

Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA

Caretaker Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 8, 2015

Location: REI Clackamas

Welcome

- Attended: Steve Q, Leif, Kim, Pam, Ruth, Chris K, Ron, John V, Jayme, Tami, Summer, Becky, Steve P, Bob A, Tim L, Robert C, Liz, Kelley, Jim, Jerry, Roberta (21 people)

Past Events

- 2015 Status through March:
 - 29 trail work parties; 9 events; 2 Saw Certs
 - 2028 hours, 192 specialized hours, 26.5 miles of trail maintained (1% of the whole trail!), and 1025 feet rehab.
 - 357 logs cleared

Crews and Events since last caretaker meeting:

1. Mar 13: Bacon Bit at Estacada Public Library
 - Tim: It was really good. Not a lot of comments as per people wanting to come out to work on the PCT. The room was full and Bacon Bit put on a really good show.
2. Mar 14: Muddy Fork Logout: Pace
 - Pace: Had a rainy day. Didn't cross river; stayed on the north side of the Muddy Fork. The horse crossing is pretty good. The hiker crossing has 2 logs to walk across, someone put a rope across to help.
3. Mar 14-15: The Mountain Shop Ultralight Clinic
 - Tammy posted pics
4. Mar 16: Muddy Fork Scouting: Pace
 - Pace: Went back and it was sunny. Cleared out a few more logs they had tried to do on the 14. Made it across the river, Ramona trail and Upper Muddy Fork.
5. Mar 17: Mt Adams South Scouting: Gentleman Bob
 - Bob: There was a little snow and a little blow down. Think the log situation hasn't changed but thinks the snow has increased.
6. Mar 17: Snag Creek Scouting: Tami
 - Tami: Tyler and Pam went out with her. They took out 19 logs and ID'd a culvert. Tami learned a ton: lots of different types of logs. Some of the things she thought was a big deal turned out to be easy-peasy
7. Mar 17: Bacon Bit at REI Tualatin
8. Mar 20: BOG Oregon Side Scout: Roberta
9. Mar 21: OSU Tree School
10. Mar 23: Upper Muddy Fork Logout: Pace
 - Pace: Stopped at the river, it is cleared down to there. Took 5 trees off his section and a couple (2) off Jayme's. Snow wasn't too bad once they got down into the trees
11. Mar 26: Scout Muddy Fork Loop: Pace
 - Pace: Went the full loop. Cleaned out a few more logs, trimmed up some branches. There are still some logs on the upper section of Muddy Fork - did some trimming on them (north side of Yocum ridge). It was a sunny day.
12. Mar 27: VSI Recerts
 - Kim: Bill, Dave, and Jon all got cross cut done and everyone but Kim got chainsaw done
13. Mar 28-29: Mt Hood Saw Training/Certs – Estacada
 - 5 initial certificates. It was a nice day in the woods
14. Mar 30: Logout Top Spur: Worm
 - First log out. It was fun. They took out 13 trees in mile and learned a ton. There wasn't snow that day.
 - Ruth: The next day was crappy
15. Mar 30: Logout near Olallie Lake: Ernie
16. April 5: Brushing/Logout Ramona Falls Trail: Pace
 - Pace: The last 3 miles of the road was snowed in. Did some brushing on lower ½ mile of Muddy Fork. Southern ½ mile of upper Muddy Fork and Ramona trail. There was some snow around Ramona Falls. The Forest Service has been in and cleared up the road and opened the gate. There are 5 logs on the Sandy River section that Dennis will have to take care of.
17. April 5: Scouting to Dry Creek: Dennis B
18. April 8: Oneonta Trail Reroute Day 1 of 2: Pace
 - Pace: Just got back. There were 8 people/4 Forrest Service people. It was supposed to be a 3 day work crew but they finished the re-routing today. The slide was about 150 feet. They started further back and built a trail above it. Put in about 200 feet of new trail. The Forest Service also worked on a log that was overhanging the trail. The new trail is a pretty steep section but it is built where Bruce wanted it. Roberta has a crew scheduled for tomorrow on the same section; hopefully she has other work to do.
 - Leif: is this seasonal?

1. Pace: I think so.

- Ron: This section is not what people want; it's really very steep. You almost need poles/walking sticks. The rock slide on the side just keeps coming down so it's really going to be one of those trails. Bruce changed his mind so it didn't go across the clay spot. It is a work in progress and it is not going to be nice, not going to match anything else on that trail.

1. Pace: It is narrower and steeper now.

19. April 8: Today's caretaker meeting

Future Events

Next Month:

1. April 9: Oneonta Trail Reroute Day 2 of 2: Roberta
2. April 9: Bacon Bit at Cascade Locks
 - Kelley: It's part of a Thursday series at Thunder Island. The talk starts at 630pm, happy hour is about 4 - 7
3. April 11: Paradise Park Trail Logout (lower part): Chris K
4. April 13: Top Spur Logout II: Worm
5. April 15: Punchbowl User Trail Decommission: Lamar
6. April 17-19: Trail Skills College!
7. April 19: Bernadette Murray Presentation at Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum
8. April 21: Logout 400 Trail: Tyler and Carole
9. April 22: Wilderness and Trails Meeting (Zigzag)
 - Sandy headquarters
 - Kim: Aaron is the new Kathleen?
 - Becky: It is moving that way but not there yet
10. April 24-26: Wind River Saw Certs
11. April 27: NSM #1, Table Mtn with Freefall and Worm
12. May 2: Tread Work for Beginners, BOG Oregon Side: Roberta
 - Steve: Is this a class?
 - Ruth: There was concerned that there weren't enough beginners' classes at TSC so this will be a little smaller, a little slower.
13. May 8: Pinhead Buttes Logout: Underbucker
14. May 11: NSM #2: Top Spur PCT: Worm and Roberta
15. May 13: Next Caretaker Meeting

Beyond:

1. May 17-20: 2015 International Trails Symposium <http://americantrails.org/ee/index.php/symposium/2015>
2. July 11: Mt Hood 50 per website <https://gobeyondracing.com/races/mt-hood-50>
 - Steve: PCTA has a new policy. Hasn't seen new policy but there is a lot of controversy.
 - Becky: Are the old groups grandfathered in but tighter control with newer groups?
 - Steve: PCTA doesn't actually have control and "grandfathering" implies that they do
 - Leif: Also saw the memo
 - Steve: If you look at our chapter website, we have some policy guidelines.
 - Kelley: Will they still need permits?
 - Leif: The permits are through the Forest Service
 - Ron: The Gorge 400 trail run, had everything flagged and signed. A guy came in with his drone and wanted to take pics. Talking about not having a policy. Forest Service wasn't there so Ron made the decision that they could fly them. You can fly every place – the FAA controls drones, the Forest Service doesn't want to get involved.
 - Chris: The issue with trail running is the impact, they don't want 300 people violating wilderness
 - Leif: You can't run a race in the wilderness. Non-wilderness still need permits.
3. September 26-27: Mountain Lakes 100 per website: <https://gobeyondracing.com/races/mountain-lakes-100>

Reports

- Dana: says hi.
 - Perhaps of interest to chapter members: Sunday May 17, the first day of the International Trail Symposium, is free to the public. (It's merged with Metro's annual Trails Fair) There are a couple of PCT/National Trails presentations.
 - Downtown somewhere
 - Becky: It's at the convention center
 - Just FYI I'll be tabling at Bacon Bit's Cascade Locks talk Thursday eve. Anyone welcome to join us. Including flyer that also mentions one more PCT talk happening in April, also at Thunder Island.
- Bill: Hi. I will be at the TSC and look forward to seeing you all.
- Budget. Kim

- Budget in for 2015 about the same as last year
 - Let him know if you have any expenses
 - We were ok last year. If you decide to put on an extra work party/food we should be ok
 - Leif has mentioned wanting another chainsaw and we will work on that.
- Tools. Leif
 - Tyler: I put all the BOG Cache tools, marked with yellow tape, on the bench; hand tools and a bucket of heads.
 - Leif: Will probably stop by this weekend to pick up tools that are in Roberta's garage/cache (in need of repair and tools for TSC)
 - Kim: Something about radios - we normally bring a lot of PCTA radios to TSC, if you wind up with a radio make sure they make it back to Roberta or Leif
 - Leif: Trout Lake tool day the first weekend in May
 - Kim: keep us on the list
 - Bob: Sunday probably works better
- Trail Skills College 2015:
 - Tami: Had last meeting, the whole food thing is taken care of
 - Becky: The tent is still in limbo
 - Leif: Noticed that there were chalk marks where the tents was last year. Parking on the grass
 - Becky: They are having some big regatta the same weekend
 - Tami: Just got the volunteer email this afternoon (volunteer not registered for classes). Going out Thursday to get keys. Haven't heard from Curtis, may go out to scout and get some pre-pics
 - Becky: Have 3 photographers so we should have good pictures
 - Tammy via text: TSC needs 3 people for assistance for overbooked classes.
 - Becky: All of the classes are overbooked
 - Leif: We plan on 3 people dropping out
 - Becky: If anyone knows another place this can be done in the future, please tell someone on the committee
 - Roberta: It will need to handle about 120 students
- Saw Certification:
 - David: Certified 4 new A level crosscut sawyers at Estacada Saw Cert
 - Leif: Talked with the North America marketing director of Stihl about putting their info into our training. They will send some promo & manuals to add to our training materials.
- Training and Safety: Open
 - PPE Required Always!
 - Roberta: Wear your PPE at the proper times. Talked with Jen, she is not letting out the person's name but is contacting them. It was about something more than missing earplugs. (Dean came upon this person who wasn't wearing PPE)
 - You can refuse the volunteer/dismiss them if they won't wear the PPE
 - If you need just CPR, you can do the online classroom portion and do the hands-on portion Friday night.
 - Kelley & Pace do. They can coordinate with Leanne for Friday. It will take about 5/10 min.
- Volunteer Coordinator. Tammy
 - Jen would like to be sure that we will be offering 'beginner' crews. I know that Busdriver, Ron & there was someone else but I don't remember, who offered to do these this spring/summer. We just need to get them set up is all.
 - Roberta has set up 2 work parties advertised for beginners. They will go slower. May 2 and 30. Maybe good to do a beginner on national trail day/state park day June 6
 - Busdriver: Looking at Wahtum Lake for brushing and tread work. Looking at May. He has to do some logging before he will know.
 - Ron: Also still interested
 - Two are scheduled: May 2 and May 30 at BOG Oregon Side. (Roberts)

Announcements/Reminders

- Tom Linde has retired because he has a new job. His note: I have recently been offered and accepted a board/COA appointment with a newly formed renewable energy corporation. I will be traveling a lot and will not have time to work on the PCT or assist with training. Sorry for the short notice.
 - Leif: He has it mostly logged
 - Kelley: Didn't go all the way to the top but it what she hiked was clear
 - Roberta: He was also going to do Big Huckleberry but unsure if he did it. Asked Bill, but Bill is in the gorge on July 7 and will help the youth group with orientation and he is hoping we can have 1 caretaker to help with each crew.
 - Tami: Gave Tom the dates she is available but did not hear back
 - Kim: Is it the first 2 weeks in July? Will look it up and see what he has in the calendar
 - Roberta: If anyone has dates please let her know. Thinks the schedule will remain but we don't know what the schedule is.
 - Kim: If he can get a contact, he will try to sort it out. Will contact Bill and follow up

- New Volunteer Program Assistant has been hired, start date is April 20.
 - Don't know her name (Sandra's replacement in Sacramento).
- Vacancies: Mt. Adams-North; Big Huckleberry; Panther Creek, Trout Creek transition for Jim Webb (Tami/Kelley)
- Columbia Dispatch is open 0730-1630 M-F for the remainder of the winter.

Discussion Items

- NSM would like 2 more crews. One on a Tuesday and one on a Thursday; one in June and one in July. Any takers? Jayme would not be involved. No response
- With Tom Linde's departure, need crew leaders for the Forest Youth Success crews. Bill says: I will be in the Gorge on July 7th and help Caleb with the FYS Orientation event. I am hoping your part will be as little as getting one Caretaker to help with each crew. In my mind that would be fine if that person worked with the crew their first day on each project to help get them on solid footing with that specific work. If they have more time, that would be great. (The FYS crew works Mon – Thur).
We and they get more out of the program directly related to the amount of time our leaders can be there to help. That said, 4 days is asking a lot. Please remind the Caretakers that these kids are not like the Urban Youth Group – they have signed up for a work-based program.
With Tom stepping out so abruptly, we will just have to see how it works and fill the gaps as they appear.

Round the Room

- Roberta: National Marine Fisheries Service requires 30 day notification
 - Was going to do a trail work part at Riley Horse Camp. It was cancelled because they didn't notify the National Marine Fisheries Service with enough notice. They need minimum 30 day notice before any trail dirt gets moved. Our land managers normally do this for us way ahead of time. Pace's slides are outside of the endangered area so he doesn't need to worry about it. The 2 fords (Sandy/Muddy Fork) are definitely within this region.
 - Roberta: Eden may have something else for her to work on, or on her section because pace's section is done
 - Roberta: Is the TSC turnpike crew on Tamanous?
 - Tami: didn't get a list
 - Jim: Hopefully, Kelley & Tami, in the next week or two can get together to see what the best way for them to take over Trout Creek.
 - Kelley: The PCTA Gorge Map - talked about last time with Dana – have a rough copy here. Meet tomorrow morning to finalize and send to publishers. Have to fill in LNT, 10 essentials and 5 hikes for the area it is covered. Will have some hiker friendly businesses. Tomorrow Thursday Dana is speaking at Thunder Island
 - Liz: Tyler is in Utah backpacking and is back next week. Planning going up to her section to see how far they can get after TSC. Also going up to make more signs on 22-23. The crayons are done for Get Outdoors Day (for rubbings)
 - Roberta will take crayons home until Get Outdoors Day
 - Pace: Ramona Falls trailhead is open and the gate is unlocked. The Zigzag Rangers have said there will be no bridge for Ramona Falls. One of the guys at the front desk sounded pretty definite that there was no plan for bridge this year and there is no decision for the future.
 - Chris: Heard they may reroute the Elliot crossing
 - Pace: Will check with Mckenzie at the meeting coming up
 - Pace: Steve went through and changed our mileage. Halfmile just changed their mileage again. They changed the Muddy forks routing and it is more accurate and matches the PCT maps now.
 - Pace: While emailing reports, it didn't send to everyone it should have (missed Thomas)
 - Roberta: There is no separator between Roberta's name and the next agency. Will let Dana know, she is in charge of fixing this.
 - Kim: Why don't we call Aaron to get a list of who does what for Forest Service and Wilderness
 - Tim: Getting ready for TSC, going to be student again. Getting his new pack horse ready to go, had about 110lbs on her. She was very animated but eventually slowed down and walked, only took about 45min. Should be ready to go when May comes around
 - Bob: His early enthusiasm has been dampened by snow. Will send Roberta some tentative dates.
 - Steve P: the alps calls
 - Becky: Looking forward to work crew in May when we have all the excitement with Tim's horse.
 - Roberta: David scheduled his Pinhead Butte for May 8
 - Becky: Busy getting ready for TSC. The tent is a big mess. Cooking for 150 people
 - Roberta: That's as big as we've had it
 - Summer: Finally got a confirmation from Yogile. We can get the full service for a discount of \$20/year. Will send an email to Dana to see what email she would like as the main account.
 - Tami: Went through cross cut certification, it was a blast. Last weekend went to David's and is 2/3 the way through sharpening a saw and is in heaven. The saw is for us. Learned so much, it was a lot of hard work and can't wait to finish it. Tami will set up a cleaning station at her house to clean saws for David to sharpen. David is so great to work with.
 - Jayme: Question - her house mate signed up for TSC, is there a carpool list?

- Becky: Normally they contact Tammy and she helps put people together
- Jayme: Has gotten the confirmation email but no other info.
- Busdriver: Scouting on Wahtum. The only major logs are right at the trailhead. Justin and Busdriver will have to flip coins to see who can do them. There are a couple logs, 1 is about 18", between Wahtum and Indian Springs.
 - Roberta: Do you have a date to do this?
 - Busdriver: No. Needs to get crosscut certification first
- Ron: There are a lot of people out hiking. In March there were 40,000 more people than last year at Multnomah. If you don't get there by 10am, you won't get a parking space. People are parked all over the road.
- Chris: Leading his first trail crew this weekend. 2 of the people have no experience at all so it is "the blind leading the blind". There will be a total of 5 people. Rick had to cancel, he is travelling instead. We do have a brand new a sawyer (peterchuck).
 - Kim: What day?
 - Chris: It is this sat
 - Kim: He can go.
 - Chris: We can't have too many sawyers for this section, the more the merrier. Think it will be good work for the new people, lots of limbing. The trail itself is in good shape, it could be brushed but not going to bother with it this time. If they can get what he scouted done, with an extra sawyer they can get it all done.
 - Kim: Let's talk after the meeting
- Ruth: Hoping to do a longer work party in July on the Hood if the weather stays nice.
- Kim: Will do their section in the next couple of weeks. FYI: started doing some work on Tom McCall, it gets them up to an area that is technically closed. They are naturalizing the fire lines that were dug last year and putting in a new trail.
 - Roberta: Should add Ryan DNR guy to our contact list?
 - Kim: First thought, it seems that way. The trail is technically maintained by Dean so I don't think we need to. But I think we need to cultivate that relationship.
 - Tami: Bottom part of her section is also DNR. He sounded really interested to be involved.
- Kim: Will get info for youth group (see above)
- Pam: Went out with Tami & Tyler to Snag Creek. It was fun.
- Leif: Tried to get out to survey his section but there was snow. About 3-4" at Lolo pass where it was exposed.
 - Bill "Little Brown" started his thru-hike ~ 2 days ago
- Steve: got a cat