

Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA Caretaker Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2018, 6:45 pm

Location: Clackamas REI

Notes: Kim

Welcome

- **Attended:** Pace, Thomas, Roberta, Kelley, Ron, Terry, John, Tim, SueM, Rosemary, SteveQ, Tami, Brooke, Ruth, KimK.
- **Absent:** Dana (Scotland), Tammy (Bali), Peter and Diane, Little Brown (North Carolina), Hilary (Europe), SteveP
- **Welcome:** Kim Kovacs taking meeting notes
- **Announcements**
 - Brice Hammack passed away; he was close to 99, and one of the first Triple Crown recipients. He will be missed.

Past Events

- **Peter and Diane** (via email): Our minor activity to report was that we did one scouting hike on our section (Lolo Pass South) about a week ago. Found one tree down, with a dozen branches blocking the trail, which hikers had already trodden an alternative path around. We happened to have a handsaw in our pack, so we took a half hour and sawed off all the branches to clear the trail, and used them to cover up the alternative path. Otherwise all looked good.
- **Terry:** was one of four PCTA tool people at Ramona Falls. They worked with the Forest Service for 10 hours on bollards at that location. He reported that this seems to be a new opportunity to work with the Forest Service, that they seem ready to work more with PCTA and use them as a service.
- **Roberta**
 - Worked with a New Seasons crew. They were supposed to send 10 people but only 4 showed up from the Hawthorne location. They did a lot of good work, though!
 - The Eagle Creek documentary project went well, particularly after they were able to identify a project to work on (fixing a rock wall that had been taken out by a tree) while Little Brown did all the talking.
 - Successful logout trip on Herman Creek Trail, staying at Casey Camp. She recommended using this again, although it's a dry camp so bringing water in is necessary.
- **Ruth:** Hidden Lake Trail project was another New Seasons group from the Hawthorne location. Rehabilitated 100' of trail.
- **Leif:** Four people attended the Lolo Pass tread project.
- **Thomas:** Worked ¾ of a mile north from Crest Camp brushing and clearing drainages.
- **SueM:** Hasn't been out due to work issues. Needs to get out to Three-Corner Rock.
- **Ron:** Nothing until next week.
- **Kelley:** Worked on Robert's crew. Ran on the Wyeth Trail in a closed area & was "caught" by a forest service person.

Comments

- There was an extensive discussion about tool maintenance. **Terry** mentioned cleaning up a bunch of very muddy tools and noticing the mud caked more thickly where rust was present. He felt leaving the mud on the tools to dry is creating rust that can't be easily removed. There is cleaning equipment at the Walking Man cache. He asks that the tools be cleaned and dried when returned, if time permits. **Leif** suggested brushing at the trailhead, and that just getting the mud off would be adequate. Others suggested stopping at the last creek crossing before winding up the trip, using a wire brush, or a stiff nylon brush.

- **SteveQ** mentioned the link in the agenda to the project reports. He's currently doing this by hand, and it's taking too long. He's looking at creating an automated way to import the data, however he has concerns about the information not being as clear as if it's entered by hand.
- **Tammy** sent an email to Roberta thanking everyone for their work putting the picnic together & felt it was a success.
- The purpose of the year-end caretaker meeting is to get together and review what went well, what didn't, get ideas for training, leadership plans, etc. **SteveQ** asked if there was anything those present wanted to include in the 4-hour slot. **Roberta** mentioned that in the past, each person has talked about the section of trail they're responsible for to get to know each other and become familiar with the trails (aka, where's Steamboat?).

Calendar and Online Reports

This is a brief accounting of projects that occurred since the previous caretaker meeting. For a full accounting of projects, visit <http://mthood.longtrails.com/projectreports/project-reports-2018.pdf>.

Trail Work

1. **MF Parts Painting: Tool Team: Terry**
2. **October 1: Gillette Lake Trail brushing and treadwork: Roberta Cobb**
Tamanous Trailhead to PCT then north for 1 mile
3. **September 22: Tamanous Trail Scouting: Roberta Cobb**
Tamanous Trail trailhead to PCT then north to Gillette Lake
4. **September 20: Ramona Falls Trail drainage and tread: Robert Caldwell**
Ramona Falls trail 797 about ½ mile south of junction with PCT
5. **September 19: Eagle Creek Trail documentary filming: William Canavan**
All of project occurred 1/4 mile from trailhead of Eagle Creek Trail #440
6. **September 17: PCT Muddy Fork drainage repair: Robert Caldwell**
PCT Muddy Fork section at junction with Sandy River Trail 770 to PCT 1 mile south of 770 trail
7. **September 16: Waucoma Ridge - Canceled: Leif Hovin**
N/A
8. **September 15-16: GTRT: Herman Creek Trail Last Logs in HRRD: Roberta Cobb and David Roe**
Herman Creek Trail, Hazel Creek area (about 4.5 miles from HC TH) to Slide Creek (about 5 miles from HC TH)
9. **September 15: Timberline Lodge Tread Work: Ruth Weston**
Short distance west of Hidden Lake Trail Junction
10. **September 15: Lolo Pass Tread: Leif Hovin**
Lolo Pass north for 3.5 miles
11. **September 15: Indian Heaven Wilderness South - Brushing: Thomas Calvery**
2195.4 (Crest Camp, Road 60) to 2196.2

Volunteer Vacations

1. **September 14-20: Sasquatch Volunteer Vacation - Mount Adams Wilderness #2: Justin Brimer**
PCT, 1 mile South of East Crater Trail Junction to 1 mile North of East Crater Trail Junction
2. **Skyline Volunteer Vacation - Jefferson Park #2**

Non-trail Events

1. **October 6, 12:00 - 3:00, Eagle Creek Overlook: 25th Anniversary BBQ/Picnic**
2. **October 3: Leadership Committee Meeting: Steve**
3. **September 22: National Lands Day BBQ at Rooster Rock**
4. **September 20, Trail Skills College Meeting: Tammy**

Future Events

1. **October 12-14: ALDHA-West Gathering**
2. **October 23:** Trail Dirt Live – 6:30 at the hangar in the Port of Vancouver (it's on the calendar).
3. **November 4: Year-end Caretaker Meeting: Estacada Library, Sunday, 8:00 am to noon (lunch afterwards).**
The purpose is to get together and review what went well, what didn't, get ideas for training, leadership plans, etc. Steve asked if there was anything those present wanted to include in the 4-hour slot. Roberta mentioned that in the past, each person has talked about the section of trail they're responsible for to get to know each other and become familiar with the trails (aka, where's Steamboat?).
4. **November 28:** Mt. Hood National Forest meeting

Reports

Columbia Cascades Regional Rep (Dana)

- Absent; no report.

North Cascades Regional Rep (Michael) (via email)

- It was very nice to see so many of you on Saturday. It is an honor to get to celebrate your success, and it is always a joy to get to share in your wonderful community. I would like to reiterate how much I appreciate the work each of you have done in 2018. The Mt. Hood Chapter achieves incredible things because each of you choose to dedicate your time to enact a shared vision. I am thankful I get to work with you.
- I only have a few notes regarding activities in the Mt. Adams Ranger District.
 - The Sasquatch Volunteer Vacations wrapped up in September. Two projects took place on the Mt. Adams RD last month.
 - The first was near Horseshoe Meadow on Bob's section. They did 1100 feet of rehab and installed a dozen new rock check steps.
 - The second project was held near Junction Lake. The crew worked on Rick's section as well as Thomas's. They completed 1600 feet of rehab and quite a bit of brushing. They had a cold and wet start to the trip, but a better second half.
 - Feel free to reach out to me if you think an area in Washington deserves the attention of a PCTA volunteer vacation in 2019. We will probably do more work in the Cowlitz Valley RD next year, but will do at least one weeklong project further south.
 - Fun Stat: According to my calculations the Mt. Adams Ranger District received 3,620.5 hours of volunteer trail work in 2018.

Chair (Leif)

- Middle Eagle Creek reserved for Susan McDonnell. They're advancing her, and plan to have her work this section in 2019 (they're done for the year)
- Marking the 25th anniversary - Leif congratulated everyone on this anniversary and the party and said they had cake – LOTS of cake – with his, Roberta's and Steve's pictures on it. The leftovers went to Omar and to his class. The party was Sacramento-initiated. [Eden and Stan?] were there and were amazed at all the work PCTA had done.
- Change of the guard – Leif mentioned he was pleased to be part of something new, following Steve's 18 years, and Roberta's 7 as chair.
- Opportunities for stepping up for leadership roles – There are several open slots to fill. They lost Lamar last year, and Tammy will be on sabbatical. Behind the scene help is needed.

Partnership Crews (Leif)

- This is done for the year. He'd like to keep next year like this year and not extend PCTA too much. New Seasons won a PCTA award and we need to keep them involved even if it's painful at times; keep an eye out for easy, easily accessible trail for them to work.

Leadership Committee Meeting (Steve)

- Job descriptions

- Approved budget coordinator (now on website)
- Working on second draft of chapter chair
- Libby working on first draft of outreach and event coordinator.
- Steve's goal is to have one job description (at a minimum) approved at each meeting.
- Project reports
 - Requested that we add log count to project report. Jen asking other volunteer groups if they would find it useful.
 - Problem with how people fill out "From" and "To". They should refer to where you worked, not where you started hiking in.
- Email list exchange
 - Working on a monthly two-way exchange of email addresses between chapter and main office.
 - PCTA wants to contact people about volunteer vacations, occasional Mid-Oregon and White Pass chapter projects, and send the monthly PCTA newsletters (once-a-month volunteer newsletter and once-a-month TrailDirt). No fundraising emails!
 - Anyone can unsubscribe from any PCTA email and still be on the chapter list.
 - PCTA won't resubscribe if person unsubscribed from chapter's list.
 - We will need to adjust verbiage on mailing list sign-ups (both online and paper).
- Volunteer Injury Instructions
 - Will be included in the next round of injury packets from Ellen, updated to reflect the newest standards
 - Our main feedback was that it should state that volunteers are welcome (encouraged?) to go somewhere that will take their personal insurance (if they have insurance). This will make everyone's life easier.
 - Roberta mentioned that they clarified that it was OK for anyone to drive the injured individual to medical care (this wasn't specified before).
- Crew leader development
 - Middle Eagle Creek Trail section is now reserved for Susan McDonnell.
 - Dana to be added to crew leader development team (other members: Pace and Little Brown).
- Training
 - Don't need first aid and CPR this year.
 - Would love to have wilderness first aid, but nothing is planned.
 - We want to have advanced skills training again.
- Roper Pull JHA
 - Still working on it.

Gorge Trails Recovery Team (Roberta)

- As of October 1, no need to prefix "GTRT" on project reports.
- Fiscal Year GTRT Stats: 17 trails worked; 878 volunteers; over 57 miles maintained; over 34 miles logged out, almost 43K feet tread reconstruction (over 8 miles); over 10K hours in all
- She'll be attending a meeting tomorrow regarding Herman Creek (next steps, who's doing what)
- There's talk about installing bollard and a bridge on Wahkeena, along with lots of gabions.
- The plan is to have the trails west of Multnomah Falls open yet this year. It's been publicly announced they'll be open by the of the year, but the expectation is that it'll be done sooner.

Volunteer Coordinator (Rosemary)

- Seven events are planned for November and all but two are full
- Leif mentioned that Frank will be back for trail work in November

Trail Skills College (Tammy)

- A meeting has been held and another is scheduled for December.

Outreach and Events (Tammy)

- Absent, no report.

Training and Safety (Dana)

- Absent, no report.

Saw Program (Leif)

- There will be no saw certification in Estacada this year because it's felt that it isn't necessary to have two. The saw program will be held in Wind River on April 26-28, 2019 (half day Friday, full days Saturday & Sunday). They're also hoping to have a classroom session before that, so those who are only coming for recertification will only need to show up on one day.
- There is a saw program meeting coming up in Sacramento.

Tools (Terry)

- Terry had nothing to add to his earlier talk about tools (see Past Events section).
- Roberta added that Rosie Fontaine, Lamar's widow, mentioned seeing a light-weight (4-pound) AED that would work well on trails, and that she'd like to donate one to PCTA in Lamar's memory. Tim mentioned many of our volunteers are over 60 and therefore thought it was a good idea. The consensus was to tell her yes, we'll accept the gift.

Budget (Little Brown) (via email)

- The PCTA added \$700 to our chapter budget last month so we have about \$1,800 remaining for this year. So far this year we have spent almost \$8,000 on tools, supplies and food for trips. The questions arose: "Does it roll over?" and "Can we pre-buy training with some of the money?"

Crew Leader Development (Pace and Little Brown)

- No report.

Stats (Pace)

September totals

Mount Hood Chapter Stats - September 2018										
	Sept 2018	Sept 2017	Sept 2016	YTD Sept 2018	YTD Sept 2017	YTD Sept 2016	FY 2018	FY 2017	FY increase	
Total Volunteer Hours	1,794	845	1,593	24,010	15,375	16,688	26,882	17,069	9,813	57%
Specialized hours	539	45	232	4,740	2,245	2,831	5,062	2,477	2,584	104%
Number of Trail Crews	10	3	9	149	88	122	165	94	71	76%
Miles Logged out	1		2	181	159	259	184	166	19	11%
Miles Maintained	6	7	9	104	74	57	113	86	26	31%
Feet of Rehab/Recon	2,630	686	3,164	60,374	14,280	20,159	63,333	17,375	45,958	265%
Volunteer hours by Category										
Trail Maint - crews & scouting	1,026	301	1,296	14,966	8,730	9,944	16,057	9,374	6,683	71%
Trail Maint - support	697	476	242	3,306	2,917	3,010	4,290	3,480	810	23%
Trail Skills Training	15		18	5,262	3,381	3,476	6,024	3,828	2,196	57%
Outreach Events	56	69	39	476	347	258	512	388	124	32%
	<u>1,794</u>	845	1,593	<u>24,010</u>	15,375	16,688	<u>26,882</u>	17,069	9,813	57%

Fiscal Year totals. Mount Hood Chapter total hours are 26,882 after separating out the Sasquatch and Skyline crews run by PCTA.

MHC / PCTA Vounteer Hours FY 2018, Summary by Agency Oct 1, 2017 - Sept 30, 2018										
Agency	Mount Hood Chapter					MHC Totals	PCTA Sasquatch & Skyline	Agency Totals	FY 2017	2018 increase
	crews	Trail Maintenance		Skills						
		on trail	off trail	Training	Outreach					
Gifford Pinchot NF: Mt Adams RD	16	1,636.75	38.75	788.50		2,464.00	1,232.00	3,696.00	2,652.75	1,043.25
Columbia River Gorge NSA	89	7,903.50	14.00	1,736.00	24.75	9,678.25		9,678.25	4,254.50	5,423.75
Mt. Hood NF: Hood River RD	26	2,785.75				2,785.75		2,785.75	1,662.00	1,123.75
Mt. Hood NF: Zigzag RD	33	3,519.50	36.50	59.50		3,615.50	789.50	4,405.00	2,401.50	2,003.50
Mt. Hood NF: Clackamas RD	1	211.00		640.75		851.75	430.00	1,281.75	2,008.75	-727.00
Washington DNR									36.00	-36.00
PCTA			4,200.25	2,799.25	487.00	7,486.50		7,486.50	5,180.00	2,306.50
	165	16,056.50	4,289.50	6,024.00	511.75	26,881.75	2,451.50	29,333.25	18,195.50	11,137.75

We had a total of 714 volunteers in our part of the Columbia Cascades Region, but 40 only worked on Sasquatch or Skyline crews and 245 did not work on trails, leaving 429 volunteers that participated on Mount Hood Chapter trail crews.

The 245 without trail work includes some that only attended Trail Skills College, did Outreach or admin and many who only attended one of the GTRT classroom sessions.

Of the 429 that did work on trails:

- 23 worked on 10-58 crews
- 57 worked on 4-9 crews
- 85 worked on 2-3 crews
- 264 on 1 crew

Total hours by volunteer:

- 8 with over 400 hours
- 50 with 100-399 hours
- 115 with 40-99 hours
- 160 with 16-39 hours
- 381 with 1-15 hours

Discussion Items

- There was some discussion about the PCTA monument in Cascade Locks that recently went up. Roberta mentioned it was paid for by Port of Cascade Locks and not PCTA.
- Steve mentioned the billboard on the way out to the Gorge before Sandy, on the left side of the road. It was put up by Thunder Island Brewing, and features Max and Roberta.

Announcements/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.
- **5 Vacancies:** 1) Steamboat Lake; 2) Table Mountain; 3) Lower Eagle Creek; 4) Upper Eagle Creek; 5) Indian Springs Trail 435
- **2 Reservations:** 1) Three Corner Rock North (Sue Malone); 2) Middle Eagle Creek (Susan McDonnell)
- **Columbia Dispatch:** Dispatch 7 days a week, 7:30 am to 6:00 pm, waccc@firenet.gov, 360-891-5140. Remember to submit a TCP to your agency partner, your dispatcher or alternate dispatcher, Dana, and Leif.

Round the Room

- **SteveQ** mentioned being a software engineer who'd worked on creating a system for monitoring AED function using AI. The idea was to teach it when the hardware was in a good vs. bad state and alert when the AED needs attention. Part of the IoT.

- **Leif** said it's time to get the skis out so he'll be heading up to Teacup to work on the XC trails. Friday he'll be starting work there.
- **Sue** will be doing recon on her trail when work calms down. She'll also be helping Tami with her trail.
- **Rosemary** was out last month because she was trying to climb mountains; she was unable to summit either Mt. St. Helens or South Sister due to snow.
- **JohnH** went back to Connecticut for his 40th grad school reunion and got to tour the Pez factory. Two weeks ago he and his son finished the PCT at White Pass. There were many horses and llamas, packing in gear for elk hunters. He's working hard on the auction for the upcoming National Trails Conference in Vancouver. He expects it to be well-attended and that many of the people in town for that will attend Trail Dirt Live.
- **Brook** will be on her trail tomorrow. She has two more (October 16 and October 30) and has openings on both. She'll be working on brushing and drainage.
- **Tim** is trying to convert a closed road at Riley Horse Camp to trail. The Forest Service also has said that they want to decommission an old trail behind the camp, which they believe to be just a use trail because it's not on their maps. Tim believes it had been there, was washed out, and then re-established in 1967 when the camp was rebuilt. He's looking for people who've been there for info to keep it from getting decommissioned. He also mentioned working to get the camp open at Herman Creek. The issue there is diseased trees, so once those are out the camp may stay in its current configuration or it may change dramatically. It's important to get the trees out soon, since the disease they have will spread.
- **Terry** expressed the danger posed by cougars in light of the recent tragedy on Hunchback Mountain. We need to pay attention and need to keep crews alert as well.
- **Roberta** thanked everyone for the gifts at the picnic – the vest, cake and poster. She mentioned Bob Arkes is working with the Arboretum on a memorial for Brice. She's leading a party Wednesday to the top of Multnomah Falls, as well as leading a walk to Dry Creek Falls to teach about the fire.
- **Ruth** mentioned she'd been using her volunteer pass at various national parks, and actually got thanked for her trail work at Glacier.
- **Ron** talked about the Coho Salmon Festival at Multnomah Falls on November 4. He's hoping for rain so the salmon can get up Multnomah Creek. He also mentioned that they're still clearing rocks off the old historic highway daily with a snowplow, but the rocks are still falling and causing flat tires. He said that Dorothy is at Silver Falls State Park; her husband now works there. The missing hiker from Arizona was hiking Ron's section of trail when he became lost.
- **Thomas** missed the picnic because he was fly fishing at Eagle Cap
- **Kelly** went to Hawaii to finally get her renters out and sell her property; she's relieved she doesn't have to keep travelling there.
- **Tami** is crewing on Sunday.
- **Kim** is leading TKO's first family-friendly party at Latourell Falls on 11/2.