

# Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA Caretaker Meeting Minutes

Wednesday November 12, 2014

Location: REI Clackamas

## Welcome

- Welcome: Chris Keil, Lamar Fontaine, Ryan Ojerio
  - Chris Keil: attended a lot of work parties. Interested in getting maintenance done in Paradise Park. Also volunteers as a Wilderness Steward.
  - Lamar Fontaine: has been working with Dennis on Eagle Creek. Here to learn, and help with the stewardship of Eagle Creek. Has been a volunteer with PCTA for a couple years.
- Attended: Leif, Justin, Tyler, Liz, Kelley, Tammy T, Steve P, Ruth, J.Me, Dennis, Becky, Tim D, Chris S, Chris K, David, Bob A, Lamar, Ron, Tim L, Jerry, Robert, Summer, Tami S, Steve Q, Roberta , Ryan (26)

## Past Events

- 2014 Stats: our Trail is officially logged out, about 1050 logs cleared.
  - Not able to get a year to date from Sacramento

### Crews and Events:

1. October 9: Jennifer Pharr Davis Speaker Series at Next Adventure
  - Tammy - it was good. Jennifer did a great job. Thought of her for Trail Schools College but She lives in North Carolina.
  - Chris S: was also there, talked to people about the PCT and getting out to volunteer
2. October 11: Upper Muddy Fork: Pace
  - There more than once in the last month.
  - 6 people on the work crew. Geoff O'Neil was along.
    - It rained at the beginning and the end.
    - Cleaned out rock gully, drainages.
    - It was a good day. Better weather than anticipated.
3. October 15: NSM Hawthorne #10 at Eagle Creek: Dennis, Roberta, Jayme
  - Jayme - wasn't there for a lot of it, hiked up to remove the blue bag box.
  - The Blue Bag Box will be reinstalled by the trailhead so it is easier to refill. 7.5 mile camps are looking really good.
  - Roberta - worked on tree lopping, and drainages. It all went really well.
4. October 15: Eagle Creek: Leif & Tyler
  - Hiked up to 7.5 mile camp. Crosscut 5 logs. Cleared up a couple of others that were over the trail on their way down.
  - Not that bad with rain (light)
  - The trail does need some brushing
  - Roberta went back in the following night to help rescue a puppy
5. October 18: Crew Leader Training
  - Attended: Rick, Tim L, Robert, Ron, Geoff, Tim D., Jeff, Kelley, Busdriver John, Tami, David, Justin, Jayme, Roberta, Leif, Liz, Tyler (17 people)
  - As a result of this training, the following people are full-fledged caretakers/crew leaders and have completed their probationary period: Rick, Tim L., Tim D., Jeff, Justin, Liz, Tyler
  - Tim L - fire was nice. It was a good weekend.
  - Tami - great weekend, loved the dated videos.
  - Big thanks to Pace for putting together the manuals
6. October 19: Crosscut Saw Selection Workshop
  - Dave: it went OK
7. October 24: Trail Dirt Live
  - Regional Maintainer of the Year, Columbia Cascades: Leif Hovin
  - Labor of Love Award: Tammy Turner

- Alice Krueper Award: Roberta Cobb
  - Agency Partner of the Year: Winston Rall
  - Above and Beyond Award: Volunteer Saw Instructors Tom Linde, John Cunningham, Leif Hovin, Kim Owen, David Roe, and Bill Hawley.
    - Steve will deliver John's award
8. October 31: Scouting Chris: Scouted his section with Dana. It was a treat to go out with someone as skilled and experienced as she is. His section is being logged (clear cut) south of the quarry about  $\frac{3}{4}$ -1 mile in (Birkenfeld Mountain). All the flagging and blue marks on the trees are already done. New logging road will go across the trail. They are taking everything, it is private property. It was good to hike with her and get her take on things.
9. November 6: Logout BOG Oregon Side to Dry Creek Falls: Tyler and Jeff  
 Tyler: met Jeff at exit 17. Beautiful weather, looked like a nice day until you look west. Took off, went to BOG cache, got saw. No gas, no chaps. He had his own stuff. Dana happens to go by and sends them to her office. Drove around a bit to find the office, had a cookie, cup of coffee. Landlord finally showed up as they are walking out. By now, it is too far to go to Roberta's cache, went to Tyler's house in Gresham, all the way back out, now it is pouring rain. So they know they need raingear. Get all dressed, up the trail  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile and the rain stops. Now they are all geared up, sweating in rubbers. People came down from Dry Creek falls and said there were lots of trees up there. They made their way all the way up to Dry Creek Falls and there was 1 little tree you could step over. So they hauled the chainsaw all the way to Dry Creek Falls and back.
10. November 8-9: Wilderness First Aid: Estacada Public Library 13 people  
 Certified: Tim L, Sara, Rick, Justin, Becky, Ruth, Roberta, Tim D, Robert, David, Kelley, Leif, Steve P (13 people).
  - Card is going around to sign as a thank you for LeeAnn and Robert
11. November 10: PCTA/CRGNSA annual meeting
  - Things are going smooth in the Gorge
  - Talked about Eagle Creek
    - Getting the Forest Youth Group to do some work in our area
12. November 10: PCTA/Mt Hood NF annual meeting
  - Went really well, good turnout. Plus quite a few agency people.
  - No real action just talked about what the projects will be
  - The worst work was over in Pinhead Butte, the highest priority and best suited for Sasquatch or Skyline Crew
    - You can open it up and do a lot of work from a small area
13. November 10: Wild event at downtown REI
  - No one from this group attended
14. November 11: Scouting: Pace
  - Scheduled a log out but couldn't get anyone to join in, everyone was tied up,
  - Cleaned out some inside drainages so hopefully they will be good through the winter.
  - Dismantled the horse barrier (Mckenzie agreed we didn't need it).
  - It was a little cool up there, some icicles hanging on some of the drainages.
15. November 11: Scouting: Justin
  - Started at Herman creek, went up the trail for a 25 mile loop to scout the section (up to Wahtum Lake).
  - Had to get there before it snowed. It was windy and cold, heard a huge tree come down.
  - Looked at what signage needed (old branded ones that are hard to read or split). Will get the sign info to Dana. Tim's section was good.
    - Becky: has a whole box of routed signs given to her by Estacada. They need to be signed or painted to make the routing stand out. Happy to bring them if someone will take care of them. Has about 20, they are square-ish.
    - Tyler: we could use a blowtorch, burn the letters and then sand it.
    - Steve: his opinion that they should be as natural as possible
16. November 12: Caretaker Meeting
17. Next Week: Tami scouting her section

## Future Events

Note: No December caretaker meeting

Calendar passed around

- November 24: PCTA/Gifford Pinchot NF annual meeting
- January 14, 2015: next Caretaker meeting
- May 17-20: 2015 International Trails Symposium
- Saturday, March 21 OSU Extension Service asking if PCTA would like to participate in Tree School again in 2015.

## Reports

- Budget. Kim – not here, no new info
- Tools. Leif
  - Donated 2 weed whips and a nice ax from Dennis Beard's family member
  - Gloves coming to restock the PDX cache
  - Couple of loppers that are retired so they will be replaced
  - Tyler: There is a pile of yellow ribbon tools at the bridge cache.
    - Leif: they are Dana's personal cache
      - Tyler: no chaps at BOG cache (or gas or oil). It needs help
        - Leif: it is more of a seasonal cache
        - Gentleman Bob: Trout Lake cache pulled and placed into Roberta's
          - First aid kit was given to Ruth and the radios were brought to the meeting, anything that he thought would not gain anything from being in super cold weather was brought. (power saw)
          - Leif has a Reinhart for him
          - Tyler built Roberta a frame of a sandbox for cleaning up tools.
- Trail Skills College 2015: Tammy T and Dana
  - Tammy will be the Event Coordinator up to the end of March (she will be out of town for all of April) and then Dana will step in to run the weekend (unless she can find someone else)
    - From Dana email: Dana & Jen's 2 cents
      - Biggest concern if beginners were removed: this event inspires them and lets them rub elbows with veterans
      - Support intro classes on other dates and other locations
      - Other projects we are doing lends themselves to beginners and introductions
      - Would like a balance of all level of classes
      - Monday meeting: Jen will be there and staying all week (meeting with other people throughout the week)
        - Tyler: Question about the classes: Is there a list of underperforming classes so we know what to cut?
        - Tammy: we can offer less. A few years ago we tried to have it be as many people as wanted to come, we had over 120 participates and then had a attrition level that was horrible. We had to find enough instructors to teach that many classes and then feed them – after we limited to 100 students for ease. Then we toyed with doing it 2 weekends (beginner weekend then everyone else weekend). But you don't have everyone getting together and spending time together which is part of the fun. Taking out classes was more of a way so people like Leif, Roberta, Tyler, Steve, and the others that teach can take a class instead of just teaching.
          - Leif: got to take rigging last year which was great, but doesn't think that we need to reduce classes. We would be better served to keep the numbers and crew leaders will have to fit in the classes they want/need when they can
          - Tim: Maybe make the weekend before for ultra-beginners, then have the weekend of for everything else, maybe the weekend after for specialty. Easier to coordinate, get more people?
          - Liz: Or do 2 identical weekends so you can teach and participate.
          - Tammy: There are other TSC weekends, one in May and one in June, they aren't ours but teach the same things.
          - Ryan: poll:
            - Keep it the same – majority voted
            - Target beginner – 2 people
            - Target advanced – 3 people

- Tyler: Advertise TSC as free if you come to 5 work parties?
    - Liz: What if we add another day (like the Thursday)?
      - Tammy: Already added a day to make it 3 DAYS
      - Leif: people that are pre-registering are still looking at beginner/basic classes then
      - Ryan: The 100 level classes are reserved for people that have never volunteered. More details talk to Tammy or Ryan (or email)
- Ryan: Had a productive debrief, kicked around different ideas on how the event can be improved and streamlined (see above)
  - Meeting on Monday 630 at Dennis's house
    - A lot of ideas being passed around
    - Will decide what changes will be implemented
    - All are open for discussion
    - Here to get our feedback
    - TSC is fantastic even that is really successful
      - Beginner classes – giving people the skills / confidence
      - Middle stage classes – takes current volunteers and gets them ready for crew leading
      - Forest service staff/other non-profits – great melting pot to share ideas, look for ways to collaborate
    - One challenge: The planning committee has a lot on their plate: what do they spend their time on? How to maintain people on the committee?
    - Challenge: Finding sites. Holding it at Cascade Locks means there is not a lot of work as it is well maintained. Getting people to teach: if they are always teaching, they can't participate and take classes.
      - Recruit more people to help at all levels
      - Move event to a new location
      - Pairing down the objectives (beginners, middle, pros) to specialize in a specific skill set?
        - Focus on newbies or people that want to be crew leaders?
      - Sacramento has been really supportive of locals shaping the event, they have some opinions but ultimately it is up to the locals to make sure the needs are met
- Dana: Was wondering if anyone was available to lead hike on Dec 11 on Roberta's section (it is a Thursday). Has a bunch of people from travel Oregon (6-10 folks), has to be the Oregon side of PCTA. Has to end at Cascade Locks. Has to be 2 to 3 miles. Speak to them about the importance and history of the PCT. Give them information to help them promote the PCT to the media, tourists and other promotional campaigns. Roberta may be available but doesn't want to commit with all of her traveling.
  - Tyler can do it
  - Tim: Maybe park at the water building (reservoir?) and then hike up
  - Roberta: can also go out and back from Moody.
- Saw Certification:
  - David: Meeting with Jen Wednesday, sometime, 4pm or something – the 19<sup>th</sup>
- Caretaker/Crewleader Roles and Responsibility: Kim (no action)
- Scout/Surveyor roles: Tom (no action)
- Training and Safety: Open
  - Crew Leader Training: attended by Rick, Tim L, Robert, Ron, Geoff O., Tim D., Jeff B, Kelley, Busdriver John, Tami K, David, Justin, Jayme, Roberta, Leif, Liz, and Tyler
- Volunteer Coordinator. Tammy
  - Trailspace article: read on! <http://www.trailspace.com/blog/2014/10/27/pcta-mt-hood-chapter-tammy-turner.html>
  - There are no more south bounders, the 2 guys doing the winter hike should be pass Mt Hood so she is going to get the registers from Timberline and Cascade Locks
    - Leif: Can pick them up. What do we do with them?
      - Tammy: They stay at her house until the spring. If full, she is supposed to get a new one. This is the first full year we are doing this, Jack used to take care of them. It is at the Cascade Locks post office.
    - Kelley: Can also pick them up. Will pick them up while she is in the area.
  - Going to Hawaii: Dec 2-10, will have computer
- Extra Projects: Tim D. working on making an electronic version of my caretaker info mash-up with the PCTA map
  - One problem piecing it together, has fixed the spell checked items
  - Roberta brought the first draft printing to look at after the meeting

## Announcements/Reminders

- Remaining Vacancies: Mt. Adams-North,
  - 400 Trail claimed by Carole Dearholt. She will attend January's meeting
- Chris Keil interested in the Paradise Park loop.
- Lamar Fontaine interested in taking Dennis' Eagle Creek section
- Columbia Dispatch will be open Mon-Fri 0730-1730 from October 20-October 31. Beginning Monday Nov 3, we will be open 0730-1630 M-F for the remainder of the winter.
- John Harris also interested in becoming a caretaker, lives in Vancouver. Needs some trail time.

## Discussion Items

- Annual Volunteer Celebration (FKA annual meeting)
  - Date - January. Saturday, Vancouver GP headquarters. Jan 24? 31? Feb ??.
    - Jan 31 picked, typically 1pm-3pm with set up at noon.
    - Coordinate refreshments: Leif can do that and will take on coffee and tea
    - Steve P: bring whole set up, mics, speakers, etc
    - Advertising – social media might be the focus
      - Ron: poster and contacting newspapers
      - Tammy send out emails
    - Tammy will contact Robin
    - New picture board? Current one is 2007
      - Tammy will talk to Frank again to get the pictures.
      - Is there a bucket of pics?
        - Roberta: not very good ones. Has some she can send
        - Tim L: can probably convince Sara to do it.
  - If June Mulford is unavailable will call the person Steve has recommended
- American Trails Symposium May 17-20, 2015 <http://americantrails.org/ee/index.php/symposium>
  - Here in Portland, Roberta will send out link, doesn't know if we need to be involved.
- Chris Jensen teaches the Wilderness Literature course at PCC, would like another optional trail work party late February or early March of 2015. Wants it open to regular PCTA Volunteers as well to make critical mass.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Has an optional trail work party late Feb/early March.
    - Tami will with help (her section may be the only section below snow)

## Round the Room

Leif: a little surprised about helicopter landing areas, it is on all the TCPs. Asked if they have a list. No they don't. They rely on the sheriff.

Roberta recommends taking it off the TCPs.

Leif: If you can identify very obvious spots, keep them in mind and use them but it isn't really our call.

Ruth: Info is available through fire station, the sheriffs, and on a website

Justin: Compliment from FS people: that a lot of times that we get ignored because everything runs so smooth.

Tyler: After crew leader training, went up to their section to get the coordinates for the TCPs

Kelley: Talked with friend with part of the mountain bike community about why all the mountain bikers want to use the PCT. It is because it is so well maintained.

Tammy: Had fun at Burning Man's (Barnie) 2nd Bar mitzvah. In April she will stay at their house while they hike the CDT and shuttle hikers in their area

Steve P: First aid training was good. Had a fun time

Ruth: got a head and neck injury at first aid training (pretend). Had a good time, brought cake for anyone who may have a birthday day in November

Jayne: happy to be here

Dennis: checked the water cleaning we did on our hike after the Monday meeting. It is working good, a little bit of debris but good

Becky: Trail Dirt Live was great. Are we doing them quarterly? Next one?

Tammy: Yes and unsure but probably California

Tim D: Learned a lot at first aid, working on the map

Chris S (Freefall): Went to San Francisco for a Wilderness Society gala. Cheryl Strayed was a featured presenter, Sheryl Crow performed for about 250 people and did a great job. Put in \$200 for raffle tickets and won a trip for 2 to Aspen and free Patagonia gear.

Chris Keil: Glad to be here. Found Ruth's rock bar and returned to her cache where all the wood is.

David: windy day, probably a lot of trees down

Gentleman Bob: Trout Lake cache: tools clean, floors swept, sharpening next spring. Take the sharpening stuff to do the sharpening up there.

Ron: New sign at Devils rest, so people can say they have seen Devils Rest. Took a pumpkin up for Halloween. 10 signs on Foxglove Trail (Claude approved Foxglove trail on maps). Pumpkin nailed to the side of the trail.

Tim L: been to a couple of meetings about road decommissioning in Mt Hood National Forest, if you have roads that you need to get to your section, talk to Dana so they can get names and be an official road so it will be on maps

Roberta: Eden was going to look into who owned the road that crosses Dennis and Kelley's section

Roberta: naming division between Chris and Kelley's: Sacajawea Rock?

Jerry: Pretty well healed up. Things will be better.

Boy scouts put up 23 signs – was supposed to be every trail junction (there are only 2)

Roberta: Sign policy: we don't litter the trail with signs (blue diamonds are for cross country). There was a complaint that there were too many on his trail.

Jerry: the FS blessed the work.

Pace: Windstorm brought down 4 trees in yard (2 front, 2 back). The 2 in front could have reached house but went off to the side. Crew leader handouts: still has some handouts.

Roberta: would like to give 1 to Dana and 1 to Jen

Tammy will pass them along

Tyler offered to help log out

Ramona Falls Bridge: FS meeting on Monday. The bridge on Muddy Fork (on Geoff O'Neil's section) are all in limbo. Having another meeting later this month. Questionable if they are putting anything in. would have to fly in a metal bridge as the span is too big for a log. May just be a ford from now on.

Tami – went to crew leader training and saw class it was awesome. Been in new house for a month, she has 6 big trees that may need some branched removed if anyone knows someone. Hiking weekend after next, South section of Snag Creek.

Leif: John Cunningham climbs and limbs

Steve Q: got some property with a house, big oak tree that splits in 3, couple of weeks ago 1 fell and just clipped the house. Has gotten a lot of chainsaw work in. Has a lot of firewood. REI said if he didn't use dividend he would lose it, bought first piece of PCT gear.

Roberta: Leaving town tomorrow, taking computer so will be accessible, flying to Minneapolis for Thanksgiving. Comes back on the 30<sup>th</sup>. If you need to get into the garage you know the code. Have some paver work done once the weather improves, if the weather improves, you may surprise her.