

Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA Caretaker Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2019, 6:45 pm

Location: Clackamas REI

Attended: Robert Caldwell, Thomas Calvery, Bill Canavan, Ron Goodwin, Terry Hill, John Hoffnagle, Leif Hovin, Chris Keil, Tim Lagasse, Sue Melone, Kayla Ondracek, Steve Plant, Rosemary Prescott, Steve Queen, David Roe, Tamara Sheets, Brooke Stevinson, Susan Tracy, Tammy Turner, Becky Wolf.

Notes: Sue Melone

Welcome

- **Absent:** Ruth (extra in film), Roberta (prepping for Wahtum Lake crew)
- **Welcome:**
- **Announcements**

Round the Room

Dana passed on Sue's suggestion that we make near misses a standard part of the meeting to improve safety learning and awareness. Caretakers should report any near misses during Round the Room.

- Ruth Weston (via email)
 - Was out July 28th. Kayla Onderack was there too and can talk about it. She is a great ACL!
- Roberta Cobb (via email)
 - Eagle Creek Crews: We're half-way through the build of the First Bridge. I have the crew line-up for the 2nd half. Same people as worked on the first week. Thanks to Susan for continuing work on the upper end. No schedule yet on the High and Fern bridge replacements.
 - Herman Creek Trail still needs logout. The Sheriff's office contacted Edan to report that many SAR events have happened on the Nick Eaton/Gorton loop, with people getting lost. A few of us believe the problem is on the Hood River side past Deadwood, but I committed to finding a crew to log and brush it. Probably not until late August or September.
 - PCTA received a complaint that there's an excessive amount of poison oak on my section, especially between Herman Bridge Trail and Dry Creek. Kelley said that she's run on that recently and it's no worse than usual. I don't know if I'll address it, because it would need power brushing and Edan was not sure of the restrictions at this time.
- Peter and Diane (via email)
 - We have not done any trail maintenance this month, but there is no urgent work needed on our section.
- Leif
 - Power brushed his section over 4th of July. Cleared to Buck Peak. One log left.
 - More people hiking in his area this year.
 - Leif got married!
- Tammy
 - I switched to blonde and attended Leif's wedding.
 - 530 miles on AT completed. GA, NC, TN on AT are done but injury prevents her from continuing.
 - Plans for Nepal and Rwanda in future.
- Steve Plant
 - No trail work this month.
 - Near miss shared from several years ago: 2 log stack where bottom log bumped up.
- Robert Caldwell
 - Spent 2 weeks working in Steens Mountains with the Oregon Natural Desert Association. Lot of sagebrush work was done.
 - Worked on bridge rebuild project for Eagle Creek.
 - Worked 2 days on Three Corner Rock section (tread/drainage repair).
- David Roe
 - Obtained a pile of crosscut saws: 1/3 to PCTA, 2/3 to TKO.
- Becky Wolf

- No trail work this month.
- Ron Goodwin
 - Did trail work on his 55th anniversary.
 - Fixed signage on section of trail where a hiker died last year. Experienced trouble directing people around ski user trails. Andesite is a tough rock to work on. Tom went through three battery packs. Lot of thru hikers coming through.
 - Katie didn't join because she was hurt getting on her bike. Time in trauma and ICU. They had to figure out where everything is in the trailer because she always takes care of that stuff.
 - Message from Tom Wiemann and wife Gloria: Tuesday they were supposed to go into Wahclella, but trail not accessible due to a gate being locked.
 - At Wahkeena Falls someone breaking rocks trying but USFS saw them.
- Chris Keil
 - Spent July back in Oklahoma with family so no trail work. Working on house after getting back.
 - Rachel has a crew up logging out Paradise Park Trail. Unsure about the specifics. More info soon.
- Kayla
 - Worked with Ruth in Zigzag canyon area 3 miles from lodge (brushing and drainage). Trail starting to look drier after the drainage work.
 - Near Miss: situation where communication needed to be better while working on switchbacks. Two hikers complained about rocks coming down from above. She radioed up to address the behavior.
 - Interested in becoming a caretaker for one of the foster trails.
 - Interested in helping others. Open on the weekends and willing to do weekdays.
- Tim Lagasse
 - Doing lots of farm work; no trail work this month. Got water and stuff still green.
- Tami Sheets
 - 3 work parties on Sedum Ridge. Fixed a troublesome slide that she has been poking at for four years. Treadwork performed on both south and north sides. Bill and she did tread work on the south side and gone up with Dawn and done work on both the south and north sides.
 - You can drive up the road pretty easily. Took her car in once on the Ridge Trail once. Dawn had to get out of the car to guide.
 - Would like to get up there once more this year.
 - Pace: Rock Creek Bridge. Cut off root that was holding root wad against lower stringer. It should go away once we get a good runoff. Sue: took out two trees too.
- Brooke Stevinson
 - Bill and I did 4 day Potato Patch crew on North Mount Adams and Potato Hill; Lots of tread cupping fixed on the northern four miles of the Mount Adams North section. Brushing, cleaning drain dips, and log out. Also logged out the Potato Hill section.
 - Following week, scouted two miles south of the Divide Trail junction for an overnighiter in mid September..
- Susan
 - Also got married.
 - Scouted Table Mountain to Birkenfeld; in pretty good shape. Needs some tread work but not bad. Mostly need attention between the kiosks. Want to organize some work parties.
 - Volunteering at PCT days.
 - 4 days of work on Eagle Creek.
- Terry
 - Photography work 21st and 23rd day of Eagle Creek bridge build project. Fun project.
 - Will work PCT Days and Mount Hood music festival.
- Thomas Calvery
 - Worked a couple days with WTA on Mount Saint Helens. Unplanned search and rescue but people were safe and sound.
 - Planning 3 day work party on south end of Birkenfeld for end of Sept. Wife will do camp tending. Need a shelter for a group dining area, and burner to boil water, and a means to get 40 gallons of water up there. Need containers. Brooke will be assistant.
 - Signed up to foster Birkenfeld section. Will do the south end of Birkenfeld this year and hopefully next year will do the north end (unless someone else wants to do it sooner).
 - Sue: would like to see a printed inventory that is available in each cache.
- Sue Melone
 - Brushing / drainage repair done on Three Corner Rock section.
 - Recon of damaged section of Three Corner Rock with Pace; need to get Edan/ Nathan involved..

- Worked on Eagle Creek bridge building project one day
- Inventory challenges, especially first aid kits at Stevenson tool cache.
- Bill Canavan
 - Worked on building Eagle Creek bridge 3rd day of project.
 - Has new approved bolts to hang signs in wilderness (smaller signs).
 - One set is in Stevenson cache, other set in PDX cache.
- John Hoffnagle
 - Attended land advisory council meeting.
 - PCTA completed 10k land acquisition in Northern California.
 - Working on Wahtum Lake crew August 15/16.

Reports

Columbia Cascades Regional Rep (Dana via email)

- Steve: Dana has a back issue and it is slowly getting better. Has been working about 3 hours a day.

North Cascades Regional Rep (Michael via email)

- Happy August everyone! I know that you are all doing terrific work. I would like to especially call out crew leaders who have led multiday projects. You are wonderful. Thank you for taking on that organizational challenge. In particular, I would like to convey my thanks to Brooke, Bill and others for hosting another successful Potato Patch weekend. Secondly, I would like to prime the pump on something that is coming up. Forest management plans are updated periodically. When this happens it is an excellent opportunity for our community to assure that the PCT is given appropriate consideration and protection. The Sierra and Sequoia National Forests in central California recently released draft forest management plans. PCTA staff are combing through these documents and preparing a formal comment letter. However, we will also be reaching out to others to solicit public support and comments about the importance of the PCT. Some of you likely participated in the Inyo National Forest's plan revision in 2016. If that is the case you will be receiving an email from the PCTA staff at some point this month. If you don't get a comment soliciting email and would like to participate feel free to reach out to me.

Chair (Leif)

- Jen Tripp wants us to move our existing PDX tool cache away from a private residence and into commercial storage. More on that to come.
- Working on the annual picnic in October. Location and date TBD.

Partnership Crews (Leif)

- No report.

Leadership Committee Meeting (Steve)

- Volunteer profiles
 - Very personal and sensitive information that is not helpful in planning a trail crew and should not be shared down to the level of the local crew leaders (date of birth, maiden name, medical issues, medications, previous addresses, etc.).
 - Medical issues are important but can change and volunteers are probably less likely to put that information in a volunteer profile than to confide with the first aid lead.
 - Discussed opting for reduced information in a Word mail merge since Raiser's Edge doesn't give good (or any) ability to customize the volunteer profiles. In the end we agreed that we don't need any more information than we get from the sign in sheets.

Gorge Trails Recovery Team (Roberta)

- No report this month.

Volunteer Coordinator (Rosemary)

- Some overnight crews coming up.

- Send her any one day crew needs for the month ahead.
- Group of women would like to work on a trail; Tami may take it on.

Trail Skills College (Tammy)

- Debrief meeting results from 2019 reviewed; First meeting for 2020 TSC is coming up.
- Date might change date for 2020 TSC.
- 2020 is Tammy's last year as event coordinator.

Outreach and Events (Michele, Tammy)

- Michele is done as outreach and event coordinator in October.

Tools (Terry)

- Radios: new radio for Stevenson so now we have 6.
- We have a new 2 burner stove.

Training and Safety (Dana)

- No report.

Saw Program (Leif)

- No report.

Budget (Little Brown)

- Nathaniel starts August 19 as permanent full time USFS member.
- Budget request has been submitted. An additional \$1500 was requested request for 2020/2021 to buy kitchen gear.
- There are a lot of half-used gas containers in Stevenson cache. Please use them up before using full ones.

Crew Leader Development (Pace and Little Brown)

- Nothing to share this month.

Stats (Pace)

- While June was close to 2017, July has shown a drop off compared to 2017. Some late crews were added in but we are still missing some reports which could bring the numbers up.

Mount Hood Chapter Stats - July 2019						
	July 2019	July 2018	July 2017	YTD July 2019	YTD July 2018	YTD July 2017
Total Volunteer Hours	2,239	3,616	2,927	10,939	20,275	12,395
Specialized hours	502	1,120	688	2,264	3,928	1,906
Number of Trail Crews	16	32	28	64	126	77
Miles Logged out	65	47	84	148	176	155
Logs cleared, crosscut	69			199		
Logs cleared, chainsaw	32			149		
Miles Maintained	31	21	22	60	92	54
Feet of Rehab/Recon	5,148	11,645	5,497	14,445	51,449	8,594
Volunteer hours by Category						
Trail Maint - crews & scouting	2,107	3,391	2,596	6,290	12,653	6,706
Trail Maint - support	129	201	331	1,531	2,237	2,152
Trail Skills Training		24		2,404	5,195	3,381
Outreach Events	4			713	191	156
	<u>2,239</u>	<u>3,616</u>	<u>2,927</u>	<u>10,939</u>	<u>20,275</u>	<u>12,395</u>

Final Comments and Discussion Items

- Steve
 - Added Facebook and Eventbrite links to the home page and the calendar page.
 - Added a TCP for Tami. If you have an access point with no TCP, let Steve know.

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

- July 5 to July 11:** Skyline Volunteer Vacation - Summit Butte: Justin Brimer
From 4270 Road in the Warm Springs Reservation to 2.5 miles South of 4270 Road
- July 10:** Timberline South (to Barlow Pass): Ron Goodwin
Timberline Lodge to Barlow Pass (Hwy 35)
- July 13:** Scouting and Brushing Big Huckleberry: William Canavan
4.82 miles trail south of Crest Horse Camp to 6.39 miles south of Crest Camp
- July 13 to July 14:** Log Out Timberline Lodge to Ramona Falls on the PCT: Ruth Weston and Robert Heyman
Timberline Lodge to Ramona Falls Trailhead
- July 14 to July 17:** Eagle Creek Overnighter #2: Susan McDonnell & Omar Sankari
Approx. 6 miles trail north of Wahtum Lake (near Tanner Butte trail junction) to Just north of Blue Grouse camp (about 1/2 mile south of wilderness boundary)
- July 21:** Sedum Ridge North tread maintenance: Tamara Sheets
Trout Creek / FS 43 Southbound to 3-miles South for Trout Creek / FS F3
- July 25:** Timberline South: Ron Goodwin
Timberline Lodge area on PCT / Timberline Trail

8. **July 25 to July 28:** Potato Patch 2019 - Mt Adams North and Potato Hill: Brooke Stevinson and Bill Canavan
Rd 115 Midway Meadows to Rd 115 Midway Meadows
9. **July 27:** Sedum Ridge North/South Tread Maintenance: Tamara Sheets
West end for FS 41 (beginning at the decommissioned east end) to 1.5-miles north of Sedum Ridge (FS 41) and 3-miles south of Sedum Ridge.
10. **July 28:** Zigzag Canyon: Ruth Weston
Zigzag Canyon Switchback #2 on the east side of the canyon to The bottom of the Zigzag canyon at the river (still on the east side of the canyon)
11. **August 3:** Mt Adams North - Scouting: Brooke Stevinson
Divide Camp trail jct to 2.0 miles south on PCT from Divide Camp trail Jct
12. **August 4:** Sedum Ridge South 2019 Log-Out & Tread Maintenance: Tamara Sheets
Decommissioned east end of FS 41 to to PCT Sedum Ridge South
13. **August 5 to August 9:** Lower Eagle Creek First Bridge Build Week 1: Roberta Cobb
Eagle Creek TH in the Gorge to few hundred yards upstream

Other Events

1. **August 8-15:** Skyline Volunteer Vacation – Jeff Park 1.5

Future Events

1. **August 16-22:** Skyline Volunteer Vacation – Jeff Park 2
2. **August 30-September 4:** Sasquatch Volunteer Vacation – Hidden Spring in Goat Rocks Wilderness
3. **September 11:** Caretaker Meeting at REI
4. **September 13-19:** Sasquatch Volunteer Vacation – Goat Rocks Fire Restoration

Notes

- **9 Vacancies:** 1) Potato Hill; 2) Grand Meadows; 3) Steamboat Lake; 4) Twin Buttes; 5) Birkenfeld Mountain; 6) Table Mountain; 7) Lower Eagle Creek; 8) Upper Eagle Creek; 9) Indian Springs Trail 435
- **Columbia Dispatch:** Dispatch 7:30 am to 6:00 pm, seven days a week, beginning May 25, 2019, waccc@firenet.gov, 360-891-5140. Remember to submit a TCP to your agency partner, your dispatcher or alternate dispatcher, Dana, and Leif.