

Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA Caretaker Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2017

Location: REI Clackamas

Notes by Summer

Welcome

- Welcome:
 - Rob Heyman: I'm considering taking Rushing Water section. So I'm here so everyone can twist my arm and encourage me.
 - Roberta: There is a brushing issue there.
 - Vanessa – facebook poster, social media servant.
 - John Hoffnagle: I had so much fun at the work party in the fall. I volunteer and am on the board for the PCTA. We are doing the strategic plan for the next 5 years. The Mt Hood Chapter is being talked up so much for how you are doing the sectioned ownership and it is the way of the future.
- Absent: Kelley (HI), Freefall (FLA, then Hike the Hill), Kim and Pam, Dana (snowed in)
- Attended: Leif, Tyler, Liz, Tami, Rob Heyman, Pace, Rick, Jerry, Tim, John H, Little Brown, Worm, OG, Vanessa, Ron, Ruth, Tammy, Summer, Underbucker, Gentleman Bob, Jane, Steve P, Becky, Chris K, Roberta (25 people)

Breaking News

- Becky's Section Split:
 - Southern: Jude Lake to road at base of South Pinhead Butte - 7.5 miles. Becky
 - Pinhead Buttes: South Pinhead Butte to Warm Springs River - 7.75 miles. Open, but "fostered" by Becky and David.
 - Roberta: This should preferably go to a hiker. Becky will foster until a new owner is found.
 - Northern: Warm Springs River to Joe Graham - 8.75 miles. Tim and Sara, maybe with TR BCHO
 - Tim: One way or another we are taking it. Either us or with BCHO. Have you talked to Pace about passing the Sandy River Trail off to him?
 - Roberta: No. I forgot.
 - Tim: We'd like to help Pace get the reroute done before we hand it off.
 - Pace: Ok.
- Justin has stepped down from the caretaker group, due to moving to North Plains, work, and new baby.
 - Roberta: Teakettle section is now open and vacant.
- Hilary considering Benson Plateau as her section
 - Roberta: Hilary is a co-crew leader with Worm and wants her own section.
- Rob Heyman wants the Rushing Water section

Accomplishment Summary/Statistics

As always, thank you to Pace for doing this analysis.

2016 Calendar Year: We ended up with 7% increase in total hours for the calendar year. Number of crews increased 10% with 21% more time on the trails, and almost doubled feet of rehab. Through October total hours were 11.4% ahead of 2015, but fewer crews in Nov and Dec due to the weather lowered the year end numbers.

Mount Hood Chapter Stats - 2016 Calendar Year Totals					
	CY		CY		
	Total		Total		
	2016		2015	Change	% Chg
Total Volunteer Hours	18,381		17,154	1,227	7.2%
Specialized hours	3,063		1,090	1,973	181.0%
Number of Trail Crews	129		117	12	10.3%
Miles Logged out	267		n/a		

Miles Maintained	69	262		
Miles Logged & Maintained	336	262	74	28.4%
Feet of Rehab/Recon	23,254	12,094	11,160	92.3%
Volunteer hours by Category				
Trail Maint - crews & scouting	10,588	8,752	1,836	21.0%
Trail Maint - support	3,572	3,947	-375	-9.5%
Trail Skills Training	3,923	4,024	-101	-2.5%
Outreach Events	299	432	-133	-30.9%
	18,381	17,154		

- Roberta: We did 129 crews last year. Which is incredible!

Mount Hood Chapter Stats - Jan 2017			
	Jan		Jan
	2017		2016
Total Volunteer Hours	147.00		832.50
Specialized hours	0.00		150.00
Number of Trail Crews	0		3
Miles Logged out	0.00		4.25
Miles Maintained	0.00		2.50
Feet of Rehab/Recon	0		30
Volunteer hours by Category			
Trail Maint - crews & scouting	0.00		213.25
Trail Maint - support	147.00		477.25
Trail Skills Training	0.00		138.50
Outreach Events	0.00		3.50
	147.00		832.50

- Roberta: Our only hours for January are the annual meeting.
 - Tami: We've been resting.

Past Events

Crews and Events since last caretaker meeting:

1. Jan 21 Annual Celebration

- Robin Rose says we can use the new conference room at the Ft Vancouver offices. I visited and it has integrated sound and projector, room for about 80 people, space in the lobby for food, pictures, chatting.
- Leif: It was a great presentation.
- Liz: I thought he (Steve) should have had more time.
- Steve Q: I was very stressed out. I was happy to have it in the rearview mirror.
- Gentleman Bob: It was great.
- Jane: You had good news coverage.
 - Roberta: I sent out the link
 - Ron: The newspaper doesn't put anything in it anymore but the Gresham one did. It was nice that they sent someone out.
- Roberta: We were told the Sandy place is gone next year.
 - Dave: They will probably move to Estacada.
 - Roberta: They already have a presence in Zig Zag and they want a presence on all of the highways going in to the Forest.

- Ron: It was nice, you get to see the Forest Service people as they always show up.
2. **Feb 8: Today's caretaker meeting**

Future Events

Next Month: See calendar on website. Changes are frequent.

Next meeting: Mar 8

Beyond:

1. Dolly Chapman has scheduled her fall and winter crosscut saw sharpening classes:
 - a. March 21-March 23, 2017: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dolly-chapmans-crosscut-saw-sharpening-course-32117-32317-tickets-28056967144>
 - b. March 24-March 26: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dolly-chapmans-crosscut-saw-sharpening-course-32432617-tickets-28057506758>
2. March 25: OSU Tree School
3. April 9: Gorge Waterfalls Run, <http://www.rainshadowrunning.com/gorge-waterfalls-50k.html>
4. July 8-9: Mt Hood 50 Run, <https://gobeyondracing.com/races/mt-hood-50/>
5. Sep 15-21: Sasquatch Crew: Riley Creek Project,
6. Sept 23-24: Mountain Lakes 100 Run , <https://gobeyondracing.com/races/mountain-lakes-100/>
7. April 6-9: Estacada Crosscut Saw Training and Certification
8. April 28-30: Columbia Cascades Trail Skills College
9. May 4-7: West Cascades Trail Skills College (formerly Westfir)
10. May 5-7: Wind River Saw Training
11. May 19-21: North Cascades Trail Skills College
12. June 1-4: Allingham Trail Skills College
13. June 9-11: Big Bend Trail Skills College
14. July 21-23: Tahoe Trail Skills College

Reports

Volunteer Coordinator: Tammy

- Tammy: We continue going forward. I keep getting people writing and asking to be out on the volunteer list. A couple of people are asking when we are we going out. I tell them when the weather gets nice. I'm fine being coordinator.
- Ron: I give a lot of cards out at the falls to the all the new people that are moving here. There is nowhere in the gorge to hike, it's all packed down and iced.

Partnership Crews: Jayme

Upcoming and New:

- Worm: Liz is starting her recruitments and I'm starting mine for NSM. Leif is coordinating with Liz.
 - Roberta: AMC. I'd like to see someone take a Monday for AMC. The location is by Bunker Hill. Anybody willing to do a work party? I'll talk to Marijke to see if she is interested. Maybe Tami would like to lead one?
 - Tami: Do you want me to get a hold of Meredith at Apple to get that started a little earlier this year?
 - Worm: Yeah. That would be good.
 - Tami: They've been really great crews.
 - Roberta: AMC is a weeklong vacation and we will have a work party, one day, on a Monday. So every week will be a new group. Same leaders but new campers.
 - Tami: Let me look at my schedule.
 - Roberta: As far as NSM. We have April, May, June, 2 in July, 2 in August, 2 in September, and 1 in October. So 7 months and 10 projects. Mondays or Tuesdays are good for them
 - Worm: I will have a couple of crews coming out of my store but I have to see Lolo Pass before I plan anything.
 - Pace: I can take some NSM on Muddy Fork but can't plan the work until later.
 - Roberta: I can take NSM in The Gorge in April.
 - Leif: April and May NSM will have to be in The Gorge as we won't get up higher.
 - Worm: I've been telling my store its likely July until we can get out.
 - Pace: I can get out to Ramona Falls.
 - Tami: Marijke and I can get out in April and May
 - Roberta: Wilson high school?
 - Tami: I think its dead. I tried contacting him and setting meetings but it fell apart.
 - Roberta: If he does contact again we'll decline.
1. **Wilderness Lit Class (PCC):** Primary date Feb 18, 2017. Backup dates for weather Feb 25, Mar 4. All are Saturdays. Ruth to lead, Roberta assist.

2. **Wilderness Stewards**, possibly April/May timeframe after their training. Chris K will lead.
3. **Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC)**: They have 4 week-long trips planned where adults can vacation and go on hikes, raft trips, etc. Dates are July 15 through August 12. They want one work party each trip, preferably Mondays. In 2015 they were in central Oregon section and worked with Dana and Bill Carpenter. Dana says the work parties were successful. This year they will be camped near Bunker Hill. Looking for projects and crew leaders.
4. **New Seasons Market**: Wants 7-10 projects. Per Liz: Wants to know if the project is a hard limit of 10 or can be more; wants to know ease of hike, work, and special considerations like steep drop-off (fear of heights), etc. Other than these dates, all Mondays/Tuesdays are fair game. Here are the weeks we need to avoid, especially for Tuesday projects as we do inventory on Tuesday/Wednesday these weeks, or it's a holiday week:
 - a. April – no projects Tuesday 4/26
 - b. May – no projects Tuesday 5/23, Monday 5/29 & Tuesday 5/30
 - c. June – no projects Mon 6/19 , Tues 6/20
 - d. July - no projects Monday 7/3, Tuesday 7/4 & Tuesday July 18
 - e. August – no projects Tuesday 8/15
 - f. September – no projects Monday 9/4, Tuesday 9/5, Monday 9/11 & Tuesday 9/12
 - g. October - no projects Tuesday 10/10
5. **National Wildlife Federation**: They declined.

Dana: we might get 6 months before we move the bog cache.

- Roberta: She's still looking at options. She was wondering if Kim could schedule a tool day at the BOG cache. Kim is snowed in right now.
- Rob Heyman: ODOT has 2 lots at Cascade Locks that I can work on. One's by the fire station. My only concern, the cache is there at the Toll Shed at the bridge where it is supervised and at the other places might not be supervised and who knows where the tools might wind up.
- Tyler: How about somewhere down by the brewery cause we're there anyway.
- Steve: It's Dana's cache but the way we are talking about it, it sounds like it is ours. If it is why don't we consolidate with Wind River anyway?
 - Roberta: For people on the Washington side, would you pay a toll to cross and get tools and then pay the toll to get back?
- Roberta: Wind River is good to stay. As far as I know, Wind River is solid. Trout Lake is solid. But the BOG toll shed is going away.

Bill: No news.

Budget: Kim.

- 2016 numbers: Budget \$3,306 Actual \$3,238 Balance \$68
- No word on 2017 budget, expect about the same
- Please start thinking about anticipated work party expenditures, let Kim know
- Roberta: We got the Big Agnes tent. Dana has it. It's a lot lighter than the octagonal tent.
- Little brown: We used the little one that was taped together. A hoop one.

Radios: order more? Need to know by this weekend, because purchase will be bundled with other PCTA regions. \$250 each

- Dave: I asked him for a replacement one. We didn't lose it, it died. It can't be repaired.
 - Roberta: You'll have it programed for the south right?
 - Dave: All the new ones will be programmed for all frequencies.
- Leif: Email Kim if you want one. They are being ordered through Sacramento.
- Roberta: If you are going way north or way south, make sure you have the right radio that will work on those frequencies.
- Jerry, Steve P expressed interest

Tools: Leif

- Leif: Tool day. Plan for Feb 26, Sunday. For the Portland cache. I'll send out an email.
- Roberta: Normally start at 8am and done about 1pm. I'll send out an email to see who can come. We generally take everything out of my garage, well PCTA stuff, we clean up and sharpen tools and then put everything back. I have a cardboard box to spray with.
 - Leif: I have sheet plastic to prevent overspray.
- Pace: I saw online that the new Katanaboy has a blade 6 inches longer (26"). So if you want to get a new tool. It retails about 300 bucks.
- Roberta: What about the bucking thing you had Pace?
 - Pace: A timber jack?

- Roberta: For the amount of time we do demonstrations, is it worth getting one?
 - Pace: I got mine at a garage sale. I can keep bringing mine.

Trail Skills College Apr 28-30 2017: Tammy

- Tammy: As far as I know it is still happening. We have a meeting on Tuesday. Because I pick good dates; we had Election Day, storm Tuesday last month and Feb 14 this month. Registration closes on April 9 or 10. If there are exceptional volunteers that you would like to be added to pre-registration, talk to me and I can add them. Things are going about as well as usual.
- **Pre-Registration - March 10**
Open to instructors and volunteers with at least 3 days of volunteering in 2016
Qualifying individuals will receive an invitation to register
- **Open Registration - March 27**
Registration opens for the general public

Saw Certification: David

- David: The registration is already open for Estacada Saw Certification. It is crosscut only and dual re-cert. There are 2 sessions: Thursday/Friday April 6 & 7; Saturday/Sunday April 8&9. There is a lot of changes this year because of the National Saw Policy. Giving A, B, C cards this year. All cards will be good for 3 years. We will be keeping the PCTA evaluation form because that is allowed under the new policy. Will be using PCTA JHA for the first time that are trail wide. New JHAs from Mexico to Canada for crosscut (Dave drafting), chainsaw (Leif drafting) and felling. We will have our own JHAs this year.
- Roberta: Will you have to fill both JHAs, one for trail work and one for crosscut?
 - Dave: Yes. Jennifer was adamant about that.
- Dave: We will have 5 instructors: Dave, Leif, Jerry plus 2 Forest Service instructors there. Which is great. Aaron Peterson is going. Tom will be there. He is a super crosscut sawyer. We will have a lot of talent there. Any questions let me know.
- Little Brown: Not due to be recertified until 2018. Is there enough changes to justify going?
 - Dave: If you are available, it's not a bad idea to go and get it over with.
- Dave: The US Forest Service will again have their annual conference for all regional saw leads. 3rd year in a row they are inviting some cooperators. They rotate where the meetings are. It's been in Florida, Washington, New Mexico and this year in California. It is the last week in March. Jenifer, and myself will be attending. Leif may. We have max 3 slots for this. The conference has 2 tracks: chainsaw and traditional tools. We send at least 2 people so we can attend both tracks. PCTA will be submitting our new saw policy. I think some Back Country Horsemen will be there. We will also be discussing the new training guide.
 - Jerry: They made us take the S2-12 out of our policy.
 - Dave: The training is being rewritten from the ground up. If you have any input on those things let me know. I don't have anything else. Kim normally talks about Wind River.
 - Leif: It's the week after Estacada, we have the bunk house and the training room reserved.
- Dave: If you really want to get out of the area Big Bend recertification is in June this year. Big bend is really cool, a really nice place to camp there. And nice trails.

Training and Safety: Open

Dana let us know that signal mirrors are a new requirement in your First Aid Kits.

- Ruth: Thanks to an incident on the trail, we all have to have signal mirrors in the first aid kits. Someone broke their ankle and the helicopter had problems finding them.
- Roberta: There is a lot of videos online on how to use them. Ruth found some light weight signal mirrors.

Discussion Items

- March 1 REI Recruitment
 - Spread the word. As of Tues night, there were 17 spots left (of 40). Pretty good so far!
 - Attending: Roberta, Carole, Kelley, Hilary, Tammy, Ruth, Pace, Tyler (if needed)
 - Roberta – right here, in this room.
 - Roberta – thinking of a short power point. Talk about what we do. A little bit more on each role and thought we would take questions
 - New guide – trying to recruit for volunteers?
 - Roberta – more for tabling events, camp tenders, crew leaders and caretakers. We have more request for work than we have crew leaders.
- Some orphan projects discussed in the November meeting: We'll skip this as everything is under snow.
 - Stairs at Wahtum Express (Busdriver John declined to lead)
 - 7 ½ mile camp decommissioning project (Little Brown started but got rained out)
 - Tread at Tunnel Falls

- On the PCT, Roaring River section, about 1 mile northbound from Paradise Park Loop and 2 ½ miles uphill (southbound) from Sandy River crossing, there's a cliffy overlook and people are getting lost. Think that a good brushing would fix the getting lost issue. Chris K. willing to work with the Wilderness Stewards,
- Top Spur feeder trail: we got the go-ahead to adjust the trail around the tree roots causing water issues and also can plan to fill near the trailhead with gravel (they are planning to add gravel to the road, and they also have access to "free" gravel): Pace took on the tree root remediation. Can do the gravel with a partnership crew.
- Mt Hood NF requests help outside our usual turf. Anyone interested?
 - Hidden Lake Trail, serious drainage issues near top where it joins PCT (Ruth, Chris)
 - Old Salmon River Trail, general maintenance and stair reconstruction (Roberta)
 - Hunchback Mtn Trail, logout, but about 5 mile strenuous hike to get to the logs; difficult logs (Little Brown scouted). Newer news is that Rachel really wants help hauling water for a crew
 - Cool Creek Trail, drainages
- Metlako Viewpoint (off of Eagle Creek Trail) has slipped into Eagle Creek Canyon.
- Tish Creek Bridge project in process. Hazard trees removed Jan 5. Edan and Dawn met with the helicopter company. Hoping for completion by March 1.

Announcements/Reminders

- 9 Vacancies: 1) Mt. Adams-North; 2) Indian Heaven South; 3) 3-Corner Rock south; 4) Teakettle Springs (PCT); 5) Upper Eagle Creek; 6) Middle Eagle Creek; 7) Lower Eagle Creek; 8) Indian Springs Trail; 9) Pinhead Buttes (fostered by Becky/Underbucker)
- Reserved: Benson Plateau (Hilary); Rushing Water (Hey Man);
- **Columbia Dispatch:** Dispatch changed on Oct 15: 7:30a to 4:30p, M-F. Outside of these hours you still need to create a TCP, and must have an alternate dispatcher.
- **NW Forest Passes were mailed.** You should have them by now. If not, let me know.

Round the Room

- Steve P: In May I'm not in country. It is prime time to my section but if we do get in in April I may be enlisting help in May while I'm gone and then I'll do the rest in June. I try to get my section done before the Mt Hood 50 in July. Putting that out there. Don't know if I need it. I'll be in England.
- Jane: We've got a couple clumps of snow around our house. Hope to get up to my little mile by July or so. It's just happy tucked up there under 10 feet of snow.
- Bob: Probably a good year to do high brushing. I'll be recruiting a crew that is good on cross country skis. I've normally been optimistic, I would realistically getting up to the shoulder in August.
 - Jane: Our snow shoes are in our Government Camp cabin and we can't get in without a heck of a lot of work.
- Dave: 2 things. I'll continue to help Pinhead Butte section until it gets a new owner and that the highest of the three sections that Becky has been maintaining is 5100 feet. This year if you are thinking of doing the Pinheads, it will be a mid-July kind of a thing
 - Tami: Can you believe we got in in May last year?
 - Dave: There is a huge amount of snow. That section is mostly up to date on maintenance. This year will need a little more drainage work.
- Dave: Now we have social media guru, will we do some of the recruiting for work crews on social media?
 - Roberta: We tried it on a couple of crews but it failed. We can always do both, mail chimp and Facebook.
 - Vanessa: It's not a big deal for me to put it out there.
- Summer: I'm out of a cast. Rebroke my foot. The story is that I was chasing deer in Japan.
- Tammy: I'm really not happy about the rain. It could stop now. The snow can stop too.
- Ruth: I'm with Tammy. My feet have been cold all day.
- Chris K: I was actually going to go skiing in January. There is 32 feet of snow on Palmer. They are going with feet and not inches as there is so much snow. Palmer is equivalent to Paradise.
 - Roberta: That means you have 32 feet on your sections.
- Chris K: It is possible my trail won't clear this year and it's not done. We will have a short window this year.
- Leif: Heavy snow is good. We haven't had too much wind up on Mt Hood.
- Ron: Back in the 90s we had snow at Lolo Pass until the first of June and we have the same type of snow this year. Up at the Mult. Falls Lodge, they didn't sweep any snow until it was icy so they had to pull out the torch. They had some ice on the roof and they took a pick to it and made a hole and punctured into the fire suppression system. Hal White, long time volunteer, passed away.

- Vanessa: Introduced herself. Any questions on sun exposure, I can answer. Live like me and you'll live longer. You won't see me out on the trail.
- Steve Q: Glad I hiked the trail last year. Dave Fleichman is a trail gorilla in southern California. He and I hiked the PCT last year having hiked it many years before and we both wrote articles for the Communicator. I plan on going to ALDHA-West Ruck as a panel member and the ruck in Northern California to do a slide show. I had a really tough time with reentry. But I'm feeling much better now. It was really hard. I was surprised at how hard this one was.
- Becky: I need to know if anyone belongs to TKO. I just came from an OR-TEC meeting. In April there is a meeting in Newburg and we want to connect with all types of trail groups in the area. I need to connect with some of those people.
 - Roberta: Curtis Smith is probably the best person.
- Becky: I have vet wrap for everyone's first aid kit. Wilco has them on sale for \$1.
- Worm: We started getting donations in for TSC. New Seasons, Stumptown Coffee (15lbs instead of 10), Yerba Mate, Trail Butter. Won't know from anyone else until April. I don't have a car. I will need help picking up donations. Coffee pick up is Monday before TSC.
- Little Brown: First, it's been so wet, I've been volunteering with habitat for humanity. I don't know if I've been wetter but I had a lot of fun. My son is getting married on the 18th. 54 people at my house. I'm curious to see how that will all work. Sky Lakes asked for help, will it come up again this year?
 - Leif: I talked with Ian before Christmas. But we haven't connected back up. It's a days' worth of work to get to the trail if you have to clear anything going in.
- John H: Good news, I got to hike the trail last year with my kids. I'm holding fire until August 1 then hoping to get out this year. No one told me about reentry but it almost did me in. I'm going to somehow approach it differently this year. I'm eager to start projects this year and maybe take a section next year
- Tim L: I'm working on turning a Christmas tree field to a hay field.
- Jerry: David makes underbuckers. I do lots of crosscut stuff and got one of these from David finally.
- Rick: Sorry I missed the last meeting. Between family stuff, I haven't been around much. I did go to the protest. I went to support my girls. I had a great time and the signs were hilarious. It was pretty good for that.
- Pace: I got a lot of limbs down on my property. Good practice for the trail.
- Rob Heyman: Kind of getting recruited in to this. I work for ODOT, I'm an engineer. I know how to build roads and bridges. When you apply it to the trail, it's just miniaturized. I know how to build drainage pretty well. If you guys have any questions we can talk about it. I'm looking forward to getting up to your guys' par and I think it will be a little bit of a learning curve but I'm sure it can be done.
 - Roberta: You've been on a bunch work crews, it will be fine.
- Rob Heyman: In the summer I'm really busy with the highways. But it sounds like we will be doing everything in October this year. I'm a little nervous about this section and the snow level.
- Tami: I have a dog that is going crazy with all this weather. I can't wait to get out on my section. I got on my section in late April last year. I'm not even going to try the top road this year.
- Liz: I'm looking forward to spring. I'm tired of being cold. Just that's it. Taking care of our sick doggy, she has heart disease. We are thinking about getting her a friend, a puppy friend.
- Tyler: I got a couple things. I pulled my Achilles tendon last August. After 3 or 4 details with the Red Cross I kept getting it pulled. In December I did something about it. I've been in a boot. It is getting better. On Monday I'm heading to Section B in California to do some hiking. It's really cool. I called my friend in California to do trail work with, it depends on if I get over the Siskiyou's and to Palm Springs by Wednesday, he said we couldn't do trail work in the rain. I thought that was cute. And I'll tell him when I get there, we don't do trail work in the rain, it's normally pouring or snow or sleet.
- Leif: Jen was up so Dave and I got to catch up on saw stuff. Judging by the snow and stuff in the forest, I don't think it will be too bad for us here. But we'll wait until things melt up to see how bad The Gorge is.
- Roberta: Hoping to scout my section this weekend. We have the PCC crew, think they will pull branches off and do some cleaning of the trail. I saw a picture of Eagle Creek and that little bridge we built is full of boulders. I'm concerned if it will hold. The handrail on the outside is capturing the rocks. I learned how to sharpen 2 saws and it passed David's test. We have a ribbon saw that is nice. Whisky River is a 5 foot saw that might stay in my cache but might go somewhere. (Jane: I named it, it goes to Trout Lake) And those of you that signed up for Glacier Creek Wilderness Crew, having a skype meeting next week. Stay tuned for news on that. Thank you all for coming tonight. If you want some bags from the awards to take to your crews come and get them.