

Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA Caretaker Meeting Agenda

July 8, 2020, 6:45 pm

Location: Microsoft Teams

Attended: Bob Arkes, Jane Arkes, Robert Caldwell, Jennifer Calvery, Thomas Calvery, Bill Canavan, Ellen Ginda, Peter Hoffman, Leif Hovin, Frank Jahn, Renee Janssen Todd Janssen, Chris Keil, Diane Kelso, Kim Kovacs, Stacey Lee, Roberta May, Susan McDonnell, Sue Melone, Kim Owen, Steve Queen, Hilary Renshaw, Rick Schmidt, Susan Tracy, Ruth Weston, Becky Wolf, Nathan Zaremskiy

Notes: Kim Kovacs

Welcome

- Steve welcomed Ellen Ginda, PCTA's Volunteer Programs Coordinator, to her first Mount Hood caretaker meeting. Dana is on vacation, so Ellen is filling in.

Chapter Chair Report

- Leif had a chat with Dana before she left. We've been green-lighted for scouting, which will go on for the next couple of weeks. Level B will kick in after that, mostly in the Gorge. A meeting will be set up for next week to go through the tailgate safety talk for Level B (similar to the Level A/scouting, tailored for work parties).
- The hand washing stations are in place; Pace dropped off a bunch of those.
- It's time to find out what work we have in front of us and how to prioritize it. We'll be coming back to folks and asking them to help figure that out, and how to get folks out to the places where they're most needed. We don't know yet what will be the level of interest. The trail parties will be limited to people who are experienced, but it's unknown how engaged they'll be.
- There are a lot of changes going on; a couple of people are out due to surgeries and injuries, and we'll have to get coverage for those vacant areas. We probably won't work on the weekends when people are out hiking the trail, and we'll have to figure out how we manage sections where the caretaker works and can't get away during the week.

Regional Representative Report

- Ellen's been with PCTA for five years and this is her first caretaker meeting. She's providing staff support for those who need it while Dana's out of town.
- Ellen spoke to the Technology Project which has been in the works now for two years. It's a replacement for the database currently in use in Sacramento. It will have all the caretaker contact info, project reports, member data, and agency and government partners, all that information in one database.
- The version of the database PCTA currently uses will no longer be supported and has many limitations:
 - Only Sacramento personnel can access it.
 - Really not a volunteer management system.
 - Volunteers can't access it to update it, sign up for projects, can't see volunteer hours, etc.
- PCTA spent lots of time meeting with consultants and looking into options and in the last two weeks they started building the system using Salesforce. Ellen's started testing the volunteer sections. There's still a ton of work to do – many more weeks to build – but at this point they're hoping the new database will be ready by February, 2021. All volunteers will be able to get into it, Caretakers will have more access, and chapter leaders will have more access than Caretakers. All chapters will use the same process. Stay tuned for updates.
- Leif said we'd love to be beta testers when the database is ready.
- Susan asked about the Level B training – do we need to take that before we can lead crews on work parties? Ellen replied that yes, we would.

Round the Room

- Terry Hill
 - Won't be able to make Wednesdays anymore. "There was a big career change for our son, which has him on a four year engineering apprenticeship, plus his family has moved (we are helping to raise the three children). All said, our time has been gobbled up."

- Todd and Renee Janssen
 - They're excited about being able to get out and scout. They're adopting a section they'll be running on, and wanted to know what they need to do during the scout and after the scout. Leif said that they'll need to file a TCP so everyone knows they're out. It'll get sent to their agency partner (Zigzag), and also a dispatch person to let everyone know they're on/off the trail. Bill Canavan will talk to them after the meeting with more specifics. Stacey Lee also offered to assist. Susan McDonnell added that they need to attend the level A training (they did) and then record as much detail as they can regarding whatever needs to be fixed; for example not only how many logs but how large (take a picture of it), washouts, anything else that needs to be fixed.
 - Steve showed them where on the Mount Hood chapter website the TCPs are located. Todd showed everyone his new mullet.
- Jennifer Calvery
 - She was curious about what she needs to be looking for, going forward, from an Outreach perspective. Who should she talk to? Leif said that we'll be doing volunteer recruitment based on a list of volunteer hours from Ellen (not Eventbrite). But we're kind of limited right now.
 - She and Thomas went on a nice hike in Indian Heaven; she's very proud of herself, she hiked 26 miles in 29 hours, and was still feeling it. It was beautiful, and she got to see Tom's section.
- Thomas Calvery
 - Doesn't have much to add. Hiked from Crest Camp up to Blue Lake and back. He didn't tell Jennifer beforehand how many miles it was. Lots of logs down; he's looking forward to scheduling a logout. There were mosquitoes and little black flies that were terrible, probably the worst he's seen out there.
- Peter Hoffman and Diane Kelso
 - They're doing fine. They haven't done any hiking since the last meeting. They quasi-scouted their section so they kind of know what's out there. The same is true with the Twin Lakes trail. They're not planning to do anything on their section until Level B. Otherwise they're working on their blueberries.
 - At Lolo Pass – South, Peter wants to do some work with just the two of them. He also wants to do some work at Twin Lakes but he's not sure they'll have time.
- Hilary Renshaw
 - She's been hiking in Portland lately. Otherwise she doesn't have much to report.
- Kim Owen
 - He and Pam haven't done much lately, mostly just watching their wildlife friends (birds, deer). He's laid-up due to a knee injury – a torn meniscus that flares up after a mile or so of hiking. He's got surgery scheduled for August, so he's hoping to get out late in the season.
 - He also talked about a new repeater at Red Mountain, designed to cover most of Indian Heaven. Quite often the GP-Defiance repeater is reachable from the north-south trails, but you can't hit it when on the east-west trails. The Red Mountain repeater fixes this issue, and he'll be programming the radios for it. He's making a big loop around the Portland area on Friday, and offered to connect with anyone who has a radio that needs to be reprogrammed.
- Rick Schmidt
 - He hasn't done anything yet. He hopes to get out and scout Indian Heaven next weekend.
- Ellen Ginda
 - She has been working from home in Sacramento since mid-March. She lives two hours from the coast, two hours from the mountains, but feels that's too far to drive currently. So she's pretty much just staying local and walking her dogs.
- Bob and Jane Arkes
 - They scouted Jane's section to the Riley Creek cutoff. A Forest Service crew had been in and logged it out. There are a few things that need to be done, but not much; it's hiker-ready. The tread is in good shape, but it needs a bit of brushing. Beyond the Riley Creek cutoff, Bob's understanding is that there are quite a few logs down. Dean plans on logging out that large loop because it gets a lot of hiker traffic and he wants to log it out before we get crews in. There will be tread work and brushing that needs to be done on that section. If we get into Phase B (hopefully July 17) we'll be getting out there.
 - He also asked Kim Owen to connect with him so they can get their two radios updated.
- Pace – He was out on four scouting trips:
 - 6/26: Top Spur, Muddy Fork-Upper Muddy Fork loop. 43 logs on the Upper Muddy Fork/Timberline Trail, 54 on the Muddy Fork PCT section – so a lot more logs than in previous years. For the first time he saw a pika on his trail. He left the trailhead at 6:00 AM so maybe the early hour had something to do with it. They were at the Muddy Fork crossing. The Top Spur trail has been logged out by the Forest Service already.

- 6/29: Ramona Falls Trailhead/Sandy River Trail. One log down on the Sandy River trail, 12 on Ramona Falls. Lots of hikers out. It's going to be a real challenge to get a crew in there and maintain space. There are probably several sections of trail that he won't feel comfortable leading crews on until we're past some of the COVID stuff.
- 7/6: Scouted Twin Buttes north of Trout Lake. The Forest Service has been through and cut the logs out, but there's a lot of drainage work and brushing to do. He saw about six section hikers going from Cascade Locks.
- 7/7: Steamboat Lake. One log that must have fallen after the Forest Service went through. There's a lot of drainage work to do on that section as well. He doesn't think there's been any drainage work done there in a couple of years. There's also a lot of brushing. There were very few hikers on either section, and he thinks it's likely he'll be working more in these sections than in his own due to crowds.
- He put three handwashing stations up at the Stevenson cache and one at Trout Lake. He's still building two more this week, and then will have four more (three for the Portland cache and one for the trailer).
- He's going to do Grand Meadows next week. Kim Owen was hoping to do a little bit of scouting there, and asked that Pace coordinate with him.
- Pace mentioned that he saw hikers doing White Pass to Cascade Locks. Steve asked Ellen whether the PCTA would be recognizing 2020 thru-hikes. Ellen didn't know, but said she'd find out.
- Nathan Zaremskiy
 - Last week (7/2) he went up Timberline South. The tread wasn't too bad, maybe some drainage work needed here or there. About 60% of the trail below the treeline needs some light/medium brushing. He encountered 17 logs, 16 of which were between 8" – 26" in size. One was in the wilderness just below treeline, another about a mile up the trail from Barlow Pass on 35 which was easily over 30-40" – a nice big log. Just above treeline, two trail markers are damaged. One can be propped up, the other may need to be replaced.
- Bill Canavan
 - He went to the ALDHA-West Ruck in February, in Stevenson, and Whitney Allgood Laruffa said that ALDHA-West will not be accepting any completions this year for the Triple Crown. (Steve noted that Whitney was the ALDHA-West president for six years but his last term was up last year so he is now a former president.)
 - Bill scouted twice on his section. From Crest Camp down to Road 68 had 48 logs down, all dead, low complexity. Some closer to Crest Camp presented significant obstacles to horses. He sent that information to Dean, who had about four miles of that section logged out, but that still leaves 6.5 miles on the lower section with logs on them. During the scouting, a couple of people said there was a big log down on the section from Panther Creek up to his section. He'll be scouting that Sunday or next Wednesday.
 - He mentioned to Kim Owen that there are nine radios currently on the shelf in the Stevenson cache (four older, five newer).
- Becky Wolf
 - Nothing to report. She'll attend the Level B training next week and will hopefully be able to put together a crew. There are quite a few logs down on her trail.
- Kim Kovacs
 - Said she's in the same boat as Ellen – halfway between the coast and mountains and doesn't feel comfortable driving that far. They've been doing neighborhood walks and runs. Until Multnomah County goes into Phase II she's not comfortable getting out.
 - Steve complimented her note-taking and said they're very detailed. Kim was pleased, but worries they're too detailed – but that's how she is and Steve's stuck with it.
- Stacey Lee
 - Scouted Teakettle and Benson the weekend before Phase A, so on her own personal time. She was planning to run the PCT-Herman Creek loop anyway so she thought she'd combine it with a scout. There are 12 down logs on the Teakettle section as it flattens out on the plateau. Anything below there has been addressed by the Forest Service. The logs range from really small to 14". On the Benson section, 15 down logs, the biggest of which was also around 14". She's been working with Bill on organizing a crew once we move to Phase B to at least log out the Teakettle section. That's 5.5 miles in, though, so it'll have to be a crew that'll be able to hike far and fast; it's 4500' elevation gain – it'll be a fun day.
 - This past weekend she scouted her section and the one adjacent to it in mid-Oregon, doing a 22-mile loop through the Three Fingered Jack area. That one's a lot more complex, well over 120 downed logs and four miles of snow. She's not sure how they'll address that yet.

- This weekend she's planning to scout the Mount Adams - North section, which is about 24 miles out and back.
- Next weekend if we're cleared for it there's a mid-Oregon work party associated with the Waldo 100K that may or may not be happening – it's still kind of iffy – but if it happens the weekend of the 18th she'll be down helping with that. Otherwise she's just working from home. Todd said to let them know if it's a go; they'll help.
- Leif Hovin
 - Got out hiking last week at Lookout Mountain. They had sun while the rest of the area was in rain, with just a touch of snow at 6300'. Otherwise, he's been working, and throwing slugs out of the garden. He's been letting them drown their sorrows in beer, but they like to go out to dinner before they go to the pub.
- Chris Keil
 - Susan Braun, the recreation manager for the east side of Mount Hood, retired July 1 (just passing the info on).
 - He hasn't been up to his trail but a whole lot of other people have, including at least two Forest Service people, who have passed along reports. There have also been a number of Search and Rescue operations on Mount Hood, and his section of trail tends to get used in those efforts. The Forest Service has done some logging out of the Paradise Park area, but he's not sure what exactly has been completed.
 - He's hoping to get out soon. He just got back from Oklahoma on Sunday after needing to travel there to help his dad after his dad fell.
 - In addition, his previous company offered him a three-month contract, plus he got a call about a potential job with HP - so he may go from unemployed to having two jobs.
 - His last hike was in February in Forest Park.
- Ruth Weston
 - She rendered first aid to Roberta's goat yesterday, and when David Roe heard about it he joked that she gets an extra year of First Aid cred.
- Roberta May
 - She was going to sing Ruth's praises for her first aid skills. Yeti the goat had some surgery and there was extra bleeding on the ride home and the car was a mess; Ruth applied pressure to Yeti's scrotum. He's doing well; he self-isolated last night and all day today. He was in his old pasture, but right before the meeting he reunited with Henry (who's very happy). She can't thank Ruth enough for her help. It turns out Yeti's 130 pounds (she thought he was 80).
 - She hasn't scouted her section, but it's been logged and power brushed so she's not too worried about it. She'll scout sometime soon just to admire the work the Forest Service did.
- Susan Tracy
 - She's sad to report she's one of the casualties Leif mentioned. She has back surgery scheduled for a week from Friday, and will be out for several months. They'll be repairing her lower lumbar region; she damaged it doing a trail run – fell off the trail and tumbled end-over-end - about two years ago. The surgery will really improve her quality of life but will likely sideline her for the rest of the year. Her section hike is also off now as well. She's been speaking to Stacey and Susan McDonnell about the work on her section.
- Susan McDonnell
 - She's been out playing but hasn't been out scouting. She and her son did the loop around Three-Fingered Jack (June 24-25-26). Her son counts trees on a little clicker as they go, and he counted 200 trees that they had to cross, plus a lot of snow on the PCT on the west side of Three-Fingered Jack. They also did some cross-country trekking (it was a challenging day). Of the 200 trees, about 130 were NOT on the PCT. They were also gone July 1 – 7. Her husband is working from home and needed to go somewhere else, so they went to visit their daughter in Lake County doing Sage Grouse research. They backpacked for three days in the Strawberries, and then went to Steens Mt. to hike. She can't scout her section unless she has a resident who can scout with her; her husband has an injury to his toes and her son is going to summer school.
 - She'll scout once we're into Level B. Rumor has it Lower Eagle is looking not too bad, just a few small slides according to Nathaniel. But it's very brushy beyond High Bridge. Paul from the Forest Service has scouted from Wahtum down but she doesn't have the details. She hopes to get out to scout as soon as we're cleared to be on trail with persons not from one's family.
 - For COVID PPE, there are work gloves, masks and eye protection in the caches. We do have additional work gloves and additional eye protection that she'll be getting to the caches soon; she's waiting on nitrile gloves, which are needed for the setup and take down of the handwash stations. There's also sanitizer in

each of the caches. There are small 2-oz bottles for volunteers, if they haven't brought their own. It's expensive, so try to avoid giving it out if you can. We also have 12-oz spray bottles, and those are for disinfecting tools and other surfaces. It's the same chemical. A small number of disposable masks are also in the caches, in case someone forgets their face covering.

- She mentioned to Peter and Diane that Graham Hulbert is interested in becoming an ACL and adopting the Twin Lakes section, and she asked that they take him under their wing.
- Also, we only have one InReach device that's hooked to a subscription right now. She's got that one in her possession, because her section is Eagle Creek where you can't usually get cell reception and the radios are unreliable. Let her know if you need it.
- Sue Melone
 - She scouted her section on June 27. She'd been out there with Pace just before it shut down, so it's looking pretty good; there are a few 3-5" leaners out there. She saw eight cars at the trailhead off 2090, the most she's ever seen. Most are parking there and hiking to Three Corner Rock. On the 4th of July, she scouted the southern half of Sedum up to the Sedum Ridge Trail. She encountered quite a few people, including campers right next to the water (maybe seven tents). There were also a number of families, some with masks, some without. On the southern half, there were about 10 trees; someone had done one or two cuts out there but left the rest of them. One was a nice cut, the other was done with an axe. Her plan is to do the north half in the next week or so.
- Frank Jahn
 - He was looking out at Crater Lake during the meeting, camping with friends at Prospect Creek (where there's no cell service).
 - He hasn't scouted his section, Gillette Lake, but hopes to do so soon. He expects to find a lot of poison oak. He's highly sensitive to it, so if there's a lot of it he won't be able to lead a crew in there. It'll likely need some power brushing along the lower section.
 - He'll be available for trail work through the end of July. August 1, he and a friend will attempt to do a PCT hike through the state of Washington. The only thing they still need to figure out is a ride back from Hart's Pass. He plans to be back at the beginning of September.
- Steve Queen
 - On Friday he visited the doctor and during the session he got a tetanus shot. He went to bed on Friday and didn't get up again until Sunday at noon. He was feeling better by Monday, which was good because Vanessa had surgery (she's got a skin condition called XP, which means her skin can't repair the damage the sun does and as a result she's had multiple skin cancer surgeries).
 - Steve also reminded the group that he'll be departing from leadership duties at the end of the year, and will need to transition his duties to others. The biggest thing that he does is being a meeting facilitator. If you think you might want to do this sort of thing, think about it and let him know.

Reports

Volunteer Coordinator (Rosemary)

- No report.

Outreach and Events (Jennifer)

- Nothing to add from Round the Room.

Trail Skills College (Thomas)

- Thomas is leading this now. He's got nothing to add; everything's still up in the air.

Training and Safety (Dana)

- No report

Tools (Terry)

- Leif mentioned that they still need to find a home for the trailer. It can't be at a private home. He asked the group to let him know if anyone has contacts with something like a volunteer fire department in the Estacada area.
- Kim Owen talked about radios during Round the Room.

Saw Program (Leif)

- They had a meeting a couple of weeks ago. Things are slowly moving in the right direction. The updates we've been waiting for are trickling in, which will help us simplify our program. More to come soon. Everyone's cards are good for the year.

Foster Trails (Sue)

- She displayed a spreadsheet with current status and asked that if people plan to scout, let her know so she can keep track and avoid duplicate effort. Ultimately she's hoping everything will get scouted by the end of July so we can set priorities for trail maintenance. If you see anything that's not accurate on the spreadsheet please let her know.
- North Adams, which is our longest and most northern section, Stacey will scout but it needs someone to foster it.
- She asked Thomas if he's committed to Table Mountain and Birkenfeld, and he said yes, he'll try to get up and scout them, but due to road access issues and carpooling he's not sure how much work they'll be able to get done in there. The road access is poor, and with everyone having to drive their own vehicle it's going to be challenging. Sue said she scouted the most northern mile of Birkenfeld and it was really bad – the trail wasn't visible in some sections. Thomas hopes to get there in August for a three-day weekend.
- Sue said she's sad to hear about Susan Tracy's surgery and asked Stacey Lee about fostering the Teakettle section. Stacey said she intends to foster it, and once she's past being an ACL she plans to be the caretaker for it.
- Sue said she thought Hilary was originally going to scout Timberline South, but that Nathan scouted it. She asked Nathan to let her know if it was a solid scout and if he was going to do a report on it. Otherwise she thought Hilary was working on planning for that. Nathan said that yes, he's got pictures and information, so plans to report it.
- For Twin Lakes, Sue asked Peter and Diane if they are going to get a report in on their scout of that section. Peter said no, it wasn't an official scout, just a hike. She asked Susan McDonnell about Graham fostering it. Susan McDonnell said that Graham's just starting and doesn't have the experience yet. She's hoping someone else will foster Twin Lakes in 2020 and will take Graham under their wing. Sue asked if Peter and Diane would take that on; they said no, because he doesn't think they'll have time this year. Sue will leave it open. Peter asked about submitting a report, because their walk wasn't official but they do know where the logs are. Leif said that it's just a trail report that it won't be filed through PCTA and the hours can't be counted. Sue asked anyone who's interested to let her know.
- Albert is out with injury, so Upper Eagle Creek will need someone. Susan McD said she'd foster that section.
- Benson Plateau – needs to be added. She asked Stacey about her scouting. Stacey said it was before we were officially open for scouting, but she's got fairly comprehensive notes and pictures. She just won't get the hours for it. Sue asked if she was going to foster it and Stacey said she wasn't planning on it.
- Sue mentioned she's got a note about splitting up the Sedum and Mount Adams - North sections, but will talk about that down the road.
- She said that it's OK if you don't think you'll get to your section this year, but let her know so it can get scouted and prioritized.
- Nathan said that in listening to the conversation, he doesn't think his notes are detailed enough to provide a good scouting report.
- When Sue sends out the spreadsheet she'll have the open sections highlighted.

Budget (Bill)

- We still don't have an official budget. If we need money, talk to Dana and she'll work something out. We haven't spent much money yet this year.

Crew Leader Development (Susan)

- She's just beginning to work through where everyone stands right now, and how we help people improve their skills. If you're an ACL you should be getting an email from her soon (if you haven't already). She's trying to figure out how she can make use of ACLs in this COVID time and how the ACLs can improve their skills. It's all

about shadowing lots of crews if you haven't already and learning the things that you don't know. And probably for everyone...paperwork. Which got worse this year. Contact her with questions.

Stats (Pace)

- We finally got some scouting reports in. We still only have 132 hours total for the year, compared to 1800 at this point last year, but we're making progress over last month ... but not much.

Mount Hood Chapter Stats - June 2020								
	June 2020	June 2019	June 2018	June 2017	YTD June 2020	YTD June 2019	YTD June 2018	YTD June 2017
Total Volunteer Hours	132	1,887	3,185	1,707	1,848	9,884	16,659	9,469
Specialized hours		380	539	240	240	2,010	2,808	1,219
Number of Trail Crews		20	26	17	12	53	94	49
Miles Logged out		47	74	31	7	120	129	72
Logs cleared, crosscut		69	n/a	n/a	10	133	n/a	n/a
Logs cleared, chainsaw		127	n/a	n/a	69	355	n/a	n/a
Miles Maintained		7	20	5	13	31	70	32
Feet of Rehab/Recon		1,705	10,750	530	1,970	9,297	39,804	3,097
Volunteer hours by Category								
Trail Maint - crews & scouting	29	1,589	2,720	1,388	959	4,720	9,261	4,110
Trail Maint - support	103	239	388	260	695	1,481	2,036	1,822
Trail Skills Training			42		120	3,568	5,171	3,381
Outreach Events		59	36	59	74	116	191	156
	<u>132</u>	<u>1,887</u>	<u>3,185</u>	<u>1,707</u>	<u>1,848</u>	<u>9,884</u>	<u>16,659</u>	<u>9,469</u>

Final Comments and Discussion Items

- None.

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>.

Scouting (no trail maintenance due to pandemic response)

- June 26:** Muddy Fork & Upper Muddy Fork Scouting: Robert Caldwell
- June 27:** Three Corner Rock Scout: Sue Melone
- June 29:** Ramona Falls & Sandy River Trails Scouting: Robert Caldwell
- July 1:** Scouting Big Huckleberry: William Canavan
- July 4:** Sedum Ridge Scout: Sue Melone
- July 6:** Twin Buttes Scouting: Robert Caldwell
- July 7:** Steamboat Lake Scouting: Robert Caldwell
- July 8:** Scouting Big Huckleberry: William Canavan

Other Events

- None** due to pandemic response

Future Events

- August 12:** Caretaker meeting (Location TBD)

Notes

PCT Vacancies

1. Mount Adams - North
2. Grand Meadows
3. Steamboat Lake
4. Twin Buttes
5. Panther Creek (fostered by Bill Canavan)
6. Wind River (fostered by Kim Kovacs)
7. Sedum Ridge (fostered by Sue Melone)
8. Birkenfeld Mountain (fostered by Thomas Calvery)
9. Table Mountain (fostered by Thomas Calvery)
10. Teakettle Springs
11. Benson Plateau (unfostered; reserved for Susan Tracy)
12. Timberline - South
13. Twin Lakes
14. Little Crater Lake (fostered by Renee and Todd Janssen)

Non-PCT Vacancies

1. Gorge Trail 400 (fostered by Roberta May with Nathaniel Brody's team)
2. Lower Eagle Creek Trail 440 (fostered by Susan McDonnell)
3. Upper Eagle Creek Trail 440 (fostered by and reserved for Albert Iggi)
4. Indian Springs Trail 435

Columbia Dispatch

7:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday, waccc@firenet.gov, 360-891-5140.

Remember to submit a TCP to your agency partner, your dispatcher or alternate dispatcher, Dana, and Leif.