

Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA Caretaker Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2018, 6:45 pm
Location: Clackamas REI

Welcome

- **Attended** – Bob, Jane, Pace, Thomas, Roberta, Carole, Terry, Peter, John H, Leif, Chris K, Diane, Tim, Sue M, Steve P, Steve Q, Hilary, Underbucker, Brooke, Tammy, Ruth, Becky, Omar, Susan M, Jon Arp.
- **Absent** – Ron (Canadian Atlantic Provinces); Bill Canavan (Skyline Crew - Jeff Park); Rosemary (Happy Birthday!); Rick (Knee replacement prep); Kelley (Work)
- **Welcome**
 - Omar Sankari - new caretaker for Wahtum Lake area
 - Jon Arp - new Stevenson cache host
- **Announcements**
 - Summer has stepped down from being our note-taker.
 - Last meeting with Roberta as chair

Past Events (from meeting)

- Leif – Omar and Leif logged out remainders on their section. Radio problems. Cell phone problems.
- Steve P – Timberline Music Festival, lots of thru-hiking questions.
- Dave Roe – Felled trees in a crosscut practicum with Zigzag crew.
- Tim Lagasse – Nothing this month.
- Bob, Jane – Urban Youth Crew (16 kids) worked on Steve P's section.
- Sue Melone – Worked with others.
- Peter, Diane – Tabling event with Steve P.
- Thomas – No work last month.
- Robert Caldwell – Muddy Fork. Overnight crew terminated due to inexperience. Indian Springs Trail, Herman Creek Root wad and one log.
- Hilary Renshaw – Worked on Teakettle switchbacks with Max.
- Chris K – Scouted Paradise Park Trail. BCHO and FS had 3 crews to address a half-mile heavy blow down with over 140 trees which were as big as 50"! They did great work on a section that previously took all day to go 50 feet.
- Omar Sankari – Last 3 trees on PCT his section, 8 off Chinidere Mountain Trail, 1 off Leif's section. Went into Eagle Creek 3 times. First trip Aug 7-8 when it was 100 degrees in Hood River and mid-90s in the canyon. Canopy is gone. 5 on crew and got $\frac{3}{4}$ mile work done. Second trip Labor Day Weekend with Max, Susan. Scouted to High Bridge which is burned up and gone. 7.5 mile camp is severely burned, canopy gone, to Tunnel Falls is brushy. Cliff sections OK before Tunnel Falls. No tread work done north of Tunnel Falls. Major cliff collapse at "the potholes", about 75' long. Very difficult to cross, very narrow, with more smaller landslides. 4.5 mile bridge is absolutely unscathed. Logs are biggest in scenic area so wait until you can cut them with a chainsaw. 10 logs 4.5-high bridge. In Wilderness there are a few with some bigger that need a C sawyer. Intermittent brushing. Intermittent rock fall.
- Roberta – Rock work on my section with Max, also rock work on Herman Bridge Trail with Max.

Past Events (from calendar and online reports)

Trail Work

1. **August 10: Upper Muddy Fork treadwork: Robert Caldwell**
Timberline Trail 600 from Top Spur trailhead to south branch of the Muddy Fork River crossing.
2. **August 11-12: GTRT: Overnight on Benson Plateau: Max Martin and Hilary Renshaw**
Wahtum Lake to Herman Creek Trailhead

3. **August 15: GTRT: Gorge 400: Max Martin and Omar Sankari**
Eagle Creek parking lot to Moody Street
4. **August 16: GTRT: PCT near Dry Creek falls: Max Martin and Terry Hill**
One mile south of Moody Street
5. **August 18: Lost Lake to Buck Peak Logout Round II: Leif Hovin**
1.2 miles north of Huckleberry Mountain Trail to Buck Peak Trail Junction
6. **August 18: GTRT: Herman Creek trail: Max Martin and Roberta Cobb**
Casey Camp toward Nick Eaton
7. **August 20: Muddy Fork Scouting: Robert Caldwell**
Top Spur trailhead to Bald Mountain Viewpoint and Ramona Falls Trailhead to 0.5 mile north on Timberline Trail
8. **August 22-23: Urban Youth Crew: Kim Owen**
Road 58-240 junction north for 1.5 miles
9. **August 23-25: GTRT: Teakettle Switchbacks: Max Martin and Roberta Cobb**
Teakettle switchbacks north of Benson Plateau
10. **August 24: Herman Creek Log Survey: David Roe**
Herman Creek trailhead to 2.5 miles south on Herman Creek Trail #406
11. **August 26: Wahtum Lake Area Logout: Leif Hovin and Omar Sankari**
PCTA (TR2000) from 0.1 mile south of Hatfield Wilderness south boundary to Eagle Creek Trail (TR440) Junction, plus non-PCT Chinidere Mountain Cutoff (TR406M) (0.7M) and Chinidere Mountain Trail (TR445) (0.5M).
12. **August 29: GTRT: Indian Springs Trail: Max Martin, Robert Caldwell, Susan McDonnell, Noelle Price**
Indian Springs campground to junction with Eagle Creek Trail
13. **August 30: Crosscut Saw Practicum: David Roe**
Training off trail in Clackamas River Ranger District
14. **September 1: GTRT: Herman Creek Trail Last Logs in Gorge: Roberta Cobb, David Roe, Robert Caldwell**
Herman Creek Trail about 2.5 miles from Herman Creek trailhead
15. **September 1-3: GTRT: Upper Eagle Creek Overnight: Max Martin, Omar Sankari, Susan McDonnell**
Half mile south of 7-½ Mile Camp to Tunnel Falls with scouting down to High Bridge
16. **September 6: GTRT: Herman Bridge Rockwall: Max Martin**
Herman Creek Bridge on the Herman Bridge trail to 2,000 feet south of bridge

Skyline Crews

1. **August 12 - August 19: Skyline Volunteer Vacation – Park Ridge #1**
2. **August 25 - August 31: Skyline Volunteer Vacation – Park Ridge #2**
3. **August 31 - September 6: Sasquatch Volunteer Vacation – Mount Adams Wilderness #1**

Non-trail Events

1. **August 17-19: PCT Days**
2. **September 3: Mountain Music Festival**
3. **September 12: Living With Fire Forum**

Future Events

1. **September 19: Documentary on Eagle Creek Trail by Road's End Films**
2. **October 6, 12:00 - 3:00, Eagle Creek Overlook: 25th Anniversary BBQ/Picnic**
3. **October 10, 6:45, Clackamas REI: Caretaker meeting**
4. **October 12-14: ALDHA-West Gathering**

Reports

Columbia Cascades Regional Rep (Dana)

- Miscellaneous observations from my 30-mile hike in August from Barlow to Lost Lake w/ Tammy:
 - Trail looks great overall
 - Beautiful work on the paradise pile-up
 - Trailside campsites seem to have expanded
 - Black flies are no fun
 - A 100-degree afternoon is a poor choice in timing for a jaunting up to Top Spur from the lower Muddy Fork
- Things we can work on:
 - Regarding trail markers where trails diverge, even if it's an unofficial user trail: It's been several years since I hiked this section, and, a few times I was momentarily lost. (Good thing Tammy was there to talk me down from blind panic.) I know it's hard for an experienced maintainer sometimes to notice that the trail signage is confusing or lacking--perhaps because you've been there a million times and you know where the trail goes. My advice is to take somebody new with you and put them in front, so you can see it through their eyes. If you have a confusing junction please talk to me and we can determine the best signage solution.
 - Let's all get on the same page about drainage, and, let's banish that pesky water from running down the middle of the trail. Unfortunately, many of us inherited trail where this has already been happening for years, and it's hard to get the water off. In cases where the tread is cupped a little, and you're on a decent sidehill, your very first question should be, "can this be de-bermed and re-outsloped?" Even knocking out 10 feet of berm here and there will help. Remember, we don't want to install drainage dips or water bars if we can de-berm instead. Ideally, the outsloped trail tread itself is the only structure needed to shed water properly. The amount of outslope is right when you can see it, but you can't really feel it (ankles not rolling out).
 - Dips and bars should be considered a triage solution for when de-berming and restoring outslope aren't feasible: for example where the trail alignment is too similar to the fall-line. Also remember, dips and bars work best when they are gentle rolling undulations as opposed to speed bumps with ditches. Consider your drain dip to meet the definition of "rolling" if it takes 5 steps or more to traverse both the apron and its associated hump. Is the amount of cupped or rutted tread on your section more than any one decent, self-respecting trail maintainer should be asked to keep up with? (For example, Rushing Water area!?) Let us help you. Talk to me and your friendly chapter chair. Maybe we can set up a Skyline crew or other multi-day crew to dig in and go at it.

North Cascades Regional Rep (Michael)

- No report.

Chair (Roberta)

- Sept 22 Volunteer celebration at Rooster Rock
- Awesome year. Max is done and heading back to finish his thesis.
- Our new Tool Team is fantastic. Terry Hill, Chris Birch, Jon Arp (new Stevenson Cache host), Tom Wiemann
 - Tool Day Stevenson Cache Sept 24. Have enough people.

Partnership Crews (Roberta)

- Remaining partnership crews:
 - Sept 15 with Ruth, Terry and New Seasons
 - Oct 1 with Roberta and New Seasons, Gillette Lake tread
- Trail Butter interested in joining a crew but I need more details (last time was 4 people)
- Boy Scout asked about an Eagle Project. Our offer of installing signs didn't fit his needs.

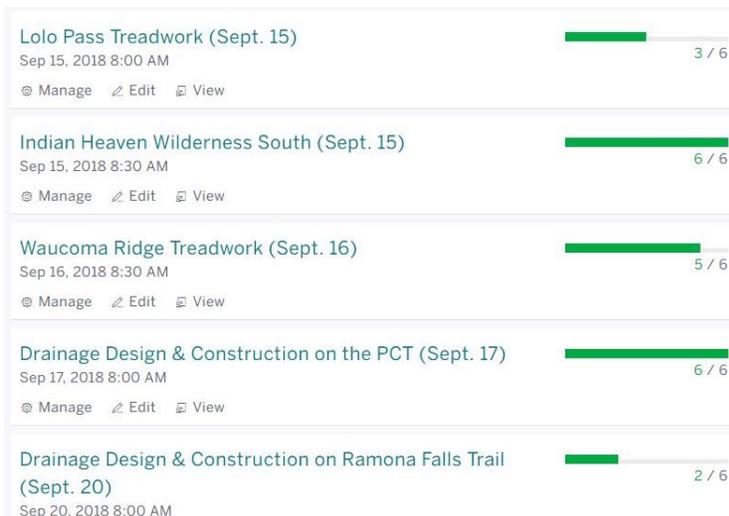
Gorge Trails Recovery Team (Roberta)

- We met our grant commitment for 50 crew days on our assigned trails. Ended up with:

- 54 days during NFF period (120 days overall in GTRT)
- over 1000 volunteers in GTRT
- nearly 9K hours in GTRT
- FS put in a grant proposal for next year's work: Youth crews would spend three weeks working on three trails that were heavily impacted by the fire, including Nick Eaton Trail (8.7 miles), Gorton Creek Trail (4.2 miles), and Casey Creek Trail (1.8 miles). They would be involved in clearing rock and debris and reestablishing the tread in areas where trails are in need of repair. The majority of the work will be on remote portions of the Hood River Ranger District of the Mt. Hood National Forest.
- Meeting set up for early October to discuss continued trail work.
- From Edan at about 5:30 today 9/12/2018:
 - Our crew was working on the Wahclella trail today. It has been raining relatively steadily on and off for the last three days, and today they saw the results of that as the soil is getting saturated and the rocks are getting slippery. The crew heard one tree come down across the drainage, but more importantly, several rocks from baseball to garbage-can size came down within an uncomfortable distance across the trail. They made the right call to immediately leave the trail.
 - At this point, if you have any work parties scheduled, please keep in mind the DRA (deliberate risk assessment, see attached) which addresses rain and wind among other things. This event today serves as a wakeup call that the seasons are changing and the rocks are starting to move. Look at upcoming forecasts and cancel work parties if it looks like rain, even before the event. Assess the area you are planning to walk through as well as where you are working for the day and if you do go, do not hesitate to quit work at any time and leave. Leave good spacing between people in any event and make sure your communication plans are up to date and radio and cell phones work. Please plan on being conservative in your decisions throughout the winter. The trails can wait.
 - Please pass this along to other crew leaders. It is very important that we take this seriously.

Volunteer Coordinator (Rosemary)

- Everything is going fine on the volunteer front (as far as I know). We have 5 crews scheduled in September, here are the volunteer counts for each:



Trail Skills College (Tammy)

- Meeting next Thursday at the Mazamas.
- TSC is April 12-13-14, 2019

Outreach and Events (Tammy)

- Tonight is Gorge Fire event at OMSI.
- Oct 6 is our big picnic. Also 25th Anniversary. Tammy will not be there. Lief grill master. Eagle Creek Overlook, they know we are coming and the road will be open. No water there, so we need to bring it. Dana won't be there either.
- Oct 22 is tabling event volunteer training. will be first run.

- Oct 23 is Trail Dirt Live, will need help. Stephanie will ask for volunteers Same week as the Trails Conference.
- Oct 25 Ryan Ojerio needs one or 2 volunteers for presentation assistance at the Trails Conference.
- Gone 4th thru 19th.
- Tammy sent this follow-up report after the meeting:
 - First and foremost, on October 6th we are having out Volunteer Appreciation Picnic/BBQ & MHC's 25th Anniversary! You all are responsible for the potluck part of it, Leif will be the grill master again, bratwurst and veggie burgers I believe are on the menu (Leif you will have to get these this year!). That will leave these items for you all: soft drinks, water, juice (for kids) – these will need a cooler with ice! (Adult beverages are byo) Side dishes- bbq beans, green salad, potato salad, pasta salads, etc. Appetizers/snacks- chips, salsa, guacamole, hummus, veggie plate with dip, etc. Desserts- fruit and/or fruit salad, cookies, brownies, etc. Bring whatever you fancy and your own dishes & utensils!
 - October 22nd – Tabling Volunteer Training, still in the works but most likely happening. This is the Tabling Program that I talked about at the beginning of the year(?) and said that we would be the test subjects for this new program. It is now starting! Come to the training and you will see all the cool stuff we're going to be offering for tabling volunteers (too much to write about here).
 - October 23rd – Second most important thing I talked about on Wednesday – Trail Dirt Live – it is happening at the Historic Hangar at the Pearson Air Museum in Vancouver. PCTA Sacramento will send out more information about this event, it is fun to attend, lots of goodies, drinks and then awards given out! We will need to help with 4 to 6 volunteers and I'm hoping they will have this figured out before I leave, so I can recruit you all! If not, Stephanie Plunkett, development assistant, will be doing that for me. Oh it's an evening event.
 - And this last one is to help out at the National Trails Conference, also in Vancouver, on October 25th. Ryan Ojerio, WTA, is the volunteer wrangler for this and is in need of one or two volunteers that day. You would be a room assistant, helping with av needs (if any), ticket checker, all around helper. Shifts are 7:30 to noon and 12:30 to 5:00. OR you could do both and stay all day. Let me know if you are interested in this and I'll get you in touch with Ryan.
 - Okay, I'm here until October 4th and return on the 19th. Won't have my laptop with me, yay! See you all at either the Tabling training or Trail Dirt Live. Have a great month.
 - P.S. The National Public Lands Day Picnic is on September 22nd and you *have* to register for this. Registration ends on 9/18. The picnic is now a Taco Bar as that is what REI decided! However you do not have to print out and bring the legal forms!

Training and Safety (Dana)

- We will not be doing training this off-season because it's a off-year.

Saw Program (Leif)

- There is a meeting in October.

Tools (Terry)

- We received a \$5200 check towards this wish list from Oregon Kitchen Table (at request of our FS friends). Terry bought tools and radios. All in except radios, underbuckers,
- Robert bought new rigging.
- New storage racks.

Budget (Little Brown)

- No report.

Crew Leader Development (Pace and Little Brown)

- No report.

Stats (Pace)

- Through August the Fiscal Year numbers are already 24,490 hours and 152 crews.
- 7400 more hours and 58 more crews than 2017 with one more month to go.

Mount Hood Chapter Stats - August 2018							prelim	
	August	August	August	YTD	YTD	YTD	ytd FY	FY
	2018	2017	2016	August	August	August	10/1-8/31	10/1-9/30
				2018	2017	2016	2018	2017
Total Volunteer Hours	1,963	2,135	1,253	21,618	14,530	15,094	24,490	17,069
Specialized hours	279	294	175	3,873	2,200	2,599	4,195	2,477
Number of Trail Crews	14	8	13	136	85	113	152	94
Miles Logged out	10	4	19	179	159	257	182	166
Miles Maintained	6	14	3	98	68	48	106	86
Feet of Rehab/Recon	6,295	5,000	1,088	57,744	13,594	16,995	60,703	17,375
Volunteer hours by Category								
Trail Maint - crews & scouting	1,314	1,723	855	13,392	8,429	8,648	14,483	9,374
Trail Maint - support	372	289	265	2,601	2,442	2,768	3,584	3,480
Trail Skills Training	52			5,209	3,381	3,459	5,971	3,828
Outreach Events	226	123	133	416	279	219	452	388
	1,963	2,135	1,253	21,618	14,530	15,094	24,490	17,069
<u>August Adjustments</u>								
Prelim PCTA Summary Reports	1,393			21,094			25,185	
Skyline Reports							(1219.50)	
Sept Report				(86.00)			(86.00)	
Additional August Reports	571			571			571	
Additional May & June Reports				40			40	
Adjusted Totals	1,963			21,618			24,490	

Discussion Items

- November Meeting will be Sunday November 4, 8:00 am to noon with lunch afterwards at the Estacada Library. David Roe to reserve the location and manage the opening and closing of the facility.

Reminders

- If you are logging onto the PCTA website to enter a Project Report for your activities on GTRT projects, select the "[Report on or view existing Projects](#)" before you pick "Create a new project". Scroll down the listing by date to find if your project is already listed, then select [submit report](#) under [Choose Action](#).
- 6 Vacancies:** 1) Steamboat Lake; 2) Table Mountain (will be vacant end of field season); 3) Lower Eagle Creek; 4) Middle Eagle Creek; 5) Upper Eagle Creek; 6) Indian Springs Trail 435
- 4 Reservations:** 1) Three Corner Rock North (reserved for Sue Malone), 2) Waatum Lake, 3) Chinidere Cutoff Trail 406M, and 4) Chinidere Mountain Trail 445 (reserved for Omak Sankari)
- Columbia Dispatch:** Dispatch 7 days a week, 7:30 am to 6:00 pm. Remember to submit a TCP to your agency partner, your dispatcher or alternate dispatcher, Dana, and Roberta.

Round the Room

- Ron (report) – Interesting tidbit from the Thursday work party before the PCT Days in Cascade Locks was that the number of thru-hikers coming down and almost half were women alone. One of our volunteers Paul Palm who did the PCT in '05 said he only saw one woman alone then. Also now part of the increase in Thru-hikers seems to be due to the influx of International Hikers from Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands, Korea plus other countries. PCT Days sure had a lot of attendees and it was nice to see so many staff from Sacramento helping out on the three canopies.
- Steve Q – ALDHA-West Oct 12-14 at Kiwanis near Rhody. Tried to hike Timberline Trail but didn't make it. Saw those logs. Firefighter who died recently was his son's roommate.
- Leif – Starting prep for transition to chapter chair.
- John H – Finished Jefferson Park and Crater Lake. Going to finish last 52 miles. Handling the silent auction at Trail Conference.

- Susan – 2 weeks hiking in Switzerland. Rockwork and trail signs are awesome. Wallows.
- Steve P – Heard stories about the Eagle Creek fire and putting out embers from people living on the Washington side of the Columbia. Flying to North Carolina next week.
- Dave R – Pass.
- Tim L – During a support ride, saw fire damage along PCT around Lava Camp Lake and Obsidian.
- Bob Arkes – Will coordinate with Terry now for tools for Trout Lake.
- Jane Arkes – Pass.
- Sue M – New to this. Want to help.
- Peter – Hiked from Timberline Lodge to Paradise Park loop.
- Diane – Attacked by yellow jackets.
- Jon Arp – Indian Heaven Season now until snow flies. Lives in Stevenson. Feel free to call!
- Terry – Working with Max was great. Happy memories. Cougar attack is a big deal.
- Thomas – Work party this weekend in Indian Heaven.
- Brooke – Alps for a couple weeks.
- Robert – Outstanding Reports - turn in now! Last weekend in Steens Mtns with ONDA, Little Blitzen Canyon.
- Becky – Pass.
- Tammy – Don't hike with Dana when it's 100 degrees, but do go, there's a lot to learn. Thanks to all who volunteered for PCT Days. 34 volunteers! One of the most visited events.
- Ruth – Bring in your first aid kits November. My trail is finally clear! Was thinking about getting the last two logs, but the Forest Service took care of them. Yellowstone for vacation.
- Carole – Need to finish Stevens Pass to Canada. Had to evacuate for fire, then Harts Pass north to the border closed. Still 60 miles left of PCT. Trail maintenance Glacier Peak Wilderness is bad. Took all day to go 12 miles. Our trail work is wonderful. Leave for England on Friday.
- Hilary – Cheese fund 300# of cheese, over budget. \$1000 donated!
- Chris K – Went up Killen Creek to High Camp on Mount Adams. Had the place to myself. Beautiful. Gave a ride to 4 thru-hikers to Trout Lake. Comment about how great our section is.
- Omar – grew up in the gorge. Last year this time the fire was burning. Used to fight fires. Never had as much smoke as during the fire. Amazing to get back into the area. Thanks for beautiful section. Pinnacle of the summer to get into the heart of the burn, Eagle Creek.