meeting.

Accomplishment Summary/Statistics

As always, thank you to Pace for doing this analysis.

Mount Hood Chapter Stats - Oct 2016							
		YTD		YTD			
	Oct	Oct		Oct		FY	
	2016	2016		2015		2016	
						2015	
Volunteer Hours, total	532	17,081		15,709		19,170	16,444
Specialized hours	115	2,906		922		2,989	1,045
Miles Logged out	8	267		n/a		259	n/a
Miles Maintained	11	68		239		87	220
total miles logged & maint.	19	335		239		346	220
Feet of Rehab/Recon	2,745	22,904		10,468		24,180	8,963
# Trail Work Crews	6	128		105		142	106
Trail Maint - on trail hours	468	10,412		8,033		11,460	7,715
Trail Maint - support hours	63	3,073		3,301		3,973	3,328
Outreach Event hours	0	258		432		285	827
Training hours	0	3,338		3,943		3,453	4,570

- Liz: There were more trees down.
- Roberta: There were a lot.
- Tami: We had a whole forest down.

Past Events

Crews and Events since last caretaker meeting:

1. **Oct 16: Scout BOG Oregon Side: Roberta**
 - Roberta: It was a nice day. There was 1 log down. Dawn was going to have the fire crew take it out. I cleaned it up a bit
2. **Oct 20: PCT along Sandy River Tread Work: Pace**
 - Pace: It was a real nice wet day. 39 drains. It was raining on and off. When we headed back we could see the drains we fixed. The crossing wasn't too bad. On the way back, the water had come up.
3. **Oct 25: Scout PCT near Dry Creek, Power line: Roberta, Dana, Dawn, Edan**

- Roberta: Dana and I and Dawn and Eden scouted the PCT from Moody to Dry Creek and we looked at 2 projects. 1. Fixing the far side of Dry Creek Bridge. I want to fix that horse ford. Also switch the tread because it drops right down to the water and I got approval from Dawn to do an intersection realignment. The trail will come out just past the flat area that is nice for sitting. 2. The other thing Dana had talked to BPA; they are going to rebuild a bunch of the power poles in that area and upgrade the power line access road. We scouted out 2 different trails to get away from the power poles. BPA will pay for NEPA.
- 4. **Oct 29: Justin had a crew on Benson and Teakettle**
 - Roberta: He posted signs from Wahtum all the way down and cleared a couple of logs.
 - Pace: He limbed a big one on teakettle, left very high in the air.
- 5. **Oct 30: Big Huck tread work: Little Brown, Pace**
 - Little B: This work party was supposed to be a trip up Eagle Creek but the ground was so wet so we moved it to Big Huck. It rained on us all day. We went south of the access trail and took berm off for about 1000 feet and fixed a drain to get water off the trail
- 6. **Nov 7: Big Huck Tread Work: Little Brown**
 - Little B: Went the other way on the access trail where I had done work on a spring earlier and Pace dug out culvert. Part of the problem, I hadn't dug down to the brush below where the problem was and there were logs clogging the culvert. One of the projects this spring will be to clear that drain. The hill sloughs off and clogs the culvert. Took out a fire ring (metal) and another log that had fallen across the trail. And then my section has a lot of bear grass so 6 of us spent an hour to clear 30 yards of trail of bear grass. We cleared it 5-6 feet off the trail. I'll go back next year to see how fast it regrows. We only touched a small piece of the bear grass. We had John Hoffnagle, a member of the board, he had a great time. He looks forward to getting back out.
- 7. **Nov 7: PCTA/MHNF Meeting: Dana, Chris K, Leif, Tim, Pace, Gentleman Bob, Roberta, Underbucker**
 - Roberta: It went really well. We had the head of Mt Hood forest in attendance. She stayed an hour and a half. We got a lot of praise from Mt Hood forest people and I did want to read this from Claire, she couldn't attend: "I really appreciated the volunteers' hard work this year. It was a big year for logout, and the group not only finished the PCTA but also helped us on a number of other trails. They really are an amazing group."
 - Little B: What do you do at this meeting?
 - Roberta: We review accomplishments, talk about safety issues and communication issues, we go through a spreadsheet with every project that needs to be done and how many days it will take and what the priorities are.
 - John: Any surprises?
 - Roberta: No.
 - Roberta: Tom (the seasonal) is out now for the season so you don't need to copy him.
 - Pace: We got approval to realign the Top Spur trail.
 - Roberta: They are going to improve the road and we asked for extra gravel. They talked about totally improving the Top Spur trailhead
 - Tyler: 2 cars can park there fine.
 - Steve P: Not sure what improvements can be done.
 - Roberta: A permanent footing for the porta potty was mentioned. We talked about a redesign of that trail with switchbacks but that will be years down the road
 - Kelley: When is the GP meeting?
 - Roberta: Nov 30 at the Vancouver library. 930am.

Future Events

Next Month: See calendar on website. Changes are frequent.

Next meeting: January 11, 2017. Happy New Year!

Beyond:

1. Dolly Chapman has scheduled her fall and winter crosscut saw sharpening classes:
 - November 29 - December 1: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dolly-chapmans-crosscut-saw-sharpening-course-1129-121-tickets-26086802328>
 - December 2 – 4: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dolly-chapmans-crosscut-saw-sharpening-course-122-124-tickets-26087028003>
 - March 21-March 23, 2017: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dolly-chapmans-crosscut-saw-sharpening-course-32117-32317-tickets-28056967144>
 - March 24-March 26: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dolly-chapmans-crosscut-saw-sharpening-course-324-32617-tickets-28057506758>

Reports

Volunteer Coordinator: Tammy

Roberta is your volunteer recruitment contact for the time being.

- Tammy: Had to put Dad in hospice on Monday. If I miss something let me know. It's been 7 weeks of not fun. Did go to Scotland. Been a hard week.
- On Nov 22 there is the new book about the PCT at Powell's downtown. We're going to have a table and I'm going to do it but if anyone wants to go and hang out at a table with me let me know. I figured lots of people like us will go. It's a pretty good book. So if you want to, send me an email and I'll send you the information.
 - Tyler: I'll go.
- Tammy: The Annual Celebration
 - Roberta: It is now Saturday, January 21. It's still at Sandy, still a little tentative because they need security. Probably be the last year that we have it there as their lease is up and they probably won't have that building. Steve Q will be our featured speaker. Our usual time: set up 1130, doors open at noon. My presentation at 1pm, awards, Steve at 2. Done 3/330 and out by 4.
 - Tammy: Dress in t-shirts as it gets hot.
 - Roberta: Anyone wants to be the food coordinator? Kelley said yes.
 - Awards are from the Forest Service for the time spent on the three forests.
 - Roberta: I'm sure Leif will be the coffee and tea man.

Partnership Crews: Jayme

Upcoming and New:

1. **Wilson High School:** So if anyone wants to work with a bunch of high school kids. I didn't talk to the person, they have their own ideas. One thing they want is a presentation about tools at their school in the evening. It's kind of your standard partnership crew
 - Tami: I'm game.
2. **Wilderness Stewards:** Possibly April/May timeframe, after their training.
 - Roberta: I shuffled them off to Chris K.
3. **National Wildlife Federation:** Requested as a possibility, not yet even firm on their plans. They want a restoration project within 30 minutes of Skamania Lodge in June. Roberta working with the contact for now.
 - Roberta: They want something within 30min. I thought of Kelley. And it might be as much as 30 people and they are ok with invasive pulls. Only 4 hours of work.
4. **Wilderness Lit Class (PCC):** Primary date Feb 18, 2017. Backup dates for weather Feb 25, Mar 4. All are Saturdays. Ruth to lead, Kelley assist.
 - Tyler: Whatever happened to the REI guy?
 - Roberta: Had a conversation with him. Postponed till spring.

Multiple crews for same group:

1. New Seasons Market:
 - 1) (done) Tuesday April 19 with Busdriver John, Herman Creek Trail and Herman Bridge Trail
 - 2) (done) Tuesday May 10, with Robert Caldwell – moderate, brushing &/or tread work, Bald Mtn area (near Top Spur)
 - 3) (done) Saturday June 4 with Worm, Leif, Rick, Marty – logout Lolo Pass South
 - 4) (done) Sunday June 12 with Worm, Ruth, Marty, Roberta, logout Lolo Pass South
 - 5) (done) Tuesday June 14, with Robert Caldwell – moderate, brushing &/or tread work also Bald Mtn area
 - 6) (done) Saturday June 25 with Worm, Roberta – brushing, possible logout Lolo Pass South
 - 7) (done) Monday June 27 with Kim/Pam Owen, Washington in the Gorge area
 - 8) (done) Tuesday July 12 with Kelley Davis - moderate, brushing work on the Washington side of Bridge of the Gods
 - 9) (Cancelled) Friday July 15 Kids Day, with Carole and Roberta – Bridge of the Gods Tollgate Park, invasive plant removal on PCT and 400 trail
 - 10) (done) Monday July 18 with Chris Sanderson - moderate, Washington in the Gorge area
 - 11) (done) Monday Aug 15 with Roberta - easy, invasive plant removal on Oregon side of Bridge of the Gods. April Ann Fong will assist.
 - 12) (done) Tuesday Aug 23 with Leif - moderate, basic tread work
 - 13) (done) Tuesday Sep 6, with Tami Sheets – moderate work in Washington near Sedum Ridge.
 - 14) (done) Saturday Sept 10 with Worm and Roberta
 - 15) (done) Monday Oct 3 with Roberta and Chris K – drainages along Paradise Park Trail.
2. Mazamas:
 - 1) (done) Feb: – Nesmith Trail with crew leader Pace.
 - 2) (done) March: March 5 crew leader Rick/Pace. Wilderness logout Nick Eaton Ridge and Gorton Creek
 - 3) (none) April: none (no work party requested)
 - 4) (none/done) May: May 2-3 – no Mazamas
 - turned into a non-Mazama crew clearing a couple tough logs on Nick Eaton Trail
 - 5) June, July, Oct cancelled
 - 6) (done, AYM) Aug 13: Steve P and Roberta on Steve's section

7) (cancelled, no participants) Sept 4. Crew leader Tami at Sedum Ridge.

Completed Partnership Crews

1. Go Beyond Racing: Justin. June 18. Teakettle Springs section
2. Apple: Done. Tami, June 2 and June 3. Two single-day projects.
 - o Additional work crew done Aug 24 with Tami on Sedum Ridge section.
3. Lisa Holmes, Author and hiking group with 6 people wants a crew on April 30. Ruth and Carole
 - o turned into just PCTA volunteers, Lisa and hiking group cancelled
4. Alaska Airlines: Done. Leif on his section, Thursday May 12
5. PGE at Timothy Lake: Done. Roberta and Marty, May 23-25. PGE providing food and materials and PCTA providing volunteers
6. Danner Boots: July 20, Roberta with Tyler, Carole, Little Brown, and Hilary. 28 from Danner, did 4 separate projects on PCT between BOG and Dry Creek.
7. FYS (Forest Youth Success): July 26-27. Tami working directly with Dean. Dean set up 3 days on Sedum Ridge
8. Urban Youth: Aug 12-13. Dana leads, Kim, Bob and Jane assisting
9. Outward Bound Sep 2-4. Underbucker and Becky. Tread specialists: Kim and Pam and Busdriver John
10. DONE: Lewis and Clark College. Sept 24, drainages on Paradise Park Trail. Kori with L&C leads

On Hold/Not scheduled

1. Montbell: Lamar offered to lead. On hold indefinitely.
2. Boeing: group of 5 or a few more- was going to be on Earth Day. postponed indefinitely
3. Girl Scout group: Carole and Ruth
4. Troup 22 Eagle Scout Project: Kim
11. Ant Farm, Travis Roundy. Will have youth involved.
12. Trail Butter, Jeff Boggess: Worm incorporated into NSM Sept 10 crew, but then he had to back out. He sent Trail Butter for the crew.
13. No-Show: Hi-Tec crew on Sandy River Trail scheduled for Oct 5. No show due to car troubles.
14. REI: postponed to spring

Dana: BOG cache needs to move.

- Roberta: By spring. My understanding is that they are going to automate the toll taking. The top 2 options are the Herman Creek Work Center or the basement of Dana's Office in Skamania. I'm leaning towards the basement as we have gate issues with the Herman Creek Work Center. At the Gorge meeting on Dec 1 we will look at both options.
- Kelley: Maybe I can put my head with hers to think of somewhere else.

Bill: Wind River Cache is OK where it is.

- Roberta: All that kerfuffle is done.
- Little B: When I returned tools on the 30th I talked with a lady, they wanted to move us because they thought all the tools laying around outside the shed were ours and they wanted it cleaned up.
- Tami: Those are Forest Youth Success tools.

Budget: Kim

Tools: Leif

- Roberta: Leif isn't here. As he says, we have tools.

Trail Skills College 2017: Tammy

- Tammy: We met last night and nothing earth shattering. Tami's mom is doing a Friday night presentation about the history of BOG and Indian Heaven.
 - o Tami: She dug out some pics from the PCT and growing up on horses.
- Tammy: We will have a packer class. LeeAnn Clark is not renewing her certification so I'm hoping Fern's Mom is going to go in and get the American Heart certification and do it for us. And if she can't, Robert (an ER doctor) is available as well. And Ryan had someone as well. Ryan is in need of instructors. Keep it in mind.
 - o Roberta: Pace said he would.
 - o Tammy: Send me an email if you are interested and I'll send it to Ryan. He does a meeting in January.
- Roberta: Are we confirmed at the same place?
 - o Tammy: We are at the Marine Park and the 29 of April. Saw weekend is the next weekend (as per Leif). The horseman will feed us again. We're not having a meeting next month either.

Saw Certification: David

- Underbucker: Estacada crosscut is April 6-9. There will be 2 two day sessions. 1 day for recertification or a 2 day for new certs. Joint Forest Service and volunteers.
- The Big Bend saw cert has been scheduled for June 9-11 (Fri/Sat/Sun) at the same place, Hyatt Lake in Southern Oregon. I'll wait until January before I send out requests for instructors.
- Underbucker: There was another incident just last month of a Stihl saw with a fuel geyser causing 2 and 3 degree burns on a sawyer. Just keep reminding everybody, when you take the ¼ turn caps of the fuel tank be sure to do it slowly and use a rag to cover it so if the geyser occurs it doesn't get on your clothes and face. Most of the time it occurs because the saw keeps stalling and people think that they have a vapor lock and they open the fuel cap to remove it. And if the gas hits the muffler you get a fire. If you operate a Stihl, be really careful about opening the fuel tanks
 - Roberta: Is Stihl doing anything?
 - Dave: No. The right solution is going back to screw top caps. They have tried different gaskets under the caps. Their official response is that it is a user training issue.
 - Ron: Does it make any difference on the size of the saw?
 - Dave: No. It's the temperature of the tank and they all have the same caps. It doesn't make any difference.

Training and Safety: Open

Discussion Items

- Some orphan projects needing a crew leader
 - Stairs at Wahtum Express (Busdriver John declined to lead) 250 stairs. The bottom need to be rebuilt. it is wilderness. Sue really wants it done. Next year I would like a crew to work on that area.
 - Busdriver John: I think a switchback would be better. If it does get done and someone gets hurt. It's dangerous down at the bottom.
 - Roberta: It is not our decision.
 - 7 ½ mile camp decommissioning project
 - Little B: If we end up with a 5 day dry spell we can still get it done.
 - Tread at Tunnel Falls: it is falling away and needs a crib on the trail head side of the falls (downhill, north side of the falls). People were cutting down to get down to the falls.
 - On the PCT, Sandy River section, about 1 mile northbound from Paradise Park Loop and 2 ½ miles uphill (southbound) from Sandy River crossing, there is a cliffy overlook and people are getting lost. Think that a good brushing would fix the getting lost issue. This will be a next year issue. Maybe consider this next time there is a log out up there. It has been highlighted to the Forest Service a couple of times now.
 - Top Spur feeder trail: we got the go-ahead to adjust the trail around the tree roots causing water issues and also can plan to fill near the trailhead with gravel (they are planning to add gravel to the road, and they also have access to "free" gravel). I know Jayme said we can use a NSM to do the gravel at the bottom
 - Pace: I was going to take on the realignment.
- Mt Hood NF requests help outside our usual turf. Anyone interested?
 - Hidden Lake Trail, serious drainage issues near top where it joins PCT. Between the lake and PCT. Not sure how late we can get in there. Ruth will scout.
 - Old Salmon River Trail, general maintenance and stair reconstruction
 - Hunchback Mtn Trail, logout, but about 5 mile strenuous hike to get to the logs; difficult logs.
 - Steve P: Up near pyramid?
 - Roberta: Yep.
 - Cool Creek Trail, drainages

Announcements/Reminders

- 9 Vacancies: 1) Mt. Adams-North; 2) Indian Heaven South (reserved for Mileage Mike); 3) 3-Corner Rock south; 4) Benson Plateau (PCT); 5) Upper Eagle Creek; 6) Lower Eagle Creek; 7) Indian Springs Trail; 8) Sandy River (PCT); 9) Twin Lakes (PCT, reserved)
- Also looking for an event coordinator
- **Columbia Dispatch:** Dispatch changed on Oct 15: 7:30a to 4:30p, M-F. Outside of these hours you still need to create a TCP, and must have an alternate dispatcher.

Round the Room

- Busdriver John: I've said enough. It's going to be a nice Thanksgiving, we're going to Hawaii.
- Gentleman Bob: The great land swap was mildly successful. I haven't been up in a while and wanted to see what my meadow looked like. I was also having a harder time recruiting for Twin Lakes. I didn't know how much that other section was coveted, if you had an offer for it within an hour.
- Jane: We've been doing home maintenance but we did close down the Trout Lake cache and inventoried everything.
- Freefall: In February I'm going to DC to hike the hill. It's going to be great. I said I'll do it again. It will be interesting to see the mood in DC. You go in and tell your story and that you are a volunteer and maintain the trail. The PCTA will brief us beforehand, once at home and once in DC, so we try and put that in part of your story and you tell your story to aids, rarely with senator. You get to wear a suit.
- Kelley: I've been busy with work. I'll volunteer when I can. I still have a couple of trees down on my section that I can get with a hand saw. I have tree hugger signs if you need them.
 - Jane: The Barlow Trail at Frog Lake can probably use one
- Pace: I'd like to get on the trail. Going down to the saw class at the end of the month to learn how to sharpen saws
- Little B: The last 2 crews I was able to get on my trail. Been on it 6 times this year. A lot of the faces in here have helped on my sections so thank you and we've had a good year.
- Mike: I should get CPR training by the end of this month. Trying to work it through my wife's school. Looking at getting the Trail Skills College book on my kindle. I'd like to get out on the trail to look things over.
 - Roberta: When you get your card please scan and send it to me.
- Underbucker: Are we interested in doing Tree School. The paperwork is due December 1. Tree School is March 25.
 - Steve P: I can sit there for a day again.
 - Underbucker: Tree School is for people who are into arboriculture in anyway and we do get volunteers there. It's a nice location. I usually bring tools. Speaking of saws. I'm getting a lot of saws including crosscut and ibuki that are getting too much corrosion because they are being stored damp. You need to wipe them off and WD40 them. It saves a lot of work when you have to remove that during the sharpening process.
 - Roberta: I'll put a note on the saw container in my cache as a reminder
- Summer: I broke my foot in Japan. Trip was fantastic. Fun. Everyone wanted to practice their English.
- Liz: If you ever get a chance to go to Aruba do. The snorkeling is amazing, the water is so clear. It is a desert island. Hurricane Matthew past by on Thursday night so we got rain and not too bad wind. In December we are going to DC to see our daughter.
- Tyler: I feel like we have been gone so much since August. I don't even know what the trail looks like any more, I need to get on the trail. With the Red Cross, we drove 3000 miles to South Carolina, drove around for 3000 miles in country and then drove back. It's been 3 weeks on the road. We stopped and got some Starbucks and I get back in the car and I said I'm ready to get back on the road
- Ron: Portland Parks gave us CPR and First Aid. Switch back 8/9 at Multnomah Falls, a tree came down and the fire crew came out and cleared it within a day. If you are interested in the Bridge of the Gods, on the 29th of November at 630pm the USGS is doing a presentation at Edgefield and it is supposed to be pretty good. Doors open at 5pm. You are better off getting there fairly early. It gets pretty crowded fast. If the sun halfway comes out, the people come out.
- Tim L: I finally got the RTP Grant Agreement. It's too late to do anything on the trail so it will be next spring, May/June, before we get up there. Looking forward to going down with Pace and Dave for saw sharpening.
- Becky: I didn't know if I should bring it up but I don't know how many bike people I have here. The Oregon Timber Trail proposed all across Oregon, it follows along the PCT. They've had meetings all along the trail and at those meetings they aren't treating it like it is proposed. They are treating it like it is a done deal. Travel Oregon is behind the whole thing. At Timothy Lake they are using the PCT. It is part of the trail. It is on the map. They have already had the meeting in our area. They said that the PCT is a multiuse trail and they are taking it over in that Timothy Lake section.
 - Tim: There is another meeting in Hood River on the 28th
 - Roberta: Dana is in contact with them. Those two are getting together and will look at getting it off the PCT.
- Tammy: I have a Scottish mood ring. It's kind of bluish right now. I got it at the Dolphin Center on our first day walking. They put cameras up and you can look to see if you can see dolphins in the North Sea. It was really interesting that we walked in and there are all of these kids and I said, don't the kids go to school here. It was the middle of the week. And she said they are on holiday. They started 3 weeks before and had 2 weeks off. It was beautiful and we walked for 6 days and they took our luggage and we carried a backpack and we walked from an Inn/Country House/Pub with rooms upstairs and ate really well. I never got tired of smoked salmon for breakfast. My one suggestions is don't do it in October because everyone closes as it the end of the season. We walked 10-

13 miles every day. We would walk into the town 3pm-ish and the distilleries would close at 2pm. That wasn't too much fun but we still drank a lot at the pubs. I like their beer. I drank a lot of really good whisky. We went all over the place and had a lovely time and met up with a friend from college that we hadn't seen in 15 years. It was fun. We met at 7pm and we closed the place. It was fun. I recommend it. It was beautiful. Lots of sheep. Lots of cows. Lovely humans. Everyone we saw stopped and asked us where we were from.

- Ruth: Bring in your first aid kits. I'll check them out and get them back to you.
 - Roberta: I ran over mine.
- Tami: I haven't been out on my section. I contacted Bill H. about a long crew for next year. Thinking about what kind of work that he will need in the northern area. It's Christmas. It's crazy. I work in retail.
- Steve P: Nothing really. Not going to be at the annual meeting. Out of the area
- Roberta: 1. I'm resurrecting the t-shirt order so I will send out an email. The grey ones. 2. I am working with Shannon. She and I will co-lead a crew around Glacier Peak Wilderness and looking at filling it with Mt Hood people. We are limited to 6 people because of camping. Looking at a 5 day crew in July.
 - Tami: I would be interested. Keep me posted.
 - Kelley: I would too.
 - Tyler: Me too.
 - Pace, Little Brown too