

Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA

Caretaker Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2019, 6:45 pm

Location: Clackamas REI

Attended: Robert Caldwell, Bill Canavan, Roberta Cobb, Kelley Davis, Carole Dearholt, Ron Goodwin, Terry Hill, Peter Hoffman, John Hoffnagle, Leif Hovin, Chris Keil, Diane Kelso, Kim Kovacs, Tim Lagasse, Susan McDonnell, Sue Melone, Steve Queen, Hilary Renshaw, David Roe, Tamara Sheets, Brooke Stevinson, Ruth Weston, Michele Wier, Becky Wolf, Tom Wiemann

Notes: Kim Kovacs

Welcome

- **Absent:** Rosemary, Dana
- **Announcements**
 - May meeting will be at REI, not New Seasons.
 - Need note taker at July meeting, and possibly the August meeting. Sue Melone volunteered after the meeting.

Round the Room

- Leif: Trying out new rigging. Will talk about Trail Skills College more later.
- John: His work party is on.
- Hilary: Went to a goat cheese farm at Gales Creek.
- Tami: Nothing to report. She'd planned to scout her section, but it got snowed under. It's rescheduled for the weekend of 4/20-4/21.
- Bill: Worked on the log out at Eagle Creek.
- Carole: Scouted Trail 400 with Pace on March 19. More material is sliding down the hill. She thinks they'll need to plan three work parties in there (Pace is invited).
- Pace: Lots of work:
 - March 18 at Herman Creek Bridge with Susan and Frank. They cleared tread, reinforced switchbacks.
 - March 19 he scouted Trail 400 with Carole.
 - March 21 he scouted Gillette Lake and the Tamanous Trail with Frank.
 - March 25 he, Frank and Susan scouted Eagle Creek. He reports that it's clear of snow
 - March 27 he assisted Susan on the PCT between Moody St. and the Pinnacles
 - April 1 he was part of the Eagle Creek crew, which logged out the area and cleared it as far as Fern Creek.
 - April 5 he worked with Susan and her scout trip assisting the Forest Service with putting decking on the Fern Creek Bridge. Three or four groups helped Edan lay the planking. They got it installed just after noon, and got beyond the Fern Creek Bridge.
 - April 8, was hoping to get back in to Eagle Creek but decided to wait due to the flash flood warnings and recent rock slides due to the rain. They may need to clear up to Fern Creek again.
- Kelley:
 - Was on the trail crew at Eagle Creek.
 - She hasn't been able to scout her section yet due to snow
 - She did scout the Whistlepunk trail for the sawyer class at Trail Skills College. It's just a short loop trail, but there's plenty to do.
- Tim:
 - Dorothy from PGE was at their last meeting. They spoke about getting Timothy Lake open for Equestrians. They plan to work on the PCT on the west side of the lake.
 - Between the beginning of February and the end of March, his rain gage showed 4.5" of rain. It shows 5" from April 1 to present – so it's been wet.
 - They're going to have stock at the National Get Outdoors Day on June 8
- Peter was on Eagle Creek with Bill and David.
- Diane was on a trail crew.
- Susan
 - Worked on Herman Creek Bridge with Pace

- Scouted Eagle Creek
- Took a scout crew out. Two people were able to take in two boards with straps they devised.
- Her section isn't accessible yet.
- Planning three trips into Eagle Creek soon (4/16, 4/18 and 4/22)
- Ruth – Nothing to report
- Brooke – Led a crew out at Tillamook as part of a large, multi-group party out there (“Trail mix.”) Planning to go out with Alice and Sue soon.
- Terry’s still struggling with his broken foot (“Old men open doors for me ;-”)
- Michelle – Not getting any activity for tabling events. Maybe in May.
- Roberta:
 - Thanked Susan and Noelle for the fantastic work they did on tread at Herman Creek.
 - There’s another trip scheduled there for April 20 but it hasn’t been posted yet.
 - They’ve scouted Gorton Creek as far as the Ridge Cutoff trail
 - There are three small logs, two larger ones, all ones that can be stepped over
 - It’s not worth taking them out until we take a look at Nick Eaton, which hasn’t been scouted yet.
 - Gorton Creek is in really good shape
 - Pace’s crew did a great job on the Herman Bridge Trail
 - PCC Crew: none of the students participated in the crew. The instructor, his son and his friend came, and they did get some work done. Probably won’t do another PCC wilderness lit crew.
 - 400 Trail between Herman and Wyath: There’s a slide at Gray’s Creek that has made the trail impassable.
 - She has a list of trails that need scouting
- Ron is sending people to Dry Creek Falls, since the Larch Mountain Trail is closed just after Benson Bridge.
- Tom on the tool team had nothing to add, although Terry said he did a dazzling job on the floor at the tool cache, and does great trail work as well.
- Kelley said the shed at Walking Man had collapsed, someone said that it was actually demolished.
- Thomas:
 - Scouted the Table Mountain Trail from the north trailhead, for about 3.5 miles until he hit snow. There are about 20 logs down.
 - There were a couple of trees down over Greenleaf Bridge and there were concerned there may have been some damage. He went in with Leif and they pulled them down.
- Chris:
 - Not much PCTA work. He’s hoping to get back in to it but work’s been chaotic
 - He spoke about the Wilderness Stewards Group.
 - They’re starting the process to become incorporated as a 501c. It will help give them more autonomy and control over planning, recruiting, and equipment. They will become more of a partner with the Forest Service.
 - They have less than ten active people (although there are 30 or 40 on the books)
 - They are in effect rangers. They educate people, check permits, throw out trash, patrol trails. They were formed about 20 years ago, when usage of the Mt. Hood trails expanded. The Forest Service had planned to restrict or close down the area due to overuse. Their group was formed as a compromise, and they’re the reason the Mt. Hood trails have remained open.
 - Their members are getting older, though, so they need to recruit.
 - They’re also being pressured to take on more tasks, such as helping with studies.
 - Roberta mentioned she’s appreciated the group’s help during the Paradise Park logout.
- David
 - He’s mostly been working in the shop, getting the crosscuts they purchased in January ready and out to the tool caches for use.
 - He participated in just one logout, at Eagle Creek.
 - He’ll be attending a four-day annual conference with other sawyers, to talk about what’s changed over the past 12 months (policies, regulations, changes in training and PPE, etc.)
- Steve
 - Apologized for getting the minutes out so late, March went by too fast.
 - He went to San Francisco on spring break to see his daughter and do some geocaching, looking for old caches, and had a great time... although he did get poison oak all over.

Reports

Columbia Cascades Regional Rep (Dana)

- Friends of the Gorge, has begun staging info tables at popular trailheads (via email). Roberta elaborated that there's one at the Bridge of the Gods. They talk about which trails are opened/closed, leave no trace principles, invasives. They're trying to recruit people to help, and there's some training coming up. We'd like to get PCTA fliers out to them as well.

North Cascades Regional Rep (Michael)

- No report. He has not been on the caretaker distribution list but that has been rectified.

Leadership Committee Meeting (Steve)

- Halfmile mileages
 - Halfmile app is going away, but routes and maps will continue.
 - Guthook doesn't use Halfmile routes so there is no guarantee that they will match, and in fact are a half mile off in Oregon and Washington, as well as differing elevations at the exact same location.
 - Not used by USFS.
 - On web, we will remove Halfmile mileages from the Caretaker Sections page (to discourage use in reporting), but leave it in the Mileage and Elevations page.
 - We need to stop using absolute mileages from Mexico, regardless of the source, in our reports.
- Need to relocate the PDX tool cache.
 - Needs to be strategically located for both Gorge and Mount Hood work parties.
 - Must have no fuel restrictions.
 - Electricity is a huge plus. Solar power may be an option.
 - Someone's home?
 - Trailer?
 - Other ideas?
 - Chris asked about space at the ranger stations.
 - Roberta said that lots of people use her cache, including Brooke and Tami.
 - Tami asked if we'd spoken to the Mazamas on Stark? They have tools, and may have extra storage space we could use.
 - Tami also wondered about using one of the Tool Libraries (there's one in the southeast and one in the northeast section of town). They're in the basement of a church. Tami will send links to Steve.
 - Michelle suggested talking to retailers about space, such as REI or Next Adventure.
 - Tami mentioned Habitat for Humanity Re-Stores.
 - Steve said this may have to happen quickly, as Roberta's house may sell quickly. They need about 600-650 square feet.
 - Leif asked what TKO does. Kim responded that they're in people's garages for the most part, but the caches are much smaller. TKO also has a shed at Rooster Rock, but it's tiny.
 - Someone added that it's not only tools, but cooking and camping gear. Leif suggested reducing the size of the cache by separating these items out and storing them elsewhere.
 - Michelle said that the tabling materials could also be separated out .
- Chainsaw and crosscut reporting metrics should be live in a couple weeks.
- Will be adding crosscut and chainsaw sawyer lists to the roster.
- EAP will have an asterisk for FECA (Federal Employees Compensation Act) hospitals for volunteers who will want to use workers compensation.
 - A rough rule is that if it's a 24-hour hospital, it supports FECA; if it's not, it doesn't.
 - The second page of the EAP is static information; it doesn't change the process of where to take someone in an emergency.
 - No TCP sends you to Sandy, which is urgent care but not 24-hours. We switched that some time ago. The TCPs should send people to Legacy Mt. Hood in case of emergency.
 - The back side lists other choices for less critical situations.

Chair (Leif)

- Safety issues – They had to cancel a work party because of rain. At Multnomah Falls they were escorting people down and providing hard hats.
- Trail Skills College is only checking in when they go into closed areas. They are still doing a JHA, and Ryan will use WTA's JHAs.
- If you have a problem volunteer on a trail crew, the best thing to do is to have a post-party discussion. If there truly is a problem, let Leif know. Safety issues in particular should be reported.
- Trail Skills College is coming up. The weather looks good on Friday, but Saturday and Sunday will be wet. Wind River saw training and re-certification will be two weeks later. With PCTA logouts planned between those events, we'll need to figure out how to get the tools back and forth. Dave said he'll work it out.

Partnership Crews (Leif)

- Roberta mentioned that perhaps we should reconsider our partnership with PCC. They've had three years of low turnout. More kids are younger, doing a dual high school/college track. Also, the schools don't want to offer work parties as extra credit, as they don't want to push people into participating in something that's beyond their abilities.
- Leif will double check with Liz regarding New Seasons regarding their participation this year.

Gorge Trails Recovery Team (Roberta)

- She considers the PCT to Dry Creek done, as well as the Herman Bridge Trail.
- There will be a meeting in May after the seasonals are hired to figure out who's doing what, when.

Volunteer Coordinator (Rosemary)

- Rosemary via email:
 - Last minute crews are really hard right now. I need at least a week lead time. I do appreciate when people call or text me.
 - Next 2 crews are both on April 20th--one is already full, the other will be posted by Wednesday.
- Discussion about cancellations. Pace cancelled his Monday crew the morning of, and a person showed up that wasn't on his list and didn't know the party wasn't taking place.
 - Apparently if the event isn't cancelled via Eventbrite, the program fills the slots from the waitlist, which is how this person ended up on it.
 - It's important to let Rosemary know so she can officially cancel the event.
 - In this case, she was out of town, so she couldn't have helped any way.
 - Some felt crew leaders should be able to kill the events.
 - Roberta said that would require everyone having a login to Eventbrite.
 - Michelle suggested more than one person have access.
 - Tami said she could do it during the week, as she's in front of computer all day anyway.
 - Leif has texted people who were on their way to the event.

Trail Skills College (Tammy)

- She's made it through the Smokies to Hot Springs. She's sorry to be missing TSC.

Outreach and Events (Michele Wier, Tammy)

- None at this time.

Tools (Terry)

- He bought wedges and gave them to David. Four people are on the tool team now.

Training and Safety (Dana)

- Reminders (via email from Leif)
 - Space out crews when hiking – and do not stand as a group in steep, or exposed terrain
 - Walk single file, well spaced out in areas of potential slides
 - Consider having assistant crew leaders with radio's at the front, middle and rear of the crews when hiking.

- Relocate or cancel work parties, if areas appear unsafe

Saw Program (Leif)

- PCTA is taking a much more active role in training new sawyers. There's additional training coming up soon, one held by the North 350 Blades in Randle, the other one to be held in Ashland the first weekend in June. He'll know more at the end of the month.

Budget (Little Brown)

- We have \$3,600 for the year, and have spent \$651. We hope to spend less on tools and more on food for the overnights. Keep sending in receipts.

Crew Leader Development (Pace and Little Brown)

- Leif sent out an email asking people to sign up as mentors, but didn't get as many signed up as they'd hoped. We think that people are reluctant because they don't feel qualified, but people know more than they give themselves credit for, and ACLs can use everyone's help. If you've done a drain or worked on tread, you likely know more than some of these people. If you have a project with a basic need that matches a person's need on the list, invite them. Drop Bill an e-mail and let him know how they did.

Stats (Pace)

- We finally got some crews out, month numbers for March are close to 2017 which is a better comparison than last year.

	Mar 2019	Mar 2018	Mar 2017	YTD Mar 2019	YTD Mar 2018	YTD Mar 2017
Total Volunteer Hours	848	3,286	898	1,587	5,230	1,840
Specialized hours	200	668	119	239	807	233
Number of Trail Crews	5	17	7	6	29	11
Miles Logged out	9	6	11	9	8	13
Miles Maintained	10	10	11	10	21	15
Feet of Rehab/Recon	1,623	9,650	850	1,723	14,032	850
Volunteer hours by Category						
Trail Maint - crews & scouting	418	1,799	545	469	2,713	879
Trail Maint - support	122	330	266	738	925	829
Trail Skills Training	301	1,135	0	337	1,483	36
Outreach Events	7	22	87	44	110	97
	<u>848</u>	<u>3,286</u>	<u>898</u>	<u>1,587</u>	<u>5,230</u>	<u>1,840</u>

Discussion Items

- Steve: Rosemary's email working is working fine now, so the migration should be complete.
- Discussion re: Wind River. Several people had not received confirmation. They were told to double-check with Ellen, who was supposed to be at Cascade Locks for TSC. Those recertifying can do so on Friday or Saturday; those becoming new sawyers or upgrading their certificate will need to attend Saturday and Sunday. If you've been certified within the last five years, you can recertify; otherwise, you'll need to start over.
- If you're willing to take notes for July and maybe August, please see Steve.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 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 and Scouting

1. **March 17:** Gillette Lake Section scouting: Frank Jahn
Bridge of the Gods trailhead Sacagawea/Papoose Rocks
2. **March 18:** Herman Bridge Trail brushing and treadwork: Robert Caldwell and Susan McDonnell
Herman Creek Trail 0.2 before the start of Herman Bridge Trail to Herman Bridge Trail at Herman Creek Bridge
3. **March 19:** Scouting Tamanous Trail: William Canavan
Bonneville TH to Tamanous / PCT junction
4. **March 19:** Scouting #400: Carole Dearholt
Trail #400 Moody St trailhead going west and Eagle Creek going east (closure in the middle)
5. **March 21:** Gillette Lake Section Trail Maintenance: Frank Jahn
Bridge of the Gods to Table Mountain
6. **March 23-24:** AST: WFA Refresher, Managing Emergency Situations: Ruth Weston, Marijke Weaver, Leif Hovin
Wind River Training Center
7. **March 23:** AST: Tread Perfection Day 1: Roberta Cobb and Dana Hendricks
Szydlo Road southbound for 200 yards
8. **March 24:** AST: Tread Perfection Day 2: Roberta Cobb and Dana Hendricks
400 Trail West of Moody to about 1/2 mile from there
9. **March 24:** Table Mountain - Scouting: Thomas Calvery
Table Mountain
10. **March 25:** Eagle Creek Scouting & Maintenance: Robert Caldwell
Eagle Creek trailhead to Fern Creek Bridge, 2.5 miles
11. **March 27:** Bridge of the Gods (Oregon) Logout, Brushing, and Treadwork: Susan McDonnell & Noelle Price
Moody St. trailhead to Herman Bridge Trail #406E
12. **March 30:** Scouting Gorton Creek Trail: Roberta Cobb
Gorton Creek Trail 408; junction with Herman Creek Trail to Gorton Creek Trail junction with Ridge Cutoff Trail
13. **March 31:** Table Mountain - Rigging/Felling: Thomas Calvery
Table Mountain
14. **April 1:** Eagle Creek logout and treadwork: Robert Caldwell & Bill Canavan
Eagle Creek logout and treadwork to Fern Creek Bridge, 2.5 miles
15. **April 5:** Eagle Creek bridge repair and treadwork: Robert Caldwell & Bill Canavan
Eagle Creek Trail, 0.1 mile north of Fern Creek to 0.1 mile south of Fern Creek
16. **April 6:** Herman Bridge Trail Tread Work, PCC Wilderness Lit Crew: Roberta Cobb, Ruth Weston
Herman Bridge Trail south of the Herman Creek Bridge to less than 1/4 mile further south

Other Events

1. **March 23-24:** Advanced Skills Training
2. **April 3:** Leadership Committee Meeting

Future Events

1. **April 12-14:** Trail Skills College
2. **April 26-28:** Wind River Saw Certification
3. **May 8:** Caretaker Meeting at REI
4. **July 5-11:** Skyline Volunteer Vacation – Summit Butte
5. **July 19-25:** Skyline Volunteer Vacation – Mt Washington
6. **August 2-8:** Skyline Volunteer Vacation – Jeff Park 1
7. **August 16-26:** Skyline Volunteer Vacation – Jeff Park 2
8. **August 30-September 4:** Sasquatch Volunteer Vacation – Hidden Spring in Goat Rocks Wilderness
9. **September 13-19:** Sasquatch Volunteer Vacation – Goat Rocks Fire Restoration

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.