

Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA Caretaker Meeting Minutes

Saturday, November 21, 2015

Location: Estacada Library

Notes by Summer

Welcome

- Attended: Nate, Jerry, Carole, Leif, Tim L, Steve P, David, Roberta, Scott, Kim, Pam, Marijke, Pace, Tami, Kelley, Liz, Tyler, Becky, Lamar, Tammy, Ron, Gentleman Bob, Justin, Summer, Dana (25 people)

Introductions

- South end to North (Breitenbush to Potato Hill)
 - Ernie: Oregon Mule Skinners
 - Olallie Lake to Jude Lake
 - Becky: Oregon Equestrian
 - Warm Springs/Timothy Lake
 - David "Underbucker": Southern Cache Host
 - Pinhead Butte Area
 - David: I work under Becky.
 - Becky: He's my right hand man.
 - Tim and Sara: Territorial Riders Back Country Horsemen.
 - Timothy Lake
 - Steve Plant: 10+ years with his section
 - Little Crater Lake
 - Jerry
 - Frog Lake to Buzzard Point
 - Ron: Timberline South 15 years
 - Barlow to Timberline.
 - Largest Noble Fir on his section - 3 minutes off HWY 30. It's about 180 inches on circumference.
 - Ruth:
 - Timberline North: Timberline Lodge to the far end of Paradise Park
 - Chris Keil: Has the highest point in Mt Hood Chapter's trails
 - Paradise Park Loop and Paradise Park Trail
 - Nate Baim:
 - Sandy River from Far Junction of Paradise Park down to 770 (has not officially taken it)
 - Robert "Pace": The Stats Man
 - Sandy River to Top Spur: Muddy Fork, Ramona Falls, Timberline Tr 600.
 - Tim and Sara
 - Sandy River Trail 770; Ramona Falls parking lot to PCT – Working on this re-route.
 - Jayme "Worm": New Seasons Market
 - Top Spur to Lolo Pass
 - Leif:
 - Lolo Pass to Indian Springs, Buck Peak Tr 615, Huckleberry Mountain Tr 617
 - David: Buck Peak is the highest elevation in Multnomah county (4600-ish feet)
 - John Vhay, "Busdriver John":
 - Eagle Creek Trail (Trail 440) from 7.5 Mile Camp to Wahtum Lake, Indian Springs Tr 435, PCT from Wahtum Lake to Indian Springs
 - Lamar
 - Lower Eagle Creek to 7.5 Mile Camp
 - Carole
 - Gorge Trail 400: Eagle Creek to Bridge of the Gods. Half of it is paved.
 - Justin
 - Wahtum Lake to Benson Plateau, Chinidere Mountain Trail 445, Chinidere Cutoff Tr 406m (shortcut)
 - Justin: It is a hard area to get into. The other trails around the plateau haven't been worked on for about 10 years. It would take camping for 4 or 5 days to log it all out. They don't get a lot of attention.
 - Kim: This is where we would set up a 3 day camp, with a day hike in.
 - Becky: You could use pack support for that

- Tami: It has a lot of water as well
 - Justin: The Plateau is Tr 2000. Has easy access from Herman Creek.
 - Roberta: We could add this to our empire.
- Tim Duncan
 - Teakettle Springs – one of the hardest (steep) sections, Herman Creek to Teakettle Springs
- Roberta: Chapter Chair, Portland Cache Host. With PCTA since 1995
 - Bridge of the Gods to Herman Creek Trail.
 - Roberta: Logging it out tomorrow with Tyler.
- Dana: Bridge of the Gods (good place to talk about her region). Started in trails, on the AT, 20+ years ago. Regional rep here from Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area to Windigo Pass (about 300 miles) with an office in Stevenson.
- Kelley
 - Gillette Lake: Bridge of the Gods up 7 miles to Papoose Rock.
- Chris “Freefall”: Triple Crown
 - Table Mountain – Kelley’s section to Three Corner Rock Trail. It is a difficult section to reach.
- Kim and Pam: Kim is our budget master/coordinator/good shepherd and radio programmer
 - Three Corner Rock north to Rd 2000
 - Kim: All receipts for this calendar year need to be in by the end of this month
 - VSI = Volunteer Saw Instructor (Kim, Leif, David, and Bill),
- Bill: PCTA Staff - Dana’s equivalent north to Canada
- Tami
 - Sedum Ridge – Rd 2000 up to Trout Creek on 43 Rd
- Marijke “Luna” and Scott
 - Panther creek – Trout Creek to Rd 68.
- Big Huck section is vacant
- John C “Pigpen”
 - Indian Heaven to Blue Lake
- Rick
 - Indian Heaven North
- Liz and Tyler
 - Steamboat Lake.
 - Tyler: No reason to be there unless to go between wilderness section. There are 5 roads – nowhere on the trail is more than 3 miles from a road.
- Gentleman Bob: Assisted by Jane Arkes and Greg Mikol. Trout Lake Cache Attendant
 - Mt Adams South. Trout lake cache attendant.
 - Gentleman Bob: At the trail head, the sign says next road is 22 miles. Has to do overnights up on the shoulder to get a lot of work done.
- Mt Adams North is vacant. Will try to get some help. Hasn’t had a caretaker since Roberta took over chair.
 - Bill thinks we should talk to Back Country Washington to take this.
 - Dana: Both Mt Adams Sections need a lot of love (tread work) as we talk about special trips. We’ve tried to put a Sasquatch crew in there but keep getting chased out by fire closures.
- Karla: Also a Steward for Southern Section in White Pass Chapter
 - Potato Hill, our furthest north section.

Accomplishment Summary/Statistics

- Announcement: Sandy River Trail #770 joining our network, just the 1 miles stretch between the Ramona Falls parking lot and the junction with PCT (Wilderness). Tim and Sara are caretakers (without TRBCHO)

Thanks to Pace for generating these stats

	Oct	Oct YTD
	2015	2015CY
# Trail Work Crews	8	105
# Outreach Events	2	20
Volunteer Hours, total	1,142	15,620
Trail Maint - on trail hours	798	8,033

Trail Maint - support hours	313	2,939
Outreach Event hours	31	794
Training hours	0	3,853
Specialized hours	20	893
Miles Maintained	8	211
Feet of Rehab/Recon	2,395	10,468

- Dana: If one Forest Service person tried to do all of this, it would take 7.5 years. We did the work of 7.5 full time people all year.
- Roberta: We do a lot more work parties than any other chapter in the PCTA

Notes: now excluding scouting from trail crew counts. Events and Trail Crews are counted from submitted reports.

Mt Hood Chapter PCTA					
Fiscal Year Data, Oct 1, 2014-Sept 30, 2015					
Volunteer Hours		Type			
Agency	Advocacy	Outreach: Trail Fest & Events	Trail Maintenance	Trail Skills Training	Grand Total
Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (FS)			2,191.50	1,471.25	3,662.75
Gifford Pinchot National Forest: Mt. Adams RD			938.50	206.00	1,144.50
Mt. Hood National Forest: Clackamas RD			1,023.50	118.50	1,142.00
Mt. Hood National Forest: Hood River RD			768.50		768.50
Mt. Hood National Forest: Zigzag RD			2,603.05		2,603.05
PCTA	4.50	826.75	3,421.50	2,719.20	6,971.95
Warm Springs Indian Reservation			96.00		96.00
Grand Total	4.50	826.75	11,042.55	4,514.95	16,388.75
Total Specialized Hours		Type			
Agency	Advocacy	Outreach: Trail Fest & Events	Trail Maintenance	Trail Skills Training	Grand Total
Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (FS)			79.50	40.00	119.50
Gifford Pinchot National Forest: Mt. Adams RD			97.50	33.00	130.50
Mt. Hood National Forest: Clackamas RD			135.50	36.00	171.50
Mt. Hood National Forest: Hood River RD			144.00		144.00
Mt. Hood National Forest: Zigzag RD			319.00		319.00
PCTA			140.00		140.00
Warm Springs Indian Reservation			21.00		21.00
Grand Total			936.50	109.00	1,045.50
					as of 11/4/2015

Volunteers per Hours Group for FS Awards (FY 2015)

Hours Group	# Volunteers
500+	3
250-499	7

100-249	22
40-99	35
16-39	140
1-15	232
Total	439

- In comparison, for 2014 calendar year our accomplishments were:
 - 114 trail work parties (included scouting in this count)
 - 15 events attended
 - 1073 logs removed (218+ xc, 858+ chainsaw)
 - Over 400 volunteers (includes TSC)
 - Over 15,600 volunteer hours (includes TSC)
 - 1120 Specialized hours
 - About 487 miles maintained
 - 3.9 miles of trail reconstructed

Past Events

Crews and Events since last caretaker meeting:

1. Oct 16-17: Steamboat Drainages: Liz and Tyler
 - Tyler: Pace came up and we split into 3 groups. Lot of drain dips. There was a spring that came out of the mountain and went down the trail. We fixed drain dips all along 2 miles. Been in 2 other times to clean up a turnpike; it was very narrow, about 2 boots wide. We went out about 8 inches on each side for about 50 yards. It needs a lot more. There is really bad drainage as the trail goes right down the fall line
2. Oct 19: New Seasons Markets Crew at Eagle Creek: Lamar, Worm, and Ruth
 - Lamar: Sick of hauling lumber up Eagle Creek. The bridges are all done. Not equestrian trail.
3. Oct 22: PCT Muddy Fork Section, Drainages: Pace
 - Pace: 20 drain dips to clean out, half dozen water bars. There are another 2 or 3 more drain dips to convert.
4. Oct 22: Danner Work Crew near 3-Corner Rock: Carole and Roberta
 - Carole: It was a great, fun party. There were 5 people from Danner. We took the hike to Three Corner Rock. At the end, Danner gave Roberta and Carole a pass for them to go get new Danner boots.
 - Roberta: They were thrilled to work with us. Their other option was to read to first graders.
5. Oct 25: Trail work with Go Beyond Racing runners: Justin
 - Teakettle Springs: Went with a group that puts on trail races on the PCT, mostly by Timothy Lake. They were motivated & good to work with and it was a nice little hike. We did some tread work, a little brushing and it was a quick trip. It needs more work up there. It would be worth working with them again in the spring. They showed interest in taking a part of the trail on one of the race courses they run; they may not be interested in organizing it but willing to work.
 - Becky: None of our people like to do tread work so if they are willing to do that...
 - Justin: They use the PCT for most of their races.
 - Dana: Our board adopted a statement on large groups/events. "Nobody is contesting the races that have current permits and it is in our best interest to work with those groups to steward those areas".
 - Justin: There is an impact from the races for sure, but they are pretty good about trash.
 - Roberta: I think it would be great to set something up.
 - Renee Seeker is the person to contact
 - Also Oct 24 Trail Dirt Live in Seattle
6. Nov 1: Steamboat Turnpike Repair: Tyler
 - Tyler: Just cleaned it up.
7. Nov 4: Meeting with GP NF: Bill
 - Roberta: Thinks Bill has notes.
8. Nov 7: Scouting BOG south: Roberta
 - Roberta: Work party December 10
9. Nov 15: Steamboat Tread Work: Tyler
10. Nov 16: Meeting with Mt Hood National Forest: Dana
 - Dana: Will have to get a bigger room next time. Thanks to everyone for showing interest, I think it makes an impact with the agency people.
 - Roberta: I like Tami's comment "It felt good to feel like more than just a volunteer."
11. Nov 17: Meeting with CRGNSA: Dana
 - Dana: Another packed room. That was the day of the big storm.
12. Nov 21: Today's Caretaker Meeting and CPR Recert at Estacada Library

Future Events

Next Month:

1. Nov 22: Logout BOG Oregon Side: Tyler and Roberta
2. Nov 27: #OptOutside REI: Roberta, Robert, Chris, Chris, Tyler, Bob
3. Nov 28: Scouting washout on Table Mountain section: Chris, Dana, Dawn
4. Dec 7: Pointless Viewpoint decom: Roberta
5. Dec 14: Eagle Creek Gabion at High Bridge: Lamar

No caretaker meeting in December. Next Caretaker meeting is January 13

Beyond:

1. January 23: Annual Celebration
2. Estacada Saw Cert: April 2, 3
3. Trail Skills College: April 22, 23, 24
4. Wind River Saw Certs: April 29, 30, March 1
5. OSU Tree School: March 19, 2016

Reports

Volunteer Coordinator: Tammy

- We did the Montbell thing that went off very nice. We saw no people, except for the very nice girl scouts that are going to work with Carole and Ruth for their senior project. Tommy, the manager of Montbell, he wants to get his folks together and do a midweek employee trail crew. He loved the pictures, loved talking saws with David and Pace. Montbell is trying to become a Corporate Sponsor with the PCTA but there are issues with that. So this is one way they can be involved with us

Dana:

- We've got some exciting stuff going on. Talked a lot about it at the meetings we were at.
 - Bridge of the Gods: The engineering cost analysis is almost done. It's putting us in a good position to make the planning for that effort work its way into larger regional area planning processes in the Gorge. There are several potential avenues. The Governor recently said something about how important the Gorge Bridges are and neither have pedestrian crossing facilities. We are hopeful that the pedestrian use increase (increased 500% , 80 in 2014 to 582 in 2015, in May alone), our Bridge Walk, the publicity we have given it is making a difference. It is still going to be a long ways in the future. The port, it is critical to get the new Port Commissioners invested in the idea that this is their vision and not just our vision.
 - Ron: There were 3.6 million people at Multnomah Falls. We've hit a max as there is no parking. There were people from Tasmania that came just to see Oneonta Gorge. The influx is trashing Oneonta. The Forest Service does basically nothing, there is just too many people.

Bill: GP Meeting: Spudettes (Potato Hill) was a great success as always, including the great community music participation. The old jeep road is looking more like a trail every year.

Mt Adams was burned out – AGAIN 😞. Gentleman Bob had the year off so he will need to work double hard in 2016.

Indian Heaven was the beneficiary and has had several lines removed from the spreadsheet so Rick can kick back.

If anybody wants to know how to develop a multi-year project plan for their section, look at the fabulous work Tyler has created.

- Tyler: Having the 5 roads, he can break up his section to know where to go. Stumbled on PCT Half Mile app, put together where all the junctions are according to the app. He uses the app's mileage to make a plan for what needs to be done and where it is.
 - Roberta: Can send it on if anyone wants to see it.

Marijke and Tami did a great job with the FYS kids.

Marijke has her first project at Panther Creek with the exposed culvert 😊.

- Roberta: Has a drawing from Bill of what he thinks the culvert should look like.

Tami has taken on the whole of Sedum Ridge – the 2000 Rd to Trout Creek – she will need help!

Budget: Kim

- Receipts in by the end of November
- Everyone this year, and most years, does a really great job getting those in and staying within budget.

Tools: Leif

- Bob took care of Trout Lake. I've got Wind River. Those tools will be going to the Portland cache so they are there for the wintertime. We have a bunch of handles, so if anyone is dying to make handles....
 - Roberta: Do we need a separate tool day?
 - Dana: How about a "Can You Handle It" party?
- Leif: We will have to take inventory, focus more on handles instead of paint.
- Kim: Thanks to Dana we are inheriting, gradually, managing of the Bridge of the Gods Cache. Pam, Tami and I are starting it, we welcome any help or collaboration. It will be a long term project.
 - Leif: Has some of those (BOG) broken tools, thanks to Tyler.
 - Dana: Sent a current inventory to Kim a few weeks ago.
- David: Has a whole bunch of handles. They are in trailer, would like to get them all in one place.
- Roberta: I think I have a few broken tools too.

Trail Skills College 2016: Tammy

- Was April 15-18th but moved to April 22-24th. Dana needed to be in Sacramento on the 15th. Jen and Ellen are planning on coming.
- We're charging ahead. Dana has a meeting on Tuesday with Cascade Locks about what happened last year and what will happen this year and what they have to do for us to come back. We looked at Skamania County Fairgrounds a couple weeks ago. Depending on what happens Tuesday depends on where we will be in April. Ryan came up with a list of classes we are looking at offering. We're just continuing forward. We are meeting the 3rd Tuesday – I procured us a room at Mazamas. It's nice to have a space with tables. We have 4 or 5 understudies/shadows that are interested in taking over jobs for people. It is nice to have extra hands. Adam Bailor (Mazamas) thought he could find us a Stewardship grant to help us have more money for TSC.

Saw Certification: David

- Kim: Wind River saw weekend is pushed back a week. Made a request for the Wind River Training Center and waiting to hear back.
- David: Pushed Estacada back by 2 weeks to the 1st weekend in April. Estacada will be focused on crosscut saw certification but will also accommodate anyone for dual re-certs. Saturday and Sunday (2nd and 3rd). Friday last year was for the VSIs.
- Kim: Wind River weekend: Friday and Saturday will be for re-certs. Saturday and Sunday for new certifications.
- David: Those people who would like to maintain their own crosscut saws, you are welcome to come work in his shop from time to time. Dolly Chapman will be doing another formal cross cut saw re-sharpening class in California in March. She hasn't set the days yet. If anyone is interested in getting, probably the best, saw sharpening class, let him know. David intends to go back again (goes every couple of years) and we can carpool if you don't want to make the trip by yourself. Dolly normally does 2 classes back to back: Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday and Friday/Saturday/Sunday. The dates are not set, we can steer the dates if anyone has suggested. The class is only about 22 miles from Sierra Hot Springs. It's a great class, I can't emphasize that enough. You do have to have your own vice completed. If we go down with a group, we will take a truck and the trailer from the South Cache. There is free camping near the class but it will be in March and in the High Sierras.

Training and Safety: Open

- Crew leader checklist – use? Updates?
 - Roberta: Last fall when we had crew leader training, we had a checklist on the website (our Mt Hood website). Has people been using it?
 - Carole: Yes. It is great
- Roberta: I have shared it with Sacramento. This one is really geared for 1 day work groups
 - Dana: We should have a 1 day and week version
 - Roberta: I gave it to Jen.
 - Leif: Theirs doesn't fit our needs
- Roberta: There are some updates that we would like to do to it but wanted to know if people are using it.
 - Carole: I'm having a hard time converting it to Mac. Is anyone else using Mac?
 - Tami: The spreadsheet program in Mac is not really compatible with this. You can open it in google drive.
- Robert: I need to clarify with Roberta about some of the changes before going ahead.

- Roberta: If you could, please put your name, project name on top of the JHA project page, On the Project Report, always add a leader name even on scouting trips.
 - Justin: Wouldn't it be easier if there was a way to add the JHA to the online form we are already doing?
 - Dana: That is in the works.
 - Leif: We only need the signature page?
 - Roberta: Yes. I only print a new signature page when I do a work party. You need to work the ones from PCTA website, not our website. If you are fording a river in the zigzag district there is a special JHA that you have to fill out.
 - Jerry: Dana is there any hope that this will be simple again?
 - David: If the PCT becomes a separate admin unit will this become easier (JHA and things like that)?
 - Dana: The PCT will be a planning zone not an admin zone. When you say region 5 JHA, it's not a specific to region 5 JHA, it's just signed by the Forester in region 5 and he has authority because his area is the Jurisdiction for the whole PCT. Tell the people to call Dana or Jen if you are having problems.
 - David: Maybe we just need to change the title from region 5 to PCT Corridor?
 - Roberta: We should probably update them as well as they are dated 2011.
 - Pace: We should get rid of the old ones
 - Roberta: I'll ask Steve Q to pull them off. If you don't know how to use pcta.org forms call Roberta and she can walk you through it. I don't want to keep burdening Sacramento by having to hand enter info. Get all forms from pcta.org.
 - Pace: The 1 day checklist is on long trails.
 - Tim: What is the longtrails website?
 - Roberta: longtrails.com/mthood
 - Becky: Where do we pull the forms?
 - Roberta: Instead of pulling & printing forms, enter the information into the pcta.org database (online data entry).
 - Jerry: If you can get us a cheat sheet for when we go onto pcta.org so we know where to go and it needs to be simple and easy.
 - Roberta: Pace is working on it. With the exception, the password is not on the form/website.
 - Dana: We are all on the same team and we are all trying to make it easier. As the incremental changes happen it makes other things seem awkward.
 - Kim: What about one of our crew leaders creating a help phone number? I'm with Jerry with the electronic form, it has been hard to get to. I created a crib sheet and put a bookmark to the page. I had to call Sacramento for help. Maybe it is a different role. Someone who is more of an IT person that understands and that we can call?
 - Roberta: Call me.

Discussion Items

- Next up: Annual Celebration. Ruth will organize food.
 - **Vicki Peterson**: Allie Wenzl our Forest Historian has agreed to be the guest speaker. She does support international programs, so there's possibility she may be required to work in D.C. in January – so we have a back-up plan that Debbie Ortiz, district archeologist would be her back-up. Both women are very sharp and knowledgeable on historic structures in wilderness.
 - Saturday, January 23 at Sandy National Forest Headquarters. Room is reserved. Vicki Peterson is organizing it for us. Don't know what they will talk about. Stick to the normal schedule: set up at noon, start at 1, speaker from 2-3, out for 4.
 - David: We filled the parking lot for our last meeting. Will this be a problem?
 - Roberta: They are opening up the lower parking lot. We can set up food in the foyer. It is bigger than the GP room. Ruth will organize everyone with food.
 - Becky: Let Ruth know what we will bring?
 - Roberta: Yes.
 - Steve P: Will we need all the audio equipment?
 - Roberta: Yes. We need to get word out, at least save the date, ASAP.
- Need for TCPs for all trailheads on all our trails. Dennis to compile the list. Dennis is still waiting on TCPs from everyone, please at least reply to him. Due date Tomorrow Nov 22.
- Carole had an idea for the recruitment emails: it would be nice to give some rough idea where the work will be. For example, the 3 corner rock crew with Danner Boots, (had that been one we recruited for), we might say "The trailhead for this work is about 45 minutes from Bridge of the Gods".

Discussion:

- 1. What's working great and
- 2. What's your biggest concern, and/or, what's the biggest challenge Mt Hood Chapter will be facing in the near future

- Liz:
 - 1. I love the people. There is no pettiness. No one thinks they are better than anyone else.
- Becky:
 - 1. I love the people.
 - 2. Just the paperwork.
- Tammy:
 - 1. 2nd request always work well. You guys are great, I get the info I need for the most part. Still have a couple of folks that haven't joined the bandwagon.
 - Tyler: Not using the online project?
 - Roberta: Pcta.org volunteer request is not required. Use it for for special project or overnight parties.
 - Tammy: That's fine to use the pcta.org to list but if you need more people you need to let Tammy know. When you post a project it alerts her but then she has to go and look for it as the alert doesn't give her any info. Send her an email if you post on the website so she knows to look for it.
 - 2. Getting requests in. It is getting more challenging to get volunteers out; normally have to send a second request. And then she gets a grudging responses. Has had a couple people say that they need more time to plan for the crew parties. Has had people ask why we don't do it like the WTA where you can go online and go to a calendar to sign up. Don't know. I don't know.
 - Pace: Does it vary by the time of year?
 - Tammy: Yes. If you send something now everyone wants to get out. But in August no one is available.
 - Pam: Do you think the volume of work parties affect this?
 - Tammy: There are too many things for them to pick from in the middle of summer compared to now (too many work parties and other things to do). In August people are out hiking, out with their family, taking kids to college.
 - Tyler: 439 individual heartbeats out there. That is still incredible.
 - Pace: There are 100 people that only went to TSC but didn't work for one of our crews. Will continue to sort these out.
- Steve P:
 - 1. The opportunities that we are presented as crew leaders.
 - 2. Just maintaining the volunteer base. That's always going to be an issue. It's a leaky bucket and you are always having to fill that bucket.
- Pace:
 - 1. I don't have any complaints, organization is working well, and all my crews fill up. Tammy is great
 - 2. Number of volunteers. 439 volunteers at TSC but only 313 put time on trails. So we have 100 people that have only come for training. Of 313, 201 had less than 15 hours. 277 less than 40 hours. The challenge is to increase the number of people that do multiple trips. How do we encourage people to go out for more crews?
- Tyler
 - 1. The thing that works the best is that we have these little sections that we do. I've been on my section 4 times this year. Down south they have large sections that they can't cover the whole section in a season.
 - 2. I have felt, from my October 16 trip. I had 11 people. I sent an email, did the trip, then sent a thank you email and haven't heard from them. Is there a way that we can do something to keep them engaged so they get out for the second or third trip?
- Scott:
 - 2. It seems like there is a big pool of people that have no idea about how to get involved. It seems like there is a pool of people to pull in somehow. To outreach. ALDHA-West gathering and rucks.
- Marijke:
 - 1. Roberta! This group is supportive, welcoming, directing. Looking forward to caretaker training to get a better grasp on paperwork.
 - 2. I don't remember a presence from the PCTA at ALDHA-West. There is day crews but how to let people know about long term involvement?
- Lamar:
 - 1. Safety for us is really remarkable. When you listen to the group, our problem solving is another talent we should give ourselves credit for. You can't go on our trails and then go somewhere else and not notice how exceptional our trails are.

- 2. The bigger we get, the harder it will be to maintain. We're the victims of our own success: the load of people requires more resources and more work. I think maybe, we could use a more market driven marketing plan: how do we get more people to participate more and understand more? A marketing plan focused on people so the volunteers that are out there know that we NEED them.
- Nate:
 - 1. We have a great relationship with the national forest, with the PCTA office, a dedicated volunteer core.
 - 2. Word of mouth is really strong. I think that is where we have challenges. We aren't leveraging the volunteer pools efficiently. Not a lot of info about our chapter on the pcta.org, it is hard to find out how to find contact info. How to communicate/be accessible, we are here and this is how you contact us.
- Pam:
 - 1. Feel like that it's remarkable that we can get so many volunteers. I think that the fact that we can fill just about all our work parties is great.
 - 2. What we could do better is, in the last year I have seen some changes but getting younger people in a leadership role is important. Getting more people for saws, VSI, crew leaders and caretakers that are new, young, strong.
- David:
 - 1. What is working well is the fact that not everyone here has to have the same level of expertise in all areas of trail maintenance. I'm not terribly good at drainage, but as soon as I put out the email, someone will leave their section to come help me. We can always get peeps with expertise to travel to other areas to help. It has been very, very useful. It doesn't require that we all become experts in everything.
 - 2. Bureaucratic paper work. On a lot of log out jobs I have to do 3 separate JHAs and a sign out sheet. Rather than the JHA, can there be an addendum to the sign in sheet? It can take 45 minutes to get everything passed around and signed (not to go over the JHA, just getting it signed). Another thing: our VSI program has not expanded since it began. It is in fact shrinking. We need to develop an instructor base to keep this thing going. We haven't been very good about that, or very effective.
- Kim:
 - 1. Trying to think of the right way to explain this. One of the pros is that we are working with an organization of caretakers with a high OCD quotient. Every time we start a conversation, we drill down and try to fix it right away instead of just noting it and moving on.
 - 2. A challenge: we have got to learn to control our OCD-ness, individually and as an organization. I used to come here, to the PCTA meetings/work parties, as my release from OCD. The trail will be here tomorrow and next year. 75% of people came back after TSC. So the challenge is how do we manage this, how do we say "wow we really are doing a great job"? I'm sorry, I'm going on and on and on, maybe I need a pep talk. We are getting more caretakers, there are more now than ever. We have to recognize, safety first but let's put some more fun back. I mean the paperwork, the stats. I need it to be fun again.
 - Steve P: It's almost become a job
- Justin:
 - 1. I think this group here does a great job. There are a couple people among us that work this as a full time job.
 - 2. The Mt Hood chapter is so strong and has its own way of doing it. Our procedures seem to be disjointed, it can be hard to keep it all in our head. Any way we can decrease the time we aren't out on the trail? How much time and work going into it vs. how much time boots are on the ground.
 - Roberta: Our admin time is high.
 - Justin: it is bound to be
- Carole:
 - 1. Want to give huge kudos to Roberta, she is the easiest person to work with, easily knows all the answers. Also to Dana who makes it out to the events and the time she takes to be out with us.
 - 2. When I was first on the list and I got the emails from Tammy, I didn't think I could do any of the tasks as I didn't know anything about it. I kept not signing up as a regular volunteer. I would have liked to see who the crew leader was, it also personalizes it a bit, and people connect with it. They'll say trail building on "where ever" and not knowing where the site is, it would be helpful if there was a time from a landmark (BOG, Lolo Pass, etc.). Just a little bit about the location of that trail and distance from landmarks. These things daunted me as a new comer
- Kelley:
 - 1. Like what Carole talked about linking Dana to us and the personal interaction.
 - 2. We need to tap into the racing community (trail) and work on bringing the fun back into it (trail maintenance).
 - Justin: People want to come out if it is easy.
 - Kelley: We can encourage people to bond during the emails or (beer after), more personality and person-ability,
- Jerry:

- 1. I was thinking I've been doing this for 8 or 9 years with you guys. For you new folks, I'm president of the Back Country Horsemen of Oregon. We're doing all the cooking for all the TSCs across the state. We've got people all over working on different parts, I think this is the best chapter that we work with.
- 2. But at the same time it's becoming more and more business oriented vs going out and working on the trail. I understand the admin side of it but I think it is important that we don't lose why we are here. If it's not easy to report, we aren't going to. How many hours are we missing because people think it is so hard? The reporting and turning in the hours is how we get seats at the table and we get the agencies to care about us. We've notice there are a bunch of old guys and now we are starting to pick up the younger people. There is a middle group of people that don't care.
- Ron:
 - 1. Stewardship on the trail. Our people know their trail well. Saw Training. Business cards to hand out.
 - 2. The saw training. I think the VSI group is important to have. As for outreach, I always have the PCTA cards on me to hand out. I mark them with Tammy's email for them to contact. We have to keep advertising day after day, I hear it every week, people that just moved here. It is challenging getting new people. It doesn't do any good to advertise, one-to-one is where you get people interested.
- Bob:
 - 1. So much that works. Having volunteered for so long, I see so many positives. We have to make it light, this isn't rocket science. You don't have to be experienced, I'll find something for everyone to do on the trail.
 - 2. I've had countless volunteers say isn't there a blanket form so we don't have to sign every time? Sign once and it is good for the season. The more time we are doing work vs talking, the more fun. Also suggest we all stop after to have a beer or a slice of pizza. We can get together to visit, talk it over, bond after a day on the trail. The more we can make it fun and they know they don't have to know a whole bunch and they get to have fun the better.
- Leif:
 - 1. Structure, bringing up new caretakers, teaching, and training is all working very well and functioning. We are doing phenomenal work.
 - 2. It would be great if we can make it fun afterward, but it is hard if people are carpooling and have to add more time hang out after. How do you make people want to do it again when for the longer trips? Maybe we need to be looking at trail wide: are we covering our area with priority vs just where we have caretakers. There is a difference between being a crew leader and being a skilled laborer. Once you become a crew leader, you lose a bit of the fun of just being the skilled laborer.
- Tim:
 - 1. The structure of the group is excellent as are the educational opportunities. There is lots of opportunities to do/learn other things. The average age in our PCTA group is down from 2-3 years ago.
 - 2. I'm with Territorial Riders and the PCT is only a portion of what we do. All of the PCTA paperwork is on top of the paperwork we already have to do. It can also be a challenge to get equestrians off their horses to do anything on the ground with a shovel. It is difficult to get young people (for an equestrian group) involved as horses are expensive. Most riders only have as many horses as they need, not a lot of extras and if they do, they are unused and out of shape. There are also sections of the trail that are not equestrian friendly, there are numerous spots where a bad step is a bad day.
 - Roberta: I would like to see more horse/hiker integration
- Dana:
 - 1. I think what has always been the number 1 thing that I admire about this group on the trail and otherwise is the kind of social cohesiveness you have as a group and that is what brings people back. The fact that you can count on most of your leaders to come to monthly meetings and hang out for 2+ hours. There is a social satisfaction to belonging to this group. You bring on new people successfully. When I compare you to other groups, you can't get other groups together. They don't get nearly as much done. There isn't the momentum that is created by the social cohesion. The trail work is fun but the meetings have to be fun too. But it takes an incredible amount of coordination. We expand our capacity and bring on more volunteers. The fact that you fill work parties I think that in order to have capacity to stay divers expand the work we are doing and continue to bring/train new peeps it takes a lot of admin, coordination sitting around talking about the trail the fact that you are willing to do it makes it work. I think Roberta works too hard. We need to delegate a little more, admin task, among the group.
- Summer:
 - 1. Everybody is incredible. Excitement over little victories. Celebrate with each other
 - 2. Nothing!
- Roberta:
 - 1. Everyone is fantastic. Just wowed that all these people come to the monthly meeting and I think why would you drive three hours for a 2 hour meeting and yet we have a good time at the meeting and get energized from it. And that we do really good work. It is just amazing that we do such great work and companies search us out to lead work parties. I think Tammy is amazing, all the work she puts in.

Anytime I ask for extra stuff, somebody steps up. I really do love doing all this and yeah it is a little more work than I thought it was going to be.

- 2. Tammy does too much work and I think I do too much work. Tammy especially. I'd like to try and figure out how to fix that. I'd like to cover trails with no caretaker. What is our mission and how do we fit in more completely with the PCTA missions? Are we more focused on trail maintenance? Do we really need to step up and do more for the PCT and outreach? I don't think we have to grow, but these opportunities (trails) come and I'm willing to take them on.
 - Pam: We have made a lot of progress in the last 15 years. We get involved in the protection and promotion. Used to be only trail main and preservation.
 - Leif: Part of what we are doing grows that way and I think what we have taken on are things that we wanted to take on.
 - Roberta: And I like that type of growth.
 - Tyler: I think that on some of the other projects, you can go out and work on that trail but it doesn't mean you have adopt that trail.
 - Roberta: I don't want people to feel like they have to go out more because someone else is
 - Steve P: It should be something that you want to do, not have to do.
 - Tim: Since there have been so many fires on Mt Adams, is this a good section to ask for a minimum tool assessment?
 - Jerry: Not yet, we have to wait a couple years.
- Dana: So originally, when Roberta and I talked about this exercise, we would vote on top 3 challenges so knew what to work on.
 - Pam: If you email them, we can talk about them at the next caretaker meeting.
 - Carole: Some of the suggestions can be condensed...
 - Roberta will email them to Carole to pull together to email out to everyone.
 - Marijke: There are pretty clear themes.

Roberta: No December meeting. We never have a December meeting. I'll never make people go to REI at a mall in December.

Announcements/Reminders

- Wilderness Literature class at PCC will be led by Ruth with Tyler assisting
- Vacancies: Mt. Adams-North; Big Huckleberry; Sandy River (reserved for Nate)
- **Columbia Dispatch: Starting Oct. 18** Dispatch hours will be M-F 0730-1630. Reminder that if you want to work outside of these hours, you still need a TCP and a dispatcher, but it can be a friend, family worker, or volunteer who is in the front country and will take action if you don't check out. In Zigzag there's a SPOT procedure.
- Mckenzie is currently on a detail on the Middle Fork District. For work on Zig Zag, email both Aaron Pedersen and Rachel Drake, seasonally add Tom Triscik.
- Carole to work with a Girl Scout troop for a project in 2016. Tammy has the contact info.
- Kim O plans to conduct a reimbursement process training – pre-caretaker meeting in February.