

# Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA Caretaker Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2020, 6:45 pm

Location: Clackam-as REI

Attended: Bob Arkes, Robert Caldwell, Thomas Calvery, Jennifer Calvery, Bill Canavan, Dan Dahlke, Terry Hill, Peter Hoffman, Leif Hovin, Albert Iggi, Frank Jahn, Renee Janssen, Todd Janssen, Chris Keil, Diane Kelso, Stacey Lee, Roberta May, Susan McDonnell, Sue Melone, Kim Kovacs, Steve Queen, Hilary Renshaw, Brooke Stevinson, Tammy Turner, Ruth Weston, Becky Wolf

Notes: Kim Kovacs

## Welcome

- **Absent:** Rosemary Prescott (traveling), Susan Tracy (prior commitment), Tim Lagasse (planting trees)
- **Welcome New ACLs:**
  - Nate Zaremskiy. Has been volunteering for a while and looking forward to becoming a crew leader.
  - Renee Janssen and Todd Janssen. With Go Beyond Racing which emphasizes volunteer trail work.
  - Stacey Lee. She's been volunteering for three or four years, and also works in Central Oregon. She's looking at taking two sections, one in the Mt Hood chapter and one in Central Oregon.
- **Announcements:** None

## Chapter Chair Report

- The annual celebration was two weeks ago. One takeaway was hearing all our agency partners telling us they're impressed with our safety record – we have a good one – and we're dependable. On a side note he was talking with Tracy at the Gifford Pinchot, and she said she's seen our influence trickle over into other organizations. It's reflective of a lot of good, hard work by everyone in this room.
- The foster trail program. Sue Melone circulated a sheet to have people volunteer for fostering opportunities. Our biggest focus will be on finding out what the work is – how bad it is, what needs to be done, how many logs are down. We need to triage it and after that, figure out how to get the work done. Part of it could be doing saw work as training, another one is new ACLs that have sections of trail, so scouting could be part of that too, with others helping to train the new ACLs. It will vary because we've got trails up high under snow for another month or so.
- Next leadership meeting will be in April.

## Round the Room

With four new ACLs in the room, everyone introduced themselves.

- Leif – No trail work, but today was School for the Blind out at Pocket Creek.
- Hilary Renshaw – She hasn't done any trail work. She bought a new house and is moving.
- Dan Dahlke – He works on the Timothy Lake section. He hasn't done trail work yet this year, but has scheduled May 15-20 to work on his section.
- Becky Wolf – Her section begins where Dan's southern boundary and extends to Breitenbush Lake. She did a "show and tell" of a book that covers the limited entry permit system for the Central Cascades [Limited-Entry Permits, Deschutes & Willamette National Forests, by Kim McCarrel]. It's geared toward horses but still very helpful. It's \$4.95 on the author's web site.
- Terry Hill – Not a caretaker, but supports the caretakers. Roberta hooked him up with Chris Burke and he was able to work at Lower Eagle Creek with the Forest Service chainsaw guys taking out some 42" logs. He worked with them for two days using a chipper, which was a new experience for him. Used a leaf blower and also put up ADA parking signs. He also worked on the Multnomah Falls trail.
- Chris Keil – Paradise Park Trail and Loop. Checked last week and his trail is under 13.1 feet of snow.
- Ruth Weston – Works Timberline to Paradise Park. She and Stacey were at a Wilderness First Aid Class. She also worked with Roberta on the trail with a PCC Wilderness Lit class. She moved some rocks and some dirt.
- Tammy Turner – Not a caretaker. She hasn't been out on the PCT but is leaving Saturday to fly to Ontario, California to work for five days on the PCT in that area.

- Roberta May – Caretaker for the Bridge of the Gods on the Oregon side, Herman Bridge Trail, and just signed up to foster Gorge Trail 400 between Cascade Locks and Eagle Creek. Logged out her first mile with David Roe, who was testing out a new Echo saw but wasn't impressed with it, the controls are touchy. She'll be logging out the rest of her section on Sunday (all A logs).
- Susan McDonnell – Her section is the middle of Eagle Creek and she has been fostering the lower section as well. She had two trail parties in the past month, one on February 18 and the other, March 9. The tread is looking great to Fern Creek. Fern Creek to High Bridge is passable except for a big slide just before the bridge. The logout is done. She's scheduling another work party next week to get beyond High Bridge.
- Nate Zaremskiy – New ACL, nothing to report.
- Jennifer Calvery – She's the Volunteer Outreach Coordinator, and also works as a camp tender.
- Thomas Calvery – Indian Heaven South – No work yet, as it's under snow. Wilderness First Aid this weekend.
- Brooke Stevenson – Her section is Mount Adams North.
- Todd and Renee Janssen – New ACLs, nothing to report.
- Diane Kelso – Lolo Pass South.
- Peter Hoffman – Hiked a small section in Washington. The trail looked pretty good except for a slide. Sue Melone, caretaker for the section, said it had already been fixed.
- Bob Arkes – Caretaker for Mount Adams South. Based on his experience it's still under a lot of snow. It's usually the end of May before he can get in there.
- Bill Canavan – Works Big Huckleberry South. He discussed working with Natalie Ferraro at TKO on the Trailhead Ambassador program. TKO will organize volunteers at the Eagle Creek trailhead, once they announce it's open. They want people at the trailhead for a whole week. A list will come out in the next couple of days. Jennifer Calvery added that they'd like two volunteers per day, out for the whole day, for the whole month. We'll also want to make sure PCTA has a presence.
- Frank Jahn – Gillette Lake to Bridge of the Gods. He scouted last month and dragged a few logs off the trail – so his logout is complete. He helped Susan at Eagle Creek, working with Bozeb to log out. He led one crew to “vanquish the nasty slide” on Eagle Creek, which Nathaniel thinks is just normal settling.
- Robert Caldwell – Caretaker of the Muddy Fork, Ramona Falls, Top Spur. He worked five trail parties this month. He was on his section today – the gate is still locked at Ramona Falls. The Sandy River Trail is fairly clear, needs brushing. The Muddy Fork is under two feet of snow. The crossing hasn't changed much. There are about a dozen logs that are currently covered, but which will make for a nice logout. If he can get an OK from Rachel he'll try to get in in the next week or so. He'll be going to the Steens in July with ONDA, and will be leading a crew in June out of the South Steens Campground. He still needs one or two volunteers. It'll be Thursday through Monday. Susan McDonnell will be his ACL; let him know if you're interested.
- Sue Melone – Has the Three-Cornered Rock section. She was out there twice in March. She's planning to have a crew out on Saturday, but it's sketchy and may get moved out. Regarding the foster program, her goal is to improve the communication around these trails. There's plenty of work to do; we need to do brushing as well as logouts.
- Albert Iggi – New ACL. He was on both of Susan's crews.
- Rosemary Prescott (via email) – Everything is going good. We have one upcoming trail crew on the 14th. Would love to hear if we will have more coming up soon as the weather improves. I'm out of town from March 10-15, but I will have my phone if needed.
- Tim Lagasse (via email) – Still on schedule for our May logout effort.

No near misses to report.

## Trail Tip

This month Leif spoke about the use of handsaws by volunteers who are not saw certified. There's a big, grey area surrounding what can and can't be cut by non-certified individuals. The rule is that something that's under 5" can be considered pruning and can therefore be cut with a handsaw. He wanted to emphasize that it's not really about diameter, though; one must also take into account the length and the binds. Even a small downed tree over a trail can be dangerous. For caretakers, it goes back to the safety aspect – cutting, rolling logs, rolling rocks – it comes down to situational awareness. When encountering a log across the trail, you should be asking questions like: who has a saw? Is there a sawyer available to supervise? The caretaker should be aware of what people are cutting. If it looks dangerous, don't let your crew cut it. You have to appreciate the amount of energy that can be released. Unfortunately, there's nothing documented in either PCTA or Forest Service policy.

Chris Keil asked for clarification. Leif reiterated that anything under 5" is brushing, and no certification is required. Over 5", it's considered crosscut and a certification is required, even if you don't use a crosscut saw. Chris felt that what Leif was saying was that you can cut something smaller if you're on your own. Leif corrected him stating that that's not scouting, it's trail work, and it's not permitted on a scouting trip.

Susan said that it sounded to her like every crew leader should be saw-trained. Leif responded that they'd love that. It's highly encouraged and a goal. It also helps with scouting, since it helps you know what's needed to clear the trail.

Tammy asked if she could take the training without trying for the certification. Leif said that would be fine. Chris asked if it would be worth putting something together, and Leif said that's what Wind River is for, and that people can ask to audit that.

Robert brought up the fact that several people out there now have their own saws. He was out with one woman who brought hers, and he assumed she knew how to use it. It quickly became apparent she didn't. He provided some instruction but it wasn't enough and she got the saw stuck because she didn't anticipate the bind.

Roberta on-tap for next month's tool tip.

## Reports

### Regional Rep (Dana)

- No report. Leif said he spoke with her about the access to the gate [not sure where]. The landowner looked into the legal aspects of giving access and had concerns, so it's going to take more time.

### Volunteer Coordinator (Rosemary)

- No report.

### Outreach and Events (Jennifer)

- Met with Gala at the Gifford Pinchot today. She'll be sending a full list of potential partner events coming up.
- The Vancouver event/Outdoors Day isn't happening this year, but they're looking at a smaller event. She'll put all of them on a calendar so people can sign up.
- She's got events scheduled through September.
- The Eagle Creek tabling will be a high priority; they really need people. We also have tabling training coming up. Myla is holding three, on March 19, March 25 and April 8. It'll be online training.
- Leif suggested sending the info out to the caretakers. Sue asked if she's looking for other events, and Jennifer said yes, as many as possible. Leif asked about tabling events at Bridge of the Gods; Roberta said he's talking about Trailhead Ambassadors, and with TKO taking that program over from the Friends of the Gorge she's not sure if that's still happening. Leif would like to see one there, as well as one at Timberline Trail.

### Trail Skills College (Tammy)

- There's a meeting tomorrow night regarding Trail Skills College. Right now, it's moving forward, but that could change. Having 120 people in a closed pavilion doesn't sound like a good idea due to COVID19. Even if we do have it, we'll have to change the way we do things, for example being more careful with the dishwashing process. Advance registration will open on March 16, regular registration on March 24, no idea on the time, probably around 10:00 AM. It's a manual process, not automatic, so it varies. Frank said that last year he couldn't get in. Tammy mentioned that it's not just PCTA, but TKO, WTA, BCH, etc. They've tightened the criteria, but there are still over 300 people on the list. But lots of those people won't sign up. Chris asked about the distribution, and noted that TKO has a lot of volunteers; Tammy said PCTA still has the most.

## **Training and Safety (Dana)**

- No report. Roberta said that there will be an Advanced Skills training June 1, 2, and 3 for doing a proper rock wall on her section of trail near the Pinnacles. She does have some people signed up. Nathaniel is teaching it. They want to keep it small, but if you think you have a rock wall possibility on your section, let her know and she can probably squeeze you in one of the days.

## **Tools (Terry)**

- He took the ODOT mechanical wheel plus the PCTA wheel and ran them both along the trail around Multnomah Falls five times (clockwise, counter-clockwise, once behind each other on the trail). His conclusion: There's no such thing as a precise measurement; it came up different every time. On flat terrain, there's about a 1% error, which rises to 2% on rocky terrain. It's usually on the long side. So, for the entire PCT, that would add about 53 miles. For the Multnomah Falls loop, the mean average was five miles – which is what they've been telling people for decades. A discussion on device accuracy ensued.
- They also made a GPS map with tracks, and printed it on aluminum. They're in color, sandwiched between Plexiglas, 18"x 24". They got permission to go up and mount them at the junctions. Friends of Multnomah Falls paid for them. Chris Burke hauled all the equipment up there and put them in.
- Tammy asked if there was an update on the Mazama tool shed. Leif responded that it's progressing. They're figuring out what they can fit in the space – how much space we actually get. They're also still working on the legal side – but the wheels are in motion. It went from being rectangular to being oddly-shaped, which jacked up the price. It'll take up two parking spots. It was approved by their board and he's confident it'll happen.

## **Saw Program (Leif)**

- Signup for Wind River opened, and nine people have signed up. Bozeb is doing his VSI, so he's taking over to help lead it so he can be certified. There's no news on the PCTA saw program. They're still waiting for the national program to make a decision. Someone mentioned their saw certification had expired, and wondered if they needed to go through the whole process again. Leif said that up to five years, you can recertify with the one-day class. After that, they'd need the full course.

## **Budget (Little Brown)**

- Still don't have one.

## **Crew Leader Development (Pace and Little Brown)**

- Bill said he hadn't gotten far on the process yet. They've got several people in the pipeline, though, most of whom were recommended by Susan McDonnell.
- He's also working on getting the kitchen equipment sorted. There should be one set at PDX and two at Walking Man (one of which is dedicated to the Sasquatch/Skyline crew). The rest are for all of us to share. Roberta is working on divvying up the gear, but it ended up being a bigger project than expected and they haven't gotten down to the pots and pans yet.
- On April 14 Bill plans to start the Continental Divide Trail.

## **Stats (Pace)**

- We are missing the Feb Admin hours report, all other reports included.
- We have a good start to the year, thanks mainly to the effort to clean up Eagle Creek Trail.

Mount Hood Chapter Stats - February 2020									
	Feb	Feb	Feb	Feb	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	
	2020	2019	2018	2017	Feb	Feb	Feb	Feb	
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2020	2019	2018	2017	
Total Volunteer Hours	676	320	1,127	682	1,057	639	1,944	943	
Specialized hours	132	17	74	87	186	40	139	114	
Number of Trail Crews	7	1	6	4	9	1	12	4	
Miles Logged out	6			2	6		3	2	
Logs cleared, crosscut	9				10				
Logs cleared, chainsaw	51				51				
Miles Maintained	5	0	6	4	9	0	11	4	
Feet of Rehab/Recon	810	100	1,885	0	1,320	100	4,382	0	
Volunteer hours by Category									
Trail Maint - crews & scouting	511	51	514	330	721	51	914	333	
Trail Maint - support	110	225	304	324	262	515	595	563	
Trail Skills Training	0	14	221	17	0	37	347	36	
Outreach Events	55	30	88	11	74	36	88	11	
	676	320	1,127	682	1,057	639	1,944	943	

## Final Comments and Discussion Items

- None. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

## Past Events

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-2019.pdf>.

### Trail Work and Scouting

1. **February 12:** Lower Eagle Creek Logout: Susan McDonnell & Robert Caldwell
2. **February 18:** Lower Eagle Creek Logout & Treadwork: Susan McDonnell, Susan Tracy
3. **February 20:** Gillette Lake Section scouting: Frank Jahn
4. **February 21:** Herman Bridge Trail and PCT BOG-Oregon side Scout: Roberta May
5. **February 25:** Lower Eagle Creek Slide Removal and Treadwork: Frank Jahn, Susan Tracy
6. **February 26:** Lower Eagle Creek TH Cleanup: Terry Hill
7. **February 27:** BOG Oregon Side Logout 1: Roberta May
8. **February 29:** Log Out Herman Bridge Trail: Roberta May
9. **March 1:** Rd2000 S scouting and tread work: Sue Melone
10. **March 9:** Lower Eagle Creek Brushing, Treadwork, Logout: Susan McDonnell, Albert Iggi, Robert Caldwell

### Other Events

1. **February 22-23:** Mid-Oregon Wilderness First Aid in Scio.
2. **February 22:** ALDHA-West Cascade Ruck: Jennifer Calvery

## Future Events

1. **April 8, 6:45 PM:** Caretaker Meeting at REI

## Notes

- **11 PCT Vacancies:** ➤ Grand Meadows, ➤ Steamboat Lake, ➤ Twin Buttes, ➤ Panther Creek, ➤ Wind River, ➤ Birkenfeld Mountain, ➤ Table Mountain, ➤ Teakettle Springs, ➤ Timberline - South, ➤ Twin Lakes, ➤ Little Crater Lake
- **4 Non-PCT Vacancies:** ➤ Gorge Trail 400, ➤ Lower Eagle Creek Trail 440, ➤ Upper Eagle Creek Trail 440, ➤ Indian Springs Trail 435
- **1 Reservation:** ➤ Benson Plateau (Susan Tracy)
- **3 Fosterings:** ➤ Birkenfeld Mountain (Thomas Calvary), ➤ Teakettle Springs (Susan Tracy), ➤ Gorge Trail 400 (Roberta May)
- **Columbia Dispatch:** Dispatch 7:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday, [waccc@firenet.gov](mailto:waccc@firenet.gov), 360-891-5140. Remember to submit a TCP to your agency partner, your dispatcher or alternate dispatcher, Dana, and Leif.