

Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA Caretaker Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2016

Location: REI Clackamas

Notes by Summer

Welcome

- **Welcome:** Bill "Little Brown" Canavan: Thru hiked 2015. It was a really good hike. It was very wet, rained poured on 5 days while in Northern California. So wet a couple toe nails came off. Had a couple of cool moments: stopped to take a picture of a deer and a marmot and chipmunk climbed in the photo. Last two days was trying to beat a storm so averaged 35-38 miles per day. Would do it again.
- **Attended:** Freefall, Tammy, Ron, Becky, Pam, Kim, Bill Canavan, Rick, Pace, Liz, Tyler, Leif, Kelley, Underbucker, Ruth, Steve P, Jerry, Busdriver John, Nate, Tami, Chris K, Marijke, Justin, Tim L, Steve Q, Summer, Dana, Roberta (28 people)

Accomplishment Summary/Statistics

Thanks to Pace for generating these stats

Mount Hood Chapter Stats - thru Dec 31, 2015		
	Dec	2015CY
Volunteer Hours, total	596	17,055
Trail Maint - on trail hours	454	8,752
Trail Maint - support hours	142	3,541
Outreach Event hours	0	794
Training hours	0	3,969
Specialized hours	71	1,027
Miles Maintained	13	234
Feet of Rehab/Recon	500	12,094
miles of rehab		2.3
# Trail Work Crews	6	117
# Outreach Events	0	20

- Roberta: Sent out the numbers with the meeting reminder. If anyone is worried about not having meaningful work to do this year, I can guarantee that there will be work to do somewhere.

Past Events

Crews and Events since last caretaker meeting:

1. Nov 22: Logout #1 BOG Oregon Side: Tyler, Pam and Roberta
 - Initial logout on Roberta's section.
 - Roberta: We thought there would be 20 logs, maybe so we only brought 1 bottle of gas and 1 saw.
 - Tyler: Took in 1 saw, 1 bottle of gas and figured 15-20 logs. We hit 15 before we hit the PCT. We did another 25 or 26 before we ran out of gas and then stepped over 79 more on the way out.
 - Roberta: These were big trees. Made me physically ill to walk over all of the branches and logs on the way out.
2. Nov 27: #OptOutside REI: Roberta, Robert, Chris, Chris, Tyler, Bob
 - Roberta: There were supposed to be 30 people.
 - Pace: There were 4 from REI, 5 instructors and 1 guest. We got some good work done.

- Roberta: This age group doesn't want to be anywhere 8am the day after Thanksgiving because the amount of alcohol consumed on Thanksgiving.
- 3. Dec 1: Leadership Meeting
 - Roberta: Small group met with Jen. Intent is to figure out where we are going as we are growing. This was a follow up to our November meeting. Talked about where are we going and what is our purpose. The members: Leif, Pace, Lamar, Kim, Tammy, Dana.
- 4. Dec 4: Teakettle Scout: Teakettle Tim
 - Roberta: Lots down
- 5. Dec 5: Logout #2 BOG Oregon Side: Roberta
 - Roberta: The big one. Went with Tami, Kim, Pam, Pace, Leif, and John. We worked until dark. 44 big logs out, didn't get as far as the tangle this day
- 6. Dec 6: Vista Trail Logout: Tyler
 - Tyler: Multnomah Falls Loop (Multnomah Falls to Wahkeena), with Terry. It was actually a pretty nice trip. Took out 6 logs, it was pretty simple and all chainsaw. It was really nice.
- 7. Dec 12: Nesmith Point Trail work: Pace
 - Pace: Went back up to finish the work from the REI party. Bill was there, Nate was there. Got the trail around the rock ledges pretty cleaned out. The washout the day before is cleaned up. It was rainy and wet so we cut it short and went to the tavern. But more work to do up there. Want to schedule this month but there is a foot of snow. So no more tread work (1.5 mile in) for a while.
- 8. Dec 14: Eagle Creek: Lamar
 - Roberta: Planned to fix a gabion on eagle creek. But that didn't happen. Canavan was there
 - Canavan: A big tree fell and took out a bridge that we needed to cross, just past Punchbowl. It was pretty mangled. Lamar didn't think it was repairable. Most people left, 4 stayed and cleaned out drainages
 - Dana: They are applying for funding to replace the bridge.
- 9. Dec 15: Logout #3 BOG Oregon Side: Roberta
 - Roberta: Pigpen did magic at the mess. He is amazing sawyer to watch. Canavan was there.
 - Canavan: All the logs were twisted together.
 - Tyler: 3 layers deep of twisted logs across the trail.
 - Roberta: We worked until 2pm. Tyler and I got 13 more logs.
 - Tyler: One section we didn't know where the trail was because of all the trees down
- 10. Dec 30: Logout #4 BOG Oregon Side: Roberta
 - Roberta: This was the work party where we videoed the root wad. We didn't get all the logs. Did a lot of rigging and then getting that last tree out.
- 11. Jan 13: Today's Caretaker meeting

Future Events

Next Month:

1. Jan 16: Logout Teakettle (tentative): Tyler and Tim
2. Jan 23: Annual Celebration
3. Jan 25: VSI Recert
4. Jan 30: Logout near Triple Falls: Underbucker
5. Feb 10: Next caretaker meeting with pre-session on expense reporting

Beyond:

1. Estacada Saw Cert: April 2-3
2. Gorge Waterfalls 50K run: April 9, <http://www.rainshadowrunning.com/gorge-waterfalls-50k.html>
3. Trail Skills College: April 22, 23, 24
4. Wind River Saw Certs: April 29, 30, May 1
5. OSU Tree School: March 19, 2016
6. Dolly Chapman's XC Saw Sharpening Workshops: March 15-20 (2 workshops)
7. Get Outdoors Day: June 11
8. Mt Hood 50 running event: July 9-10, <https://gobeyondracing.com/races/mt-hood-50/>
9. Bunker to Bonneville 50K run: Sept 3, <http://www.cgrcb2b.com/>
10. Mountain Lakes 100 run: Sept 24-25, <https://gobeyondracing.com/races/mountain-lakes-100/>

Reports

Volunteer Coordinator: Tammy

- Even though it is winter, you keep coming up with stuff to send out. It is pretty easy to fill the crews, I think everyone has been inside long enough. I sent out David's crosscut saw thing and got 15 responses saying thanks for the info.

I'm hoping for the 23rd to get just as much excitement, maybe if we did an outside BBQ? Sending out another reminder. If we could serve alcohol we could get more people.

Partnership Crews

1. PCC Wilderness Lit: Ruth and Tyler to lead. Underbucker to help too.
2. Girl Scout group: Carole
3. Danner Boots: requesting March or April
 - o Erin Hutchison: I'm inquiring regarding an event we're planning (targeting March or April 2016), to highlight our work boot category. We'll be flying out media/editors that focus more specifically on this category. As part of their trip to Portland, we were hoping to spend a half day or so with the PCTA, doing a similar trail clean up to what our Danner group did.
 - Roberta: The date won't be our choice. They are bringing people that work for Danner to Portland and want to bring them out to the trail. It is the Work Division, anyone interested in leading a crew let me know. I got a free pair of boots out of the last Danner work party but not guaranteeing that.
 - Tyler: Possible. Probably a log out on Roberta's section.
 - Pace: Possible.
4. REI?
 - o They will want a weekday, no specific day. Not going to try for 30 people again. Will try for a group of 10. A lot of young energy with these people.
 - Kim: Hard to commit when there is no date.
 - Roberta: It makes it negotiable on our part.
 - Leif: I can do a weekday.
 - Tyler: I can do a weekday.
 - o Roberta: I would guess late spring, early summer.
 - o Chris K: Open to it in principle if it is in the summer, I can take the time off.
5. Outward Bound Sep 2-3-4, need a tread expert. Underbucker and Becky willing to help as well,
 - o Roberta: Would need someone to lead treadwork
 - o Dana: They would like to add a day to that, Sep 2-4. First course on thru hiking the PCT. They are doing 3 weeks in Oregon. Want to go Diamond Peak to Cascade Locks. They want to do service along the way. We picked these dates because we think they should be by Pinhead Butte. Our crew leaders can walk in every day.
 - John: Interested in helping.
 - Becky: Need an expert in treadwork.
 - Kim & Pam: interested
6. Roberta: Possibility of Apple and iCloud. Not sure if they are 2 separate organizations. I received 2 separate emails from separate people. That may be coming up. Don't know anything more.
7. Tammy: Montbell. They want to do a weekday, later in the spring. Not specific but very excited.
 - o Lamar: willing
- Roberta: No requests from youth groups yet.
 - o Dana: I will be talking about that in a month or two.
 - Tami: When we hear from FYS, I would love to do it again.
- Tyler: Planning a full weekend on our section with a Boy Scout Group. It is an older Scout group and some will be working on their Eagle Scout project. We may need some additional crew leaders.
 - o Kim: I will keep this in mind.

Dana:

- Will contact Outward Bound to let them know we have people interested in helping.
- Working on TSC courses, revamping old ones and getting news ones including training crew leaders to work with pack stock.
 - o Ed Halflinger volunteered to train crew leaders, not sure if he volunteered to write the course but... Looking for someone to take the lead to writing raw material. It would be great if we could teach this spring if I can find someone who really wants to roll with it.
 - o Jerry willing to help with that
- BOG: We have couple of good developments. The Port of Cascade Locks has a 10 year maintenance plan, in the past it has had no pedestrian plan. Last month they, after seeing the report we helped pay for, they agreed to bring that vision into their plan and are now actively championing this and looking for money for it. The biggest prospect is a big transportation bill provision that Walden helped put in. The Port people are trying to get all the transport needs of the whole Gorge into this. It is still decades in the making but we have traction.
- Skamania County Commissioners: The Gillette parcel was ready to close, the commissioners are against making private land public land. They seemed to want to block this sale to the Forest Service. We have 27 business in

Stevenson signed onto to the letter encouraging them to not block this. We did send out an email to PCTA People in that area to voice support to protect the PCT.

- Letter passed around.
- Parcel is 3 mile walk to trail head,
- Dana: We don't know for sure that they can block the sale but they have made it very difficult for it to move forward.
- Award Nominations
 - It is time to nominate fellow volunteers. So anyone that did awesome work, the deadline is coming.
 - Roberta: the 20th?
 - Dana: Did anyone get an email about this?
 - Roberta: Will forward it to the list
 - Dana: It tells what the awards are and who has won in the past. Check the list before you nominate. Great way to recognize the volunteers.
 - Kelley: Why did some peeps get the email and others didn't?
 - Dana: Good question. We will let Jen know.
- Call for projects?
 - Had a meeting with our 4 forests and they are putting in a joint ask for an additional Skyline crew.

Bill: no report

Budget: Kim

- For the first time, in a long time, we actually went over budget. It's a good thing, it means we used our supplies, tools are being used. Don't have the new budget yet.
- Roberta: Do we need to ask for more money for overnight crews?
 - Kim: We could ask. I'll send an email.
- Kim: About the radios and the consensus I got back. The most important things are ruggedness, simplicity, and reliability. Nothing else on the market was any better than the Vertecs (not commercial grade, can drop in a creek). We didn't buy any more radios, if we need more let me know (did pick up 2 for Dana). They were only a couple hundred bucks.
 - Roberta: I don't think we need any more.
 - Chris Kyle: If I want my own?
 - Kim: Give me the money and I'll buy it for you.
 - Chris: It would be more for stewarding.
 - Kim: I have my own.
- Thanks for bringing up the overnight thing. If you are planning, drop me an email with how many nights and I can roll it up and submit it to Sacramento.
 - Roberta: It is nice to support the overnight crew with something; breakfast, coffee, a snack. Even if you are doing self-supported, still provide them with something
 - Kim: I like to do snacks before, and drinks (cold sodas, Gatorades) for after.

Tools. Leif

- Make sure we have enough money for maintenance
- BOG Cache: There is a smaller bar on Mighty Mike.
 - Roberta: I asked for the saws to be named to keep track of them. The cute little one at my cache is Pixie.
- I'm getting the saws back up and running so we have more to use. Try to get most caches to have toolkits and toothbrushes to clean filters.
- We've got a lot of handles to work on sometime. Haven't figured out what we have that needs handles.
- Tool day in March – preferably a sunny day.
 - Dave: Are we adding 1 or 2 electric saws this year?
 - Leif: We have Pixie, but I haven't thought about electric saws. That's all new everything - chains, battery, files.
 - Steve: Have we found good orange paint?
 - Leif: Not yet. We may have to use liquid paint and dip them.
 - Tim: You can have custom cans filled with any type of paint you want and they will pressurize it.
 - Leif: We haven't had good success with spray
 - Dave: You can buy paint with rubber in it so it adds grip to the handle.
 - Leif: Will take on looking for paint and figuring out what handles we have
 - Kim is doing BOG Cache host, including check-out sheets
 - Pam: There are sheets there.
 - Tami: I printed out a bunch last spring.
 - Kim: I volunteered to help with the BOG cache but haven't been up there yet.
 - Leif: Has some notes to take up there re: skip chains.
 - Kim: We should tie the notes to the handles of the saw with skip chains

- Leif: The bars with skip chains will be up there in a cupboard
- Roberta: My cache is a mess. 5 boxes of hard hats that need to be split up to the other caches.
- Dana: BOG ones need a date check.
- Leif: Trying to get Jen to order news ones to replace the old ones.

Trail Skills College 2016: Tammy

- It is still happening (as far as I know). Meeting on Tuesday at Mazamas. We didn't meet in December. Cascade Locks, Marine Park will be the location. They are really conciliatory and want us to stay. They are bringing back the refrigerator.

Dana: I have an article I would like some help with for the Communicator with an April deadline: Anatomy of a Work Party. Thinking of list/checklist (Pace's). The article is meant to have wider audience so the readers can appreciate how much thought goes into this. Happy to collaborate on it. Come talk to me afterwards. It has an April deadline.

Saw Certification: David

- VSI Certification Jan 25 (Mon) at Wind River. This will be the last certification by Winston prior to retirement. He's promised us an easy walk and plenty of logs.
- Feb 1: after Winston's retirement. We will revert to forest certification: 2 days in 2 locations. They can't come up with one instructor to do both. They have sent an email to recruit for Winston replacement but are working slowly and will not have a replacement before he leaves.
 - Kim: Will there be a retirement ceremony?
 - Dave: I'm sure the Forest Service is doing something. Jennifer mentioned putting it into the blog. We will try to do something for him.
 - Pam: Maybe the VSIs would like to do something after?
- Dave: Registration for Estacada saw certification is open. Sending out a call for instructors. We will cover Dual certs and crosscut but no initial chainsaw or chainsaw only. We have 2 locations depending on the weather.
 - Leif: For caretakers, if you go through the initial safety talk, we can always recert in the field.
- Dave: Thinking of adding a separate classroom portion. You only need 1 instructor for 4-5 hours of classroom.
 - Roberta: Do you have you set this up?
 - Dave: Not yet. Any thoughts, let me know. We could do evening or weekend.
 - Roberta: We could get this REI room.
- Dave: Register for Estacada anytime, if we get another class before I will let you know.
- Shortly will schedule saw maintenance workshops, 1/2/3 days. Will send out calendar for open days. Sent in paperwork for tree school in March.
 - Tammy: Steve P had fun last year
 - Steve: Yeah. It would be nice to go some of the classes
 - Tammy: We just do a tabling event there.
- Roberta: There was a saw incident on Lamar's crew. I don't think there is a way around this but...we had a new volunteer (Pete) that wanted to be a crew leader. He has been pestering Tammy and me, said he was B certified. Finally admitted his card was expired. He went out with Lamar for some gabion work and Dawn brought a chainsaw because there was a tree down. Pete said he was certified and worked with the chainsaw, someone takes a pic and Pete wasn't even wearing chaps. Roberta was pissed, Lamar was pissed because this guy said he was certified. Don't have a way of catching this stuff. Lamar said his gut said don't do it. They guy had the chaps but didn't put them on. He said he is coming to saw certifications.
 - Kim: Part of saw certification is learning how to do it the Forest Service way.
 - Roberta: We have to toe the line and wear the chaps. At any rate if (as crew leader) your gut says don't go forward, follow your gut.
 - Dave: Every project that uses saws has a saw lead and it is their responsibility to make sure everyone using a saw is certified.
 - Dana: Have you talked to Dawn about this?
- Leif: Who has jurisdiction if you are working with the Forest Service and they are breaking the rules?
 - Roberta: I don't care, everyone sawing with a chainsaw has to be wearing chaps.
 - Dana: If that picture got out, it could jeopardize our program.

Training and Safety: Open

Discussion Items

- Next up: Annual Celebration.
 - 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.

- I really wish I had someone to be coordinator. This feels like least organized one. She's going to talk about historic structures in Mt Hood Forest. About 30min. We are starting at noon due to error in sending out announcements. Still going to start the talk at one. So we'll just set up 1130 to 12. Start Roberta at 1, hers at 2. We are done at 3 and out by 4.
 - Kelley: Want us to be there when?
 - Roberta: Set up at 1130. Ruth has goodies organized.
 - Ruth: Yep
 - Roberta: I have no idea what the awards will be. No response to her email inquiries.
 - Roberta: Anyone not get their forest pass?
 - Summer, Pace, Tami, Marijke, Ruth, Steve Q
- Challenges List: running out of time, not going to talk too much
 - A) Administrative Process needs improvement
 - Jen and Ellen will send out survey, hopefully to all of us, to tweak the process. Roberta was clearly unhappy at the meeting.
 - Roberta: We need a person who you can tell you did your trail, how many logs, who you went with and then they can fill out the forms.
 - In light of that. We have a piece of paper to help you with the paperwork. This is a cheat sheet to help fill out project form. (Passed out). They dropped requirement to include ages and ethnicity of each volunteers. They added a line of miles of logged out so it will be separate from maintained or tread work.
 - Chris Kyle: Log out miles is what you have to hike to get the logs?
 - Roberta: Yes

The rest we will leave for next time.

- B) Improve the Satisfaction Percentage (compared to admin, rules, training, certification, or other annoying tasks)
- C) Leadership Expansion (VSI, Caretaker, Crew Leader)
- D) Volunteer Base: keep who we have, get new
- E) Recruitment Issues: intimidation factor, timeliness, location, etc.
- F) Maintain the trail to standard: equestrian access, getting equestrians off their mounts to do tread work (and at the leadership meeting, knowing what the standard is)
- G) Workload on Tammy and Roberta

Announcements/Reminders

- Kim O plans to conduct a reimbursement process training – pre-caretaker meeting in February.
 - 615pm
- 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.

Round the Room

- Freefall (Chris Sanderson): On January 30, ALDHA-West, Swami coming to talk. He hiked 18000 miles in 12 months. Very entertaining speaker. Good redneck stories from the Appalachian Trail. 7pm at Mazamas.
- Tammy: May 28 – Jun 4 going to Tuscany. Going to walk up and down and drink a lot of wine. It may get extended before or after depending on her friend. Something a little easier than Kilimanjaro – eating drinking, walking
- Underbucker: Covered everything
- Ron: New Year's Day we had 2000 people up at Multnomah Falls. The road was backed up to Wahkeena. This week there is a group of 200 from New York. Have a lot of ice on the trails so you can't go so far.
- Ruth: Got to see part of my trail, snowshoeing. Found a few assurance markers but they are worn out. After 25 years at the same job, I have a new job starting Monday. It will be Mon-Fri at Providence Elder Place.
- Steve P: Will bring sound stuff
- Tim L: Sara and Tim are selling their house. It is outside Oregon City, 3 bedroom. 1 acre with a little hanger. Moving to more land. Across from Port Blakley
- Kim: Bill helped Kim get a water tank so he could have the get together last year at their house.
- John: Still driving a bus. It's called wine money.

- Steve Q: As soon as Christmas was over he was deep into PCT Hike planning. Have a couple people to help him with food. Talking about doing an email list transfer, have a good idea, I think. Dana thinks. Will make it easier for everyone.
- Nate: Waiting to see the section he is tentative caretaking for. It is currently under 4 feet of snow
- Tami: Every time I think of going out, it is below freezing, water is running everywhere. Going to try again in March.
- Chris Kyle: Bill Canavan was on very first work crew he was on. Probably the very first person he met. Have a feeling that as bad as he thought the trail was last year, it is going to be worse this year.
- Pam: It is pretty snowy, we can snowshoe from the house.
- Canavan: I don't have section yet. This year he is hiking across Scotland, half is bushwhack. Going mid-May to Mid-June
 - Roberta: Are you interested in Big Huck? Mt Adams?
 - Canavan: Whatever one needs the most help
 - Roberta: We can talk. You get to pick.
- Tim: When I grow up I want to be Canavan.
- Pace: Had stay home, so finished saw vice. Now I have to remember everything I learned from Underbucker 2 years ago so I can work on some of my saws.
- Liz: Just crazy busy with real estate. If you are thinking of selling call me. But have a plan of where you want to move because you will be homeless.
- Tyler: Just came back from, Dana gave me a sign order for 40 signs. Liz couldn't help so only got 30 of them got routed and burned. They are at the house so he can do the wilderness scallops and sanding. Planning another trip for March and Bill gave him a list of 26 more signs. Can we say "Pacific Crest Trail No 2000" in two lines? Doing 2 lines make it a sturdier sign that will last longer.
 - Roberta: Check with Dana
- Leif: We probably have some sections near Marijke without caretakers
 - Marijke: I have Panther Creek work center up to the next section, all of Tom's section.
 - Leif: It is probably hammered. We have used it for saw training.
 - Roberta: Maybe cut it to get a trail though and the class can do the clean up on the sides
- Marijke: Yesterday, I picked the worst day to be out. Hiked 2 mile section, in 1.5 miles, 22 trees down. The campground has a massive tangle. It's a mess. We bought house, in Underwood and moved in 2 weeks ago. Panther Creek is still the closest access to PCT. So it makes sense to keep it. Started a new job yesterday – at Trout Lake for Mt Adams Institute as Program Coordinator. Mt Adams Institute overseas the Forest Youth Success program. This is her dream job.
- Kelley: My section is hammered. Wondering if we need to discuss triage at this point. A lot of manpower and time to get it back. There are so many dangerous hanging logs, I'm not sure if we should be doing it.
 - Kim: That's what we teach you, to know if it's a go or no go.
 - Kelly: There is a ton of snow up higher but not on her section. There are a lot of people still using her section.
 - Leif: One option is to send the saws through but leave everything and then use a corporate group to go in and clean up.
 - Kelley: Tami did you ever get the email about scouting your section? And 40+ logs down? All the bridge was dismantled and all the supplies were left off trail. Nails sticking out and everything. Bill never responded
 - Roberta: Can we make it better?
- Summer: Hubby is unpacking his technology treasure chest.
- Roberta: Just got logs. Remember when I had 300+ on Jerry's section (back when it was mine)?