

Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA Caretaker Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2019, 6:45 pm

Location: Clackamas REI

Attended: Bob, Jane, Pace, Thomas, Bill, Roberta, Kelley, Carole, Ron, Terry, Peter, John, Leif, Frank, Chris, Diane, Kim, Tim, Susan, Sue, SteveP, Rosemary, SteveQ, Hilary, Underbucker, Rick, Tami, Brooke, Ruth, Becky, Michele, Dan Dahlke, Bozeb Beckwith

Notes: Kim Kovacs

Welcome

- **Welcome:** Michele Wier (the new Tammy); Dan Dahlke with the Backcountry Horsemen; Bozeb Beckwith who attended the saw recertification review that was held just before our meeting.
- **Announcements:** Tammy is now hiking the AT...and her hair is purple!

Round the Room

- **Annual Celebration** – Everyone had a great time and the location was nice; the Fort Vancouver people were very accommodating. Steve mentioned that because the event was late this year, and this was the third attempt to hold it, that he was surprised at how many people DID attend.
- **Frank Jahn** – Plans to get in to scout his section of trail around Gillette Lake before taking off. Unlike previous years, he's not working at Glacier but will be working at Denali at Wonder Lake instead. He's due at training on April 17 and so needs to start driving April 10. He'll be gone until September 22. The terminus for the Continental Divide Trail, Goat Haunt, is where he typically works, but there are water issues and personnel issues there this year, so that area is closed.
- **Terry Hill** – Broke his toe in four places yesterday while moving a large rock. He won't be out on any projects for a while as a result. He brought in straps he had created for carrying crosscut saws that are now kept at the tool caches. Roberta demonstrated their use. The Technique:
 - The front hook goes through a saw tooth gullet on the outside of the saw, and the rear hook is attached to the inside (or vice versa).
 - The metal hook slides into a chosen gullet at an angle. Access spaces for gullets are visible just above the scabbard when the saw is carried with cutters pointing down.
 - With one strap on the outside and one strap on the inside, the saw carries comfortably and securely on edge at the volunteer's side.
 - There are several other options (e.g. using T-handle holes, wrapping the webbing), but the one described here seems to be a favorite.
- **Ron Goodwin** – People are trying to get up the Larch Mountain Trail using microspikes, but even those with ice axes aren't having much luck. Most people are turning around at the switchbacks above Weisendanger falls. There's a slope there that has some sort of active slide on or under it. Material keeps coming down and freezing, and lots of people taking falls there. Most of the visitors are not local, with those from other countries showing up during their spring breaks.
- **Michele Wier** – There aren't any events until National Get Outdoors Day (June 8). She organized the tabling materials.
- **Bill Canavan** – Attended a tabling event for ALDHA-West Ruck at Stevenson on February 23 with Terry. It was a success, with 1.5 pages of new volunteer sign-ups. He suggested moving Trail Skills College there. He plans to scout an area for teaching turnpike construction. He and John Hilbert will likely be using the Tamanous Trail for the class, since it's a real mess.
- **Tim Lagasse** – Will be taking a Skyline Crew into Warm Springs the first week of July. He'll be looking for a brushing buddy, probably going in mid-week the week after the 4th (possibly that Friday). He'll be working between the power lines and Clackamas Lake.
- **Pace** – Checked the Herman Creek Trail. It's icy getting out of the parking lot and to the junction with the Herman Bridge Trail, but clear trail after that on the southern exposure, accessible to hikers. He'd like to take a crew in there soon.
- **Thomas Calvery** – Will be scouting Table Mountain on the 24th, and wants to take a party in for brushing on April 20th. Brooke and Sue will be his ACLs.

- **Susan McDonnell** – Looked at the trail from the Moody Trailhead to Dry Creek Falls. She couldn't see the tread, it was mostly under snow. She felt, however, a crew could still get in there to start cutting out limbs. She encountered much of the same thing from Dry Creek Falls to the Pinnacles. There were a few small downed trees that can be handled with a Katana, and a stump that could be chopped out with a Pulaski. Not much traffic was evident between the Pinnacles and PCT Falls.
- **Tim Lagasse** – Mentioned that there's another Eagle Creek Trail along Wildcat Mountain Road, also called the 501 Trail. It's at low elevation and it's probably open. It can be hard to find but he has excellent directions; just ask him and he'll provide them.
- **David Roe** – June 4 and 5 there will be a forum held regarding the overuse of the Twin Lakes area. A professor is coming in from the East Coast to consult. The first day will be held at the Parkdale Ranger Station, the second day on-site at Lower Twin. This area is often used by PCT through-hikers going north.
- **Leif Hovin** – Was out today at Teacup leading an expedition for the School for the Blind. It was a great day, with fresh snow and blue skies. There is a LOT of snow still out there. He was also late due to one of his chickens hiding out in a blackberry patch.
- **Steve Queen** – Went up to Multnomah Falls a couple of Saturdays ago, going up the Larch Mount Train, then over to Wahkeena Falls, and back. He had traction devices but didn't need them. He also mentioned that the email conversion has been very frustrating for everyone; he's doing what he can to help.

Reports

Columbia Cascades Regional Rep (Dana)

- None.

North Cascades Regional Rep (Michael)

- None.

Chair (Leif)

- Hasn't been getting emails. He asked if an Eventbrite invitation has gone out for the advanced skills training? Rosemary says no, probably tomorrow. There will be twelve slots for each of two tracks: Tread Perfection; and WFA Scenarios/Paperwork/etc. It will be held March 23-24 at Wind River. Friday will be a potluck, Saturday, food will be provided.

Partnership Crews (Leif)

- None going on right now. PCC was postponed until April.

Gorge Trails Recovery Team (Roberta)

- She's attended meetings with Edan and Dawn. Dawn is now in Puerto Rico. They will be backfilling the position, but it's hampered by bureaucracy.
- We have the green light to clear Eagle Creek up to Fern Bridge. Fern Bridge needs to be replaced, as does High Bridge. We'll need to replank Fern Bridge ourselves, taking the planks in. We'll also need to replank First Bridge. We'll probably start the first week of June. Edan will send a geologist to Punchbowl to see what the damage looks like there. We're also responsible for the trails at Herman, Gorton, Nick Eaton, and the cutoff trail.
- Claire Fernandes reported getting funding for two crews this year. One will be led by "Paul," who'll be the crew lead over three or four others, as well as a worker-bee himself. Once Paul starts, we are thinking of scheduling several short work parties of three-four days each.
- The wilderness begins just past High Bridge, so chainsaws are OK lower down, and there's also some talk of blasting the cable sections where the trail has become narrow and dangerous.
- There was talk of assigning the Youth Corp the short trails around Benson Flats.

Volunteer Coordinator (Rosemary)

- Working on getting her email working.

Trail Skills College (Tammy)

- TSC is on schedule.

Outreach and Events (Michele Wier, Tammy)

- Nothing to add.

Tools (Terry)

- Nothing to add, covered saw demo earlier.

Training and Safety (Dana)

- None.

Saw Program (Leif)

- They're still waiting for the Forest Service to update the training material. If there are areas that are in need of saw work, they could be used for training. Instead of learning at TSC or Wind River, do training on the trail as opportunities arise.

Budget (Little Brown)

- Erin Lane doesn't have a budget for us yet, but please keep sending in receipts as normal.

Crew Leader Development (Pace and Little Brown)

- Bill mentioned Nathan would like to be a crew leader. He's currently at lift mechanic, and took a picture of the snow at one of the lifts – 8 to 10 feet. Kathryn Dragich also wants to be a crew leader but plans on tackling the PCT this year. She'll be back in touch when she's done.

Stats (Pace)

- Still behind, with snow on the Gorge trails.

Mount Hood Chapter Stats - February 2019, revised						
	Feb	Feb	Feb	YTD	YTD	YTD
	2019	2018	2017	Feb	Feb	Feb
	2019	2018	2017	2019	2018	2017
Total Volunteer Hours	330	1,127	682	649	1,944	943
Specialized hours	17	74	87	40	139	114
Number of Trail Crews	1	6	4	1	12	4
Miles Logged out			2		3	2
Miles Maintained	0	6	4	0	11	4
Feet of Rehab/Recon	100	1,885	0	100	4,382	0
Volunteer hours by Category						
Trail Maint - crews & scouting	51	514	330	51	914	333
Trail Maint - support	219	304	324	509	595	563
Trail Skills Training	29	221	17	53	347	36
Outreach Events	30	88	11	36	88	11
	<u>330</u>	<u>1,127</u>	<u>682</u>	<u>649</u>	<u>1,944</u>	<u>943</u>

Discussion Items

- Email conversion issues. PCTA.org accounts and the Windows Outlook for the desktop.

- Admin hours for the annual celebration. Report with month-end hours. Pace added that he needs hours for the Forest Service meetings, too.
- There was a discussion about the large number of registrations for Trail Skills College. There were enough people qualified for pre-registration to fill up the classes three times over. The Advanced Skills Training is only being offered to this group.
- Sue Malone asked what the mechanism is for getting scouts for the orphaned trails. Steve recommended sending an email to mthoodcaretakers@pcta.org.
- Discussion of Forest Service passes. Who should one speak with if passes weren't received? Ellen. Everyone received a regular Forest Service pass this year instead of special volunteer passes.
- Kelly talked to Rob who's visiting his son, who's graduating from Special Forces school.
- Pam and Kim Owen are looking at wildflowers this year in California. The area is have a "super bloom," but that's attracted a lot of tourists who know nothing about flowers, leading to lots of traffic and frustrating those who do know about flowers.
- Leif asked if we have space blankets in our first aid kits. No, we do not. Leif said we need to have them.
- Meeting adjourned 7:47 PM.

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-2019.pdf>.

Trail Work

1. None.

Non-trail Events

1. **March 13:** Saw safety refresher course (prior to caretaker meeting): Underbucker
2. **March 3:** Annual Celebration,
3. **February 23:** ALDHA-West tabling event, Stevenson, WA: Terry Hill
4. **February 21:** TSC meeting: Tammy

Future Events

1. **March 23-24:** Wind River Advanced Skills Training
2. **April 3:** Leadership Committee meeting at Roberta's
3. **April 10:** Caretaker meeting at Clackamas REI
4. **April 12-14:** Trail Skills College
5. **April 26-28:** Wind River Saw Certification

Notes

- **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, wacc@firenet.gov, 360-891-5140. Remember to submit a TCP to your agency partner, your dispatcher or alternate dispatcher, Dana, and Leif.