

Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA Caretaker Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2019, 6:45 pm

Location: Clackamas REI

Attended: Bob Arkes ('Gentleman Bob'), Jane Arkes, Jerry Bentz, Robert Caldwell ('Pace'), Thomas Calvary, Bill Canavan ('Little Brown'), Kathrin Dragich, Ron Goodwin, Dana Hendricks, Terry Hill ('Badger'), Peter Hoffman ('Beckon'), John Hoffnagle ('Daddy Longlegs'), Leif Hovin, Frank Jahn, Chris Keil, Diane Kelso ('Uh-Oh'), Kim Kovacs, Tim Lagesse, Susan McDonnell, Sue Melone, Kim Owen, Pam Owen, Steve Queen (OG), Hilary Renshaw, Davie Roe ('Underbucker'), Rick Schmidt, Tami Sheets, Brooke Stevinson ('Peanut Butter Platypus'), Tammy Turner, Ruth Weston ('A Muse'), Angie Panter, Dan Dahlke (TRBCHO chapter president).

Notes: Kim Kovacs

Welcome

- **Absent:** Roberta, Becky, Rosemary, SteveP, Kelley, Carole
- **Welcome:**
 - Kathrin Dragich (aspiring crew leader)
 - Angie Panter (Southern Oregon Rockers)
 - Dan Dahlke (president, Back Country Horsemen of Oregon - Territorial Riders Chapter)
- **Announcements**
 - PCTA award nominations due January 31.

Round the Room

People were asked to introduce themselves by name, trail name, and caretaker section or other chapter role, for the benefit of Kim Kovacs.

- Carol (via email) – Trail 400 – Dawn Stender and I have been trying to scout the 400 trail for a couple of months as Dawn would like to see if we can get it open and what needs to be done for this to happen. Unfortunately our last 2 dates have been cancelled due to heavy rains and now the government shutdown. As soon as it's lifted, we will get out to scout it.
- Frank Jahn – Gillette Lake – Scouted about four weeks ago. It's looking pretty good. Three to four small logs, the tread is in good shape. Also participated on two or three crews in the Gorge to get the trails open before Thanksgiving.
- Brooke Stevinson – Mount Adams North – Under snow.
- Robert Caldwell ('Pace') – Various sections on west side of Mount Hood – Under snow. Scouted Steamboat and checked the road access. Scouted Panther Creek looking for low elevation work the PCTA could do throughout the winter, and found some brushing that can be done in Marijke's section.
- Tim Lagrasse – Little Crater Lake to Road 42, Road 42 to Warm Springs River, and Warm Springs to South Pinhead Butte.
- Jerry Bentz – No report.
- Ron Goodwin – Timberline Lodge to Barlow Pass. He wants to put in more informational signs. He took a look at the section where a hiker got lost and died this summer. Noted that Timberline can't be seen in the fog, and those unfamiliar with the area think the lodge is above them, not below.
- Bill Canavan ('Little Brown') – Worked on the gabions at Wahkeena Falls. He'll be undergoing foot surgery and so will be out for a couple of months.
- Terry Hill ('Badger') – Works with Frank as an assistant caretaker.
- Chris Keil – Paradise Park Trail and the Paradise Park Loop – Under snow.
- Thomas Calvary – Indian Heaven South – Nothing to report.
- Pam Owen – Nothing to report.
- Diane Kelso – Lolo Pass South – Nothing to report.
- Peter Hoffman – Lolo Pass South – Nothing to report.
- Hilary Renshaw – Wahtum Lake and Benson Plateau – Nothing to report.
- Ruth Weston ('A Muse') – Timberline Lodge to Paradise Park – Nothing to report.
- Bob Arkes ('Gentleman Bob') – Mount Adams South – Snowed in.
- Jane Arkes – Gateway to Mount Adams – Snowed in.

- Tami Keller-Sheets – Sedum Ridge South – Brushing and maintenance.
- John Hoffnagle ('Daddy Longlegs') – Assistant crew leader.
- Susan McDonnell – Middle Eagle Creek – Can't access the area at present. Worked in the Columbia Gorge getting trails ready for Thanksgiving opening.
- Rick Schmidt – North half of Indian Heaven – Working on rehabbing his knee after surgery. It's been a tough process.
- Dana Hendricks – Columbia Cascades PCTA regional rep, responsible for about 300 miles of the PCT.
- Sue Melone – Three Corner Rock.
- Tammy Turner – Outreach and Event Coordinator. Handles tabling events as well.
- Angie Panter – visiting from the Southern Oregon Rockers.
- Kim Owen – Part of "Kim and Pam" or "Pam and Kim." Saw instructor, crew leader.
- David Roe ('Underbucker') – Saw instructor and also responsible for the Barlow to Frog Lake section. It's under snow and primarily used by snowshoers and cross-country skiers.
 - He's been concerned about the overuse camping at Twin Lakes, and has received offers of assistance on how to repair the area.
 - People have been marking the trees with spray paint and the MHNH folks will look at alternate means of marking the trails, but they say they'll need to do a lot of research. Blue diamonds aren't approved for the wilderness areas. Someone from the USFS said they may go back to axe blazes. David suggested wooden blue diamonds since metal and plastic aren't allowed. David's currently spending time sharpening the crosscut saws.
 - The Wind River area through Warren Gap is becoming a destination point for mountain bikers. Every time he's been there, so have they. He's unable to talk to them because they've become aggressive. Almost all the license plates in the lot are Oregon, not Washington. Not sure what to do, since there's no enforcement.
- Leif Hovin – Lolo Pass north to Indian Springs – Currently working on the Teacup trails throughout the winter. He's also the chapter chair and a member of the saw crew.
- Steve Queen ('OG') – Meeting facilitator for the Mt. Hood Chapter.

Reports

Columbia Cascades Regional Rep (Dana)

- Dana reported attending a meeting on the Central Cascades Wilderness strategy. In the Three Sisters, Mount Washington, and Mount Jefferson Wilderness areas they're planning to implement a day-use permit system at the most popular trailheads. Most PCT trailheads would be impacted. For overnight trips, all trailheads in these areas would need permits. Thru-hikers are exempt, but they're working on how to handle section hikers. Originally there was no plan for these folks, but they've come up with the idea of a "Skyline Permit" targeted at those hiking less than 500 miles through Central Oregon. They're talking about only permitting two launches a day from specific trailheads, and it's unknown how they'll manage the process. The only way to make suggestions is to file a formal objection. There's no information on how much it'll cost, as they need to go through the formal objections first, which they will do in March. They plan to implement this in 2020.
- Dana also attended the Mount Hood National Forest planning meeting. They went through issues, and the future projects list – projects that are too large for a single caretaker. There are 50 – 70 items on the list, which they went through and discussed strategy. One idea is to "shop it around" – figure out who wants to "own" individual projects.
- Ben Barry has been hired as PCTA's new Southern Sierra regional representative, which has never been filled and been vacant for many years due to a lack of reliable funding. Ben has worked with summer crews and with ACT most recently. There are lots of issues with overlapping between the PCT and the John Muir Trail leading to too much use.

North Cascades Regional Rep (Michael)

- No report.

Chair (Leif)

- Leif sent out an email (today) to survey what people think their strongest skills are. He's looking for drainage, tread, scouting, etc. specialists. This will be used to pair new ACLs with mentors. PCTA is in need of new caretakers and crew leaders, and this is one way to start building that pipeline.
- We are planning an advanced trails skill training class before Trail Skills College. It's still getting worked out. We are considering two tracks:
 - First aid preparedness/practicum. This wouldn't be a WFA class and no certification would result. It would be a class where situations could be practiced and where students would run through scenarios. It would include how to use the TCP and how to handle the other issues that arise (e.g, situation management and paperwork).
 - Camp cooking and overnight packing preparedness. There is a lot of upcoming work that'll require an overnight trip. The class would get people used to doing that, working with packers, learning to coordinate meals, etc.
 - Dana jumped in to say that there have been some curriculum discussions with Ruth and Marijke. They have offered to teach the first aid practicum and run through scenarios. It would be a chance to get more practice. She wanted to know if the interest was equal for both tracks; overall the consensus was that yes, both would be valuable.
 - Jane Arkes mentioned that Marijke did a really good job of teaching first aid in the past. She taught basic first aid with a focus on how it applies to actual trail work. She has a good grasp of what it's like to be out there.
 - Kim Owen said that last year they got involved with a first aid emergency on the trail. The first aid wasn't the problem, the issue came with managing the situation.
 - Tammy Turner asked that this get set up before she leaves town on March 10. The group decided on a tentative date of March 23-24 at Wind River.

Partnership Crews (Leif)

- No report.

Leadership Committee Meeting (Steve)

- Reiterated request to Jen for adding logout count, and crosscut vs. chainsaw, to the online reports.
- Caretaker section changes:
 - Steamboat Lake (14.2 miles) split into three sections:
 - Grand Meadows 5.5 miles, Road 23 south to Road 88.
 - Steamboat Lake, 4.9 miles, Road 88 south to Road 8851.
 - Twin Buttes, 3.8 miles, Road 8851 south to Road 24.
 - Table Mountain and Gillette Lake converted from two sections into three
 - Birkenfeld Mountain 4.9 miles, Three Corner Rock Trail to Road at Birkenfeld Saddle
 - Table Mountain 5.7 miles, Road at Birkenfeld Saddle to Greenleaf Road
 - Gillette Lake 4.1 miles, Greenleaf Road to Bridge of the Gods
 - Williams Mine boundary moved north 1.2 miles to Mount Adams Wilderness boundary. (Bob and Jane)
 - Junction Lake boundary moved south 0.1 m to East Crater Trail junction. (Rick and Thomas)
 - Barlow Pass boundary moved south 0.2 mi. to Barlow Road (Ron and David)
- Ian Nelson will be VSI program manager and there will be three teams:
 - VSI recruitment and mentoring (Dana, Kim, Barry Teshlog, Angie Panter)
 - Education: coordinate trailwide programs (Barry Teshlog, Connor Swift)
 - Policy group: creating and implementing policies (Leif, Jen Tripp, Ian Nelson)
- Side shields will start to be included in first aid kits and with each set of safety glasses. Any time you wear eye protection, you should wear the side shields. Might as well wear them all day.
- Steve sent around a sheet indicating trail status, changed to reflect the changes above. Please update as needed.
- The intern Evan in Sacramento will be gone soon. He created an interactive map of the sections from Mexico to Canada. You click on the map and get details about that section. It's currently available only to crew leaders. It's specific in that we can get more information about our sections than we can about those in California etc., and vice versa. Each section is editable so people can update information about their section as needed.

- The current caretaker section changes are not reflected on the new online stewardship map, but Pace sent the change request in today.
- Pace mentioned that Sacramento isn't using the current Halfmile mileages; they claim that most people are using mileages from 2015 which is why they haven't updated. Our chapter has already updated to use 2018 mileages.

Gorge Trails Recovery Team (Roberta via email)

- Eagle Creek Fire: The government shutdown forced us to cancel our first work party of 2019 (Saturday Jan 5), as well as the coordination meeting on Jan 3. Two more crews schedule for later in January are filled and we hope the US FS will be running by then. Before the shutdown, Dawn had me review an updated JHA for working on closed trails in the burn area, final has not yet been released. I had not confirmed with her which JHA to use when we are on open trails within the burn area.
- Dawn got an extended temporary position (about 2 years) back in Puerto Rico at the El Yunque National Park, and is scheduled to leave us at the end of January. Edan will be our contact until someone else is hired to backfill Dawn.

Volunteer Coordinator (Rosemary via email)

- Everything is going great, minus the government shutdown. We have cancelled one crew so far, and the next are scheduled for the 18th and 19th, so we will see how things go. We still have a lot of eager volunteers and crews fill up quickly!

Trail Skills College (Tammy)

- If you're interested in being an instructor, talk to Ryan Ojerio. There will be a meeting about this next week. Once that's set it will be put on the PCTA website. The dates for early registration will be on our Facebook page.

Outreach and Events (Tammy)

- Got a bunch of folks signed up from REI on 12/15. There's another presentation at Clackamas REI on January 30 on how to be a thru-hiker. We'll have a table.
- Michelle Weir will be filling in for Tammy while she's gone (March 10 through October). Michelle can't be at the February meeting but will be there for March.
- The annual celebration for this month had to be cancelled due to the government shutdown. It's been rescheduled for Saturday, February 9, tentatively at Fort Vancouver. She can't confirm, however, since there's no one answering phones right now. She mentioned Ken has offered space at the World Trade Center in downtown Portland. No one's thrilled about going downtown but we need an indoor venue that can accommodate up to 100 people and is free of charge.

Radios (Kim)

- Will be pinging his Forest Service contacts for updated information after the shutdown is over. He wants to make the radios usable trail-wide. There have been no changes for the past 10 months. He said to use "Work 1" for the Gorge. The new radios may have "Work 2" programmed in, but we should use "Work 1."
- Kim and Pam will hold their open house again in the May time period.

Tools (Terry)

- Show and tell for prescription eyeglass side shields.
 - Steve said it was decided these would be kept in the first aid kit permanently so that they're available on the trail.
 - Although they're inexpensive, it's encouraged that they're turned in to prevent having to keep restocking them.
 - The biggest threat is with wood chips hitting from the side. These will be adequate protection for sawyers. And they need to be worn not just by the sawyers but everyone working with the sawyers.
 - Possibly clean with antiseptic wipes when they're returned after use.
- Headbands for the helmets – Terry said that there should be two buckets at the tool cache, one for clean, one for dirty. Terry's team will take them home and wash them. He felt we were short, and at \$5 each they're not cheap. However, Portland has a lot (at least 24) and perhaps Walking Man can have some of those. The bucket system isn't set up for the Portland cache; either leave them out or take them home and wash them.

- David asked that the crosscut saws get to him over the winter and he'll get them ready for use. Don't put it off.
- There's an issue in that the chainsaws at Walking Man don't get started up over the winter.
- David mentioned there are old radios in the cache and proposed we reprogram them for Mt. Hood only, so they'll have all the available Mt. Hood frequencies. Leif said that all are in agreement that that makes sense and that David should go for it.
- Roberta (via email): Big thanks to the Tool Team and Ruth for assistance inventorying our tools and kitchen equipment. And super thanks to Jon for compiling the data into the awful inventory spreadsheet. All tools in PDX Cache are brightly painted and sharpened as needed. They look better than brand new!
- Jon Arp (via email): And here's an interesting little fact for all of you: Nearly one-quarter of the inventory value PCTA-wide is held within the four caches in this chapter.

Training and Safety (Dana)

- Covered during previous reports.

Saw Program (Leif)

- Covered during leadership committee meeting report.

Budget (Little Brown)

- We had a big windfall last year - \$5000 – from the “Be There For the Gorge” campaign.

Crew Leader Development (Pace and Little Brown)

- Still working on this. Mentioned the email Leif sent out today and encouraged folks to get it filled out. The system they're planning will be “trainee driven” once someone becomes an ACL they need to let the Little Brown know what training they need. At that point, they'll get a list of mentors, and they'll be responsible for contacting those mentors.

Stats (Pace)

- 26,590 hours for MHC 2018 Calendar Year (Jan – Dec). (There may still be some admin hours that have not been submitted.)
- The numbers reported earlier were:
 - 26,882 hours for MHC Fiscal Year (Oct 1, 2017 – Sept 30, 2018)
 - 29,333 hours for MHC/PCTA FY 2018 by Agency. This includes 2,452 hours for Sasquatch & Skyline crews and is the number used when reporting volunteer hours for recognition awards by the Agencies.

Mount Hood Chapter Stats - December 2018

	Calendar Year Totals			2018 increases		FY 2,018
	2018	2017	2016	vs 2017	vs 2016	
Total Volunteer Hours	26,590	18,293	18,381	8,298	8,209	26,882
Specialized hours	5,051	2,572	3,063	2,478	1,988	5,062
Number of Trail Crews	168	105	129	63	39	165
Miles Logged out	186	162	267	25	-81	184
Miles Maintained	118	93	69	24	49	113
Feet of Rehab/Recon	69,847	17,239	23,254	52,608	46,593	63,333
Volunteer hours by Category						
Trail Maint - crews & scouting	16,413	9,865	10,588	6,548	5,825	16,057
Trail Maint - support	4,329	3,901	3,572	428	757	4,290
Trail Skills Training	5,279	4,144	3,923	1,136	1,357	6,024
Outreach Events	569	383	299	186	270	512
	<u>26,590</u>	<u>18,293</u>	<u>18,381</u>	<u>8,298</u>	<u>8,209</u>	<u>26,882</u>
Sasquatch & Skyline crews						<u>2,452</u>
Total hours by Agency						<u>29,333</u>

Other Reports

- Sue Melone: Plans to oversee vacant caretaker sections – which ends up being about 37 miles of trail. She needs to check the elevations of the vacant sections to see what can be done early, and also to scout what's needed. Leif suggested putting together a group effort once it's determined what needs to be done – a large group hammering it out over a day or two. Sue will need to scout the trails and then send out information on what needs to be done.

Discussion Items

- Terry mentioned that one of the “special skills” to inventory should be photography. It's hard to lead a crew & take quality pictures. Leif said to make sure to add that as a response to his email in the “other” category.

Round the Room (Deprecated)

- Steve: Given that we have started going “Round the Room” at the beginning of the meeting, and a lot of the stuff we normally talk about during this “Round the Room” is talked about then, I'm inclined to phase out this part of the meeting.

Past Events

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

Trail Work

1. **October 11: Top Spur Drainage: Robert Caldwell**
Top Spur trail at TH to Top Spur trail end at PCT
2. **October 14: Sedum Ridge South Brushing and Maintenance: Tamara Sheets**
Mile 2168.28 to Mile 2147.88 (Halfmile's App)
3. **October 15: Scouting Larch Mtn Trail/Wahkeena Trail: Roberta Cobb**
Multnomah Falls Lodge, up Larch Mountain Trail to Down Wahkeena Trail to Return Trail and back to lodge

4. **October 16: PCT Muddy Fork drainage: Robert Caldwell**
PCT at junction with Top Spur Trail to PCT 0.8 miles south of Top Spur junction
5. **October 17: Multnomah Falls Overlook Trail Cleanup: Roberta Cobb, Terry Hill**
All of Multnomah Falls Overlook Trail
6. **October 19: Timberline South: Ron Goodwin**
Timberline Lodge area to Hwy 35 (Barlow Pass) lower 4 miles
7. **October 19: Tread Reconstruction near Dry Creek: Roberta Cobb**
PCT south of Power line road headed towards Dry Creek to "Viewless Viewpoint"
8. **October 19: Twin Lakes Survey: David Roe**
Barlow Pass trailhead to Junction of Lower Twin Lakes Trail #495
9. **October 20: Table Mountain Survey: Sue Melone, David Roe**
Table Rock (Intersection of CG 1480 and PCT) to Junction of West Table Mountain Trail
10. **October 27: Twin Lakes Drainage Maintenance: David Roe**
Barlow Pass Trailhead to Junction of PCT with Upper Twin Lakes Trail #495 AND Junction of PCT and Palmateer Trail #482 (PCT alternate) to Palmateer Point
11. **October 28: Treadwork near Moody: Noelle Price**
1.5 miles in from Bridge of the Gods
12. **October 30: PCT Muddy Fork drainage: Robert Caldwell**
PCT at junction with Sandy River Trail 770 to 0.75 miles south of junction with 770 trail
13. **November 3: Timberline South: Ron Goodwin**
Timberline Lodge Area
14. **November 6: Wahkeena Trail rehab: Susan McDonnell**
Switchbacks just past upper bridge on Wahkeena Creek (below Fairy Falls) to Vista Point trail
15. **November 10: Wahkeena Falls Switchbacks – Crew #2: Brooke Stevinson**
Wahkeena Creek upper bridge to Vista Point upper junction
16. **November 13: Pacific Crest Falls: Noelle Price, Robert Caldwell**
On the PCT near Pacific Crest Falls about 2.6 miles in from the Herman Creek trailhead. to about 0.1 of a mile back towards the Herman Creek trailhead to 2.5 miles from the trailhead
17. **November 15: Multnomah Falls Trail potpourri: Frank Jahn, Terry Hill**
Multnomah Falls Trail, just beyond the east end of the Benson Bridge to just beyond the first labeled switchback
18. **November 17: Larch Mountain Trail rocking: Roberta Cobb**
Larch Mountain Trail from Multnomah Falls Lodge to Junction with Multnomah Falls Overlook Trail
19. **November 17: Steamboat Lake scouting: Robert Caldwell**
Forest Road 88/PCT trailhead to Road 23/PCT crossing, Mosquito/PCT trailhead on road 8851 and Sawtooth TH on road 24
20. **November 18: Larch Mountain Trail Rocking – Day 2: Frank Jahn, Terry Hill**
Larch Mountain Trail from Multnomah Falls Lodge to Multnomah Falls Overlook (viewing platform at the top of the falls)
21. **November 20: Horsetail Falls Trail/Multnomah Falls Trail/Return: Frank Jahn, Robert Caldwell**
Horsetail Falls Trail to Ponytail Falls, Return Trail, Multnomah Falls Trail
22. **November 21: Larch Mountain Trail clearing rockslides: Susan McDonnell, Frank Jahn**
Larch Mountain trail #441 at crossing of Multnomah Creek, approx. 1 mile from TH to Top of switchbacks next to Wiesendanger Falls
23. **December 13: Gillette Lake Section scouting: Frank Jahn**
Bridge of the Gods trailhead on the Washington side to Top of section near Sacagawea and Papoose Rocks
24. **December 15: Treadwork near Herman Pinnacles: Roberta Cobb, Omar Sankari**
About three-quarters of a mile north of Herman Bridge Trail and PCT junction

25. **January 5: Dry Creek Tread Work: Roberta**
Pending report.

Non-trail Events

1. **October 23: Trail Dirt Live, Fort Vancouver**
2. **November 4: Caretaker Meeting**
3. **November 15: Trail Skills College Meeting**
4. **December 3: Powell's/Barney Mann tabling event**
5. **December 5: Leadership Committee Meeting**
6. **December 15: REI Tabling**

Future Events

1. **February 9 (Tentative): Annual Celebration, Location TBD. Government shutdown drives our ability to finalize date and location.**

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.
- **8 Vacancies:** 1) Grand Meadows; 2) Steamboat Lake; 3) Twin Buttes; 4) Birkenfeld Mountain; 5) Table Mountain; 6) Lower Eagle Creek; 7) Upper Eagle Creek; 8) Indian Springs Trail 435
- **2 Reservations:** 1) Three Corner Rock North (Sue Malone); 2) Middle Eagle Creek (Susan McDonnell)
- **Columbia Dispatch:** Dispatch 7:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, beginning October 1, 2018 (**closed during government shutdown**), wacc@firenet.gov, 360-891-5140. Remember to submit a TCP to your agency partner, your dispatcher or alternate dispatcher, Dana, and Leif.