

Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA Caretaker Meeting Minutes

Aug 9, 2017

Location: REI Clackamas

Notes by Summer

Welcome

- Welcome:
- Absent: Little Brown (hiking); Christie (work); Frank (Glacier NP for the season); Kim and Pam (out of town); Leif (work, out of town)
- Attended: Steve P, OG, Becky, Hilary, Tammy, Thomas, Ron, Chris K, Brooke, Ruth, Underbucker, Tim, Gentleman Bob, Busdriver John, Chuck, HeyMan, Pace, Carole, Summer, Roberta (20 people)

Breaking News:

Hilary takes Benson Plateau section. Brooke takes Mt Adams – North. Rob Heyman takes Rushing Waters. Congrats and Thanks!

Bill Hawley will retire at the end of this year, and return to being a PCTA Volunteer.

Our area is at IFPL II:

- No operation of chain saws after 1:00 PM
- Spark arrestor in place
- Fire extinguisher and shovel with each chainsaw
- Fire extinguisher in each vehicle
- Fire watch required

Indian Creek Fire (Eagle Creek) being held small; PCT open, Eagle Creek Trail and Indian Springs Trail closed. No camping at Indian Springs nor Wahtum Lake

Whitewater Fire is south of us. Breitenbush Lake south closed.

Closure due to logging operation near Table Mountain. "Starting July 25, 2017, part of the PCT will be inaccessible 10 miles north of Bridge of the Gods due to logging activity northwest of Table Mountain. Signs along the alternate route will direct you to a 3.1 bypass along a logging road and back to the PCT. (Note: The length of PCT trail being bypassed is 2 miles.) The detour will be in place until further notice."

Chris K is a hero: he found a smoldering campfire less than 10 feet from the PCT while scouting yesterday and it took most of his water to get it extinguished. Something else to watch out for while on trail.

Accomplishment Summary/Statistics

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

Mount Hood Chapter Stats - July 2017						
		YTD		YTD		
	July	July	July	July		YTD
	2017	2017	2016	2016		Diff
Total Volunteer Hours	2,757	11,856	2,568	13,842		-1,986
Specialized hours	680	1,731	618	2,424		-693
Number of Trail Crews	27	73	26	100		-27
Miles Logged out	90	154	97	239		-85
Miles Maintained	25	60	10	45		15

Feet of Rehab/Recon	4,197	7,894		2,335	15,907	-8,013
Volunteer hours by Category						
Trail Maint - crews & scouting	2,555	6,389		2,265	7,794	-1,405
Trail Maint - support	202	1,927		294	2,503	-576
Trail Skills Training	0	3,385		0	3,459	-74
Outreach Events	0	156		9	86	70
	2,757	11,856		2,568	13,842	

Past Events

Crews and Events since last caretaker meeting:

1. **July 7-13: Skyline Crew at Table Mountain**
 - Roberta: Did some log out, built rock retaining wall.
2. **July 13: Timberline-Barlow Logout/Tread: Ron**
 - Ron: Had 13 people in 3 groups - chainsaw, crosscut and tread work. Took an hour longer than normal. The crosscut people had a big one to do and a lot of it was rotten on the outside so you have to chop it down to wood. We got a lot of work done. Turned out to be a nice day. Everyone enjoyed what they were doing.
3. **July 13 Logout north end of Gillette Lake: Freefall/FS**
 - Roberta: They did 20 logs.
4. **July 14: Wahtum Lake Logout: Busdriver John**
 - Busdriver John: Done. There were 12-14 logs. How small are we supposed to count? We had a lot of pull and throw.
5. **July 14: Scout Indian Springs to Buck Peak: Leif**
 - Roberta: Leif is working today.
6. **July 15: NSM Crew 8, Lolo Pass South Logout: Worm**
 - Roberta: It went ok.
7. **July 15: Pinhead Butte Logout: Underbucker**
 - Underbucker: It went well. We had three crews working from 3 different locations and got the entire section logged out in one day. It was amazing effort by the sawyers.
8. **July 15: Gateway to Mt Adams/Mt Adams South: Jane**
 - Gentleman Bob: Our 3 day went well. We had a couple of defections. We were able to get everything cleared and worked up to White Salmon Springs. I want to drop back in this weekend and do some brushing. No logs down unless something fell last night.
9. **July 16: Benson Plateau Logout: Hilary, Rick, Leif**
 - Hilary: Leif helped me lead that one. We left a couple of logs but got everything I wanted done.
10. **July 17: NSM Crew 9, Invasive plant pull at BOG Oregon: Roberta**
 - Roberta: They did a really nice job. We got so much work done and yet we were still done by 2. We worked from the BOG parking lot to Moody Street. It looks so great. I'm really impressed that the native plants are coming back.
 - Ron: Indian Plum are the first for the leaves to turn in the fall. They are already turning, it's not dead.
11. **July 17: Logout Teakettle: Kelley**
 - Roberta: Logged out most of Teakettle
12. **July 17: AMC Crew 1: Little Brown**
 - Roberta: Little Brown did 3 different crews with AMC.
 - Busdriver John: I helped with the causeway. Only 1 person out of 8 had ever done trail work. It was really an education for them as to how much work it takes. We had lots of down trees in the area to work on.
13. **July 19: Panther Creek Logout: Luna and Little Brown**
 - Roberta: Little Brown is hiking the PCT in Washington. They finished Panther Creek finally. There was 6 or 7 or more crews to clear that stretch.
14. **July 19: Upper Muddy Fork Logout: Pace**
 - Pace: 17 logs. Went in a couple days before to improve the crossing at Muddy. Still 6 logs remaining. Planning on doing tomorrow but couldn't get a crew big enough. So I have 6 logs remaining. Normally it is clear by the end of May.
15. **July 21-23: Williams Mine to White Salmon Spring: Gentleman Bob and Jane**
 - Gentleman Bob: The 3 day work party. See above.
16. **July 21-23: Benson Plateau Trail Work: Hilary and Roberta**
 - Roberta: First time we had competing kitchen needs.

- Hilary: Everyone worked really hard. One gentleman got overheated. He walked back and is feeling good now.
- Hilary: That section of trail looks really nice. We brushed a lot. One of the only sections of trail open in that area because of the fire.

17. July 22: Indian Springs to Buck Peak Logout: Leif

- Roberta: Cleared part of the trail. Can't get to the last of the logs because we can't get to the trailhead now

18. July 22-23: Timberline to Sandy River Logout: Hey Man and Ruth

- Ruth: 17 logs. 3 on Hey Man's section. There were 3 or 4 clusters of trees that we can't get so will have to leave it for the Forest Service.
 - Chris K: I talked to Rachel. She left me a 10 minute voicemail. Rachel stated she was not getting reports from hikers that this area was a problem. She doesn't seem to think it is a problem but she thinks my section is a problem, the loop, she is going to assist us in clearing it.
 - Roberta: Pig Pen did say he was up for a challenge.
 - Chris K: It is going to take some overnight trips. Some of those will take hours. I think it will take 5 days to clear and there are some really complex situations. They are all intertwined. It is in wilderness so all handsaws.
 - Hey Man: It is also on switchbacks.
 - Tim L: What about putting in for an MRA? It sounds really dangerous.
 - Roberta: If Rachel comes out tomorrow I can talk to her.
 - Chris K: I told her that I generally agree with the PCT part but did not commit us to anything. I think Ruth's section is the priority and the loop secondary. There is a lot of resource damage as people are going around it, way around them, like going through meadows to get around them. Down Rob's section, I didn't count because that is Ruth's problem. I've got pictures if anyone wants to feel good about their section....
 - Hey Man: We went in a little way and got the small stuff. I still have to scout the middle section.

19. July 24: AMC Crew 2: Little Brown

- Roberta: They did more work on the turnpike. One of the work parties did work on Little Brown's section.

20. July 28-30: Potato Patch Crew: Karla, Brooke

- Brooke: Friday I scouted the north section and Saturday we logged out, 24 small logs. All handsaw. Sunday I finished scouting. The middle and lower section are in great shape. The Forest Service has done a lot of work on the middle section. North WTA has a crew going out to Camp Riley. I'll go back in and finish cleaning out the drain dips and then call it done.
- Roberta: On Potato Hill, Pace scouted in the morning and we went out and cleared 39 logs in an hour and a half. They were all small but I think that's a record. We just had katanaboys and handsaws and Pace cleaned out 20 drains. That section used to look like a Jeep track and now it looks like a real trail.

21. July 29: Olallie Lake Logout: Jerry

- Becky: It is done. He told me 20 or 30.

22. July 30: Lost Lake to Buck Peak Logout: Leif

- Roberta: It was planned for Indian Springs. They logged out some but couldn't get to all

23. July 31: AMC Crew 3: Little Brown and Leif

- Roberta: Finished the turnpike and fixed a culvert

24. Aug 5: Timberline North Logout: Ruth

- Ruth – took out logs that were 2 miles of the lodge. Got my husband out.

25. Aug 7: AMC Crew 4: Tyler

- Sedum Ridge slide repair
- Roberta: I begged Tyler to take it. He worked on Tami's section and apparently there is an ongoing slide that they fixed.
- Chuck: Tyler stayed and repaired 150 feet. I took the other half of the group and we did some brushing.

26. Aug 9: Today's MHC meeting

Future Events

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

Next meeting: September 13, REI. Steve Queen will lead the meeting

Beyond:

1. Sep 15-21: Sasquatch Crew: Riley Creek Project,
2. Sept 23-24: Mountain Lakes 100 Run , <https://gobeyondracing.com/races/mountain-lakes-100/>
3. Oct 7: Picnic at Guy Talbot State Park

Reports

Volunteer Coordinator: Tammy

Tammy: You guys did a lot in July and you are doing a lot in these 2 weeks. PCT Days is the thorn in my side right now. It's happening the 18, 19, 20. If you didn't look, if you volunteer or are a vendor you don't have to pay to camp. No alcohol outside the area from where the PCT Days are happening. I need a few people. We are doing the saw demo. I talked with Dawn today and she's going to get us logs. It is in the same spot as last year so it will be 100 degrees and nasty.

Steve Plant will be happy to hear I put the Timberline Music Fest on the calendar. It is Monday the 4th. Same thing as last year and they have more vendors coming. They told me the Forest Service is getting on him about their hiker box attracting animals. The stores and post offices I visited along the trail have their hiker boxes inside. So I recommended putting the foodstuffs in a sealing box, like Rubbermaid.

You guys saw Ellen sent out a thing for Volunteer Coordinator for here and for mid-Oregon. We've heard from a couple of people and hope I don't scare them off. Then I can be the event coordinator. Also been doing some TSC stuff. I'm choosing the 21, 22. It will be the third weekend. The first planning meeting is October 17th.

I'm working hard to get your crews filled. One other thing, REI does this morning meeting at all of their stores and they would like us to come and talk at the meeting before they open and talk up the PCT. James would like the people in the green vest to talk about the PCT and the PCTA and helping getting volunteers. I said yes. I will coordinate it. I think it would be good if we can have the little green vested people help us.

- Busdriver John: I'll do the Hillsboro REI
- Tammy: They asked me about Hillsboro but I don't want to go that far. I'll send you the contact information. We aren't doing a lot of outreach and we aren't getting enough new volunteers.
- Chris K: Does it make a difference if we try to get our crews to you earlier or late?
- Tammy: If I send it too early, they say yes and don't show up. A week to 10 days is perfect. I create a Mail Chimp email almost immediately and sits in the queue until it is time to send it out. For multiday crews I do send it out much early.

Partnership Crews:

Upcoming and New:

1. Trevor / Outward Bound would like:
 - A one or two-day project. Sometime between Friday, September 1 and Wednesday September 6 (these dates include the Labor Day weekend). Somewhere between the Warm Springs River and Cascade Locks. He has 9 students and 2 instructors ready to help.
 - Roberta: David sent out an email. Trevor is really pestering Underbucker.
 - Tim L: We do have a causeway on the territorial section that needs to be rebuilt but I don't have time to scout it. It's probably 75-80 feet long and pretty much getting to the point where it is getting pretty narrow. There is a lot of dirt that needs to be moved. Joe Graham and Timothy Lake, about half way in the middle. It doesn't have sides. Just dirt and water does flow through it. That would be a potential project. It's not wilderness.
 - Roberta: Anyone available to lead a crew? Apparently they are really good workers. We have a project but no crew leader. I could help for one of the days. I'll get back to him.
 - Tim L: The top surface is dirt. I don't know what's under, I've never gotten off the horse to look.
2. **Chris Jenson, PCC Wilderness Lit Class** would like a project Saturday, March 3, 2018
 - Roberta: Anyone want to take this?
 - Pace: Who's thinking that far ahead? Mine will be under snow.
 - Roberta: It's a good one for the Gorge. You usually get pretty good work. I can do it if nobody else can.
 - Carole: I'll write it down.
 - Roberta: You are welcome to be a crew leader and do it somewhere in the Gorge. It doesn't have to be on the PCT.
 - Tim L: Salmon-Huckleberry? It is low elevation. Provided we can get the road fixed enough to get cars down it.
 - Roberta: The key thing is to commit to a crew leader. We can always move it around as the date gets closer.
3. Chris Jenson also working with the **PCC Multicultural Center**, would like one or two crews on one of these dates:
 - Saturdays: Oct. 21, Oct. 28, or Nov. 4
 - Busdriver John: I'll see what I can do for that. For Oct 21.
4. **Eagle project, Evan Johnson.** Little Brown to work with him.
5. **Lewis and Clark?**: Chris K willing to host on Sept 30
 - Chris K: It is going to be September 30. She needed to set her syllabus so I committed to it. We'll do some drainage.
6. **Apple:** Tami organizing directly

Completed:

1. **Wilderness Lit Class (PCC):** Mar 4. Ruth and Roberta, log out on BOG Oregon Side.

2. **PGE at Timothy Lake:** Little Brown and Tim are at Timothy Lake tonight for 3 day crew. Also Pace.
3. **Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC):** This year they will be camped near Bunker Hill.
 - a. Mondays July 17 – Little Brown
 - b. July 24 – Little Brown
 - c. July 31 – Little Brown
 - d. Aug 7 – Tyler

Cancelled/Declined/Did Not Happen:

1. **Wilson High School:** Tami (but meeting no-showed, so dropped)
2. **National Wildlife Federation:** They declined.
3. **Scout Troup 222, Stan.** Kim is working with him. Wants June 24/25, 8-10 people. Cancelled due to heat
4. **Wilderness Stewards,** possibly April/May timeframe after their training. Chris K will lead. Cancelled.
5. **Skout, Amy:** Pace will lead the crew on Bald Mtn July 19. CANCELLED due to lack of enrollment (only 2 people)
6. **Go Beyond Racing:** Renee. Steve Plant was willing to lead, sounds like this needs to be pushed to next year due to no open dates.

New Seasons Crews: Kelley

Liz would like Mondays or Tuesdays, 7 to 10 crews with these date restrictions. Remember for NSM the trailhead has to be within ~90 minutes of Hawthorne NSM. Liz will want to know difficulty of work, hiking to work site, type of work, and whether the crew is limited to 10 employees or can take more.

1. April – Roberta on Monday 4/3 (DONE). Finishing work on the new trail at Dry Creek; cleared trail between PCT and Dry Creek Falls; cleaned drains back to Moody.
2. May - Pace: Tuesdays 5/9 (DONE)
3. June
 - a. Pace 6/6 (DONE).
 - b. David Roe 6/27 logout Barlow Pass southbound. (DONE)
4. July
 - a. Busdriver for July 10, at Gorton Creek – CANCELLED by Liz
 - b. Leif for July 11, at Lolo Pass
 - c. Roberta, 7/17, invasive plant pull. DONE.
5. August – No projects planned
6. September
 - a. Pace Sept 19 at Bald Mountain, tread work
7. October - Roberta Oct 2, location TBD
8. Jayme's Crews:
 - a. Saturday June 17 DONE
 - b. Saturday June 24 DONE
 - c. Saturday July 15 CANCELLED – we didn't have enough crew leaders
 - d. Saturday July 29 DONE

Dana:

- Roberta: Dana didn't give me any news.

Bill: I have had two agency partners request that our project reports include some geographic reference as well as the HM reference; most agency folks don't use that system.

An example might be:

The AMC crew worked to clear brush at HM 2181 on the south flank of Bunker Hill.

Budget: Kim.

Radios:

Tools: Leif

Trail Skills College: Tammy
See above.

Saw Certification: Leif

Training and Safety: Open

- Becky: Do we need wilderness first aid this year?

- Roberta: Yes. The gal who did it last year is no longer volunteering. Marijke is qualified to teach regular first aid but isn't certified for wilderness first aid. So that might be what we are doing. I know a bunch of us need first aid this November. But I don't have a plan.
- Chris K: REI has started doing wilderness first aid. Do you think they could cut us a deal because we are partners? Maybe it is worth making a call.
 - Roberta: I'll ask Dana but we need something. Also got an email from Greg Nichols wife, Joanne, she offered to teach tourniquet application.

Discussion Items

Announcements/Reminders

- 10 Vacancies: 1) Steamboat; 2) Indian Heaven South; 3) 3-Corner Rock south (fostered by Tami); 4) Gillette Lake; 5) Upper Eagle Creek; 6) Middle Eagle Creek; 7) Lower Eagle Creek; 8) Indian Springs Trail; 9) Lolo Pass-South; 10) Pinhead Buttes (fostered by Becky/Underbucker)
 - Indian Heaven-South reserved for Thomas Calvery
- Also looking for a volunteer coordinator (in progress); partnership crew coordinator
- **Columbia Dispatch:** Dispatch summer hours in effect. 700-1800, (7 am to 6 pm), seven days a week.
- Please attend our end-of-season **picnic Saturday Oct 7** at Guy Talbot State Park.

Round the Room

- Roberta: I will be biking with Cycle Oregon next month at the time of the caretaker meeting. Steve Queen will lead the meeting.
- Carole: I hiked the PCT in Washington. We started the middle of June, managed 55 miles then spent 5 hours to get through Indian Heaven. Came home for a couple of weeks and then went back out and hiked southbound. It was really interesting being a PCT hiker and caretaker. The Stevens Pass to Snoqualmie was awful. Snow and very hairy. It took 14 hours to do 14 miles most days so that was interesting. The good thing was there weren't that many blow downs in that section. You can't see daylight through some of these blows down. The hikers appreciate so much all the work the crews do. I really saw it from a different perspective. I could not wait to get to the Mt Hood Chapter's section. I also saw a note from Tami to Leif that said "last log". It was lovely. North of Indian Heaven is really bad.
 - Roberta: Dean is clearing that section for us.
 - Carole: There were 42 logs in the first 1.5 mile. 17 in the next and 38 in the next bit. North of Indian Heaven in the Steamboat section.
 - Roberta: Dean said he was going to log that out as well.
 - Carole: When you are hiking southbound there are no signs on the trees. It was really interesting getting that perspective. Our wooden signs are stunning compared to anything else. You can't read most of the other signs and then you get to our section and the signs are gorgeous!
- Pace: I spent last week in the Steens on a crew. They just started doing trail crews this year. This was the 3rd. The earlier one was with the Forest Service who supplied the tools. This one was with BLM. No hard hats. No axes or wedges. Only one crosscut saw. The crew leader had never run crosscut so I became the crosscut sawyer. No one else had done any trail work. They had 2 bow saws and one double sided little saw. We used my katana and ibuki. Most was bushing, we cleared the logs on the first day. A lot of brushing. Cleared 2 miles of overhang. Aspen and some cotton wood and juniper beside the trail. So we were climbing juniper trees to cut limbs off. It hadn't been cleared for so long that the limbs were 6 or 8 inches. We were aggressive. It was interesting work. The brushing is digging out sage brush. It's really rough. It was fun. It was high 70s, low 80s.
- Hey Man: I think I'm going to go scout the rest of my section as soon as I can and then I do believe brushing will be a thing. The huckleberries are overhanging and hiding the trail. I'll wait until the berries are down and then cut them back.
- Chuck: Last weekend I worked with the AMC campers. They had a great breakfast going. About half didn't have any experience on the trail and were showing up with sandals and hiking poles. It was a pretty diverse group of people. The oldest was 85, once we put tools in his hands he was on fire. We got a lot of brushing done. Tyler took care of the washout. It was a hot day. It was a fun experience.
- Busdriver John: I worked with the NW Youth Corp. Dana is aware of the problems with using this organization. We were doing the reroute by Three Finger Jack. I was on the last 3 days of a 10 day stint. They had not been trained in the tools. Even the leader was using tools improperly. They have not been trained. They may not be contracting next year.
- Gentleman Bob: I jumped in too quickly. Jane had a great crew. The bridges are cleaned. Thanks to over achieving from the crews, they logged everything out. Pat was a new name and he lives in Trout Lake and he will be back out with us. This weekend I have a request. If anyone wants to drive up to Trout Lake, there will be breakfast and maybe a mimosa, we have someone that needs a ride.

- Tim L: Tomorrow we start our match portion for the grant we managed to get. Want to move boulders? This one is on foot. It is difficult to get horse people to do anything on foot. The creek is about 2 miles in. If anyone wants to come up and help. We are going Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Roberta is leading tomorrow. If interested let me know.
- Underbucker: We always kid about the JHA and the most dangerous part is the drive up. The Forest Service encountered that this week. One crew driving in with 3 vehicles on a gravel road with dust and the front car had to stop and they had a 3 car pileup. So you have to watch the drive up and the drive back. The solar eclipse, most of the Forest Service people are running saying the sky is falling. Eleanor made a sticker, and is selling them. The day of the eclipse is a full stand down. They will have no crews in the fields and all field personnel will be stationed at Ripplebrook and Bear Springs for the weekend prior to and for the eclipse. Just in case there is a serious problem they have to respond to. Since Jefferson is closed, they expect Olallie Lake is where people are going. 30, 000 people expected by their estimate. It doesn't affect our project. We have an exemption. We will be camped out at Pinhead Saddle with a camp kitchen. We are hauling up water and extra water. Also, we are by a road. With the expected traffic conditions they are estimating 3 hours from Ripplebrook and Bear Springs. We have been asked to be resources. If there is an accident, we will probably be asked to stop trail work and assist in any capacity we can. We have radios, we have first aid kits.
 - Roberta: I told Dana that it is a good thing we are out there. We are trained
 - Underbucker: The only change, we may allow people to spend Monday night up there to avoid the traffic on Monday but we will have to carefully coordinate the car pools for that. We have people from Seattle and San Diego. We did a crosscut certification today for Eleanor and her crew and a crew from Parkdale. It's not fun to do a certification in late August. At least with chainsaws you can stop at 1pm. It was a very long day.
- Ruth: Looking forward to some vacation next week and was going to go llama backpacking but that's postponed until next year. Now going to the beach.
- Chris K: I've had a cursed relationship with Goat Rocks. I'm going up this weekend so hopefully it works out.
- Ron: I met Rachel in Zig Zag, she came out with flip flops. I guess 8am is too early for her. The Forest Service, like our Ranger at the falls, we have no one in charge. For the eclipse, everyone is on duty and it may take an extra 3 hours to get to Multnomah Falls. It's like the Y2K things. It's just crazy. BC forestry was saying this is the worst in 6 decades for forest fires. Burning a lot of the native land. There is no way of putting them out. So far we are lucky not to have the same fires.
 - Hey Man: They had 1700 sq. miles on fire in BC.
- Thomas: Super busy at work. I have a 5 day trip with WTA in the south end of the Olympics in September.
 - Roberta: I was almost going to work on brushing in Indian Heaven. We could have a crew in September on your section.
- Tammy: I have 2 loaves of white bread in my freezer if anyone needs it for a crew. I went to Outdoor Retailer in Salt Lake City and it got me ready for the 100 degrees here. I got to field a lot of questions about the PCTA logo. So, they all this research and made sure it wasn't someone else's logo. They sent an email, 10 mins later a volunteer from California told them to take it down as it is in an FBI file and that is how pedophiles find boys on the dark web. So it was taken down. PCTA had printed up new banners with them, business cards, they were presenting it for Outdoor Retailers and had to redo everything. It's not the Forest Service or trail thing. It's the PCTA, the association one. I went to the Danner Boot happy hour and got to drink beer from the northwest. Talked to some of the designers who don't go out on the crews because no one asks them and they want to go out on one. The designers want to go.
- Becky: I was going to ask about the logo and I had it answered.
- Hilary: Looking to get some more crew leader experience and I have a window of time in late September early October, so if anyone wants help.
 - Pace: I have a NSM crew up on Top Spur September 19th. It's a Tuesday.
- Summer: Drove to Calgary, home through BC. Bringing supplies to the forest fire crews. Horrific! No visibility through the Rockies. There's ash in Calgary.
 - Steve Q: I finally graduated from Cardio Rehab. I turned around and went straight to Ireland. We drove around the southern part, then Dublin and Wales and into Scotland and Northern Ireland. We stayed where bloody Sunday happened. It was weird. We came home. One thing that surprised me, the UK has formally adopted the metric system but it is still in miles. It's really bizarre. Thanks for reminding me about next month. I haven't been thinking about the PCT stuff but I will start thinking about it again since I'm out of rehab and getting back to normal.
 - Steve P: Another month goes by and I still need to see if the Mt Hood 50 people are available. We can go well into October in that section.