

# Mount Hood Chapter, PCTA Caretaker Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2018

Location: Clackamas REI

Notes: Summer

## Welcome

- Absent: Tim and Sara (Christmas tree planting), Lamar (Death Valley), Rosemary (Vacation), Leif (South Carolina), Dana.
- Attended: Pace, Bill, Roberta, Kelley, Carole, Ron, HeyMan, Terry, JohnH, Frank, Chris, Diane, Chuck, Kim, Pam, SteveP, Summer, SteveQ, Hillary, Underbucker, Chris, Tami, Brooke, Tammy, JohnV, Ruth, Becky.
- Welcome:
- *Ruth* – Today is Underbucker's birthday so I brought a cake. It is also Scott Weaver and Sara Lagasse's birthdays.
- *Tammy* – It is also Pi day so I brought mini Marionberry pies.
- *Steve* – Passed around roster to verify last week's updates. Ron's emails are bouncing.

## Past Events

Crews and Events since last caretaker meeting:

- 1. Feb 15: Burn Area Trail Work #6: Pace, Little Brown**
  - *Pace* – We worked on switch backs just before Herman Creek bridge junction.
  - *Roberta* – It looks great.
- 2. Feb 15: Intro to Trail Logout for Prospective Crosscut Sawyers: Underbucker**
  - *Underbucker* – It was a good turnout.
- 3. Feb 15: Looking Beyond the Ashes: Oregon State Parks**
  - *Terry* – Tabling event at Edgefield with Friends of the Gorge. We filled up 3 pages of volunteers. Three hours; Tammy will submit hours.
- 4. Feb 17: Basic Trail Maintenance, Fort Rains: Little Brown and HeyMan**
  - *Little Brown* – We finished work on that section for this year. Cleaned a ditch, a couple culverts, fixed some tread work.
- 5. Feb 18: Wind River Scouting: Underbucker and Tami**
  - *Underbucker* – That went just fine. The difference between last year and this year is outstanding. It took many, many work parties to clear it out last year. This year we had 1 big log, about 44 inches, and 8 or 9 smaller logs in the whole section. It is a dramatic change.
- 6. Feb 21: Cancelled (weather) Burn Area Trail Work: Kelley and HeyMan**
- 7. Feb 23: Cancelled (snow) Logout: Underbucker**
- 8. Feb 23: Cancelled (snow): 201 Drainage class: Pace**
- 9. Feb 24: ALDHA - West Ruck at Cascade Locks: Terry**
  - *Terry* – I did that. It was a big group, over 100. A lot of great conversations. We filled up 6 or 7 pages. They were very enthused with helping with the trails. It is a very fun event with super quality people. Everyone in that room is extraordinary hikers. I hope to do it again.
  - *SteveQ* – Panelist on the gear panel.
- 10. Feb 24: Scouting Gillette Lake area: Roberta**
  - *Roberta* – This was in advance of a cancelled PCC crew.
- 11. Feb 27: GTRT 400 Trail: Roberta and Pace**
  - *Pace* – We went in from Moody and made it almost to the finish. Cleared out a bunch of rocks and debris
  - *Roberta* – There is one spot above I-84 where some rocks went down. Eden will have to talk to ODOT to take care of this. Little Brown found a treasure for Carole; a tea cup buried on the trail.
  - *Carole* – Exquisite!
- 12. Mar 1: GTRT, Trail 400: Little Brown and Pace**
  - *Little Brown* – When we cleared up Carole's section, we logged out the rest of Carole's section. Except the big log Underbucker got later.
  - *Pace* – We went down towards the hatchery and worked back.
- 13. Mar 3: Cancelled: PCC Wilderness Lit class: Roberta**
  - *Roberta* – Cancelled due to lack of enrollment.

#### **14. Mar 4: Basic Tread Maintenance, Gillette Lake: Little Brown**

- *Little Brown* – 16 people on the crew. We cleaned up the campground. One log. Did aggressive brushing in the burn area.

#### **15. Mar 6: GTRT XC Logout: Roberta and Little Brown**

- *Roberta* – With Underbucker. We cleared 9 logs and assessed the big one. Especially the one I call Griz, because it's a bear. We turned around because of snow.

#### **16. Mar 7: GTRT: Little Brown and Pace, Central Gorge**

- *Pace* – Worked on Wahkeena trail. Eden wanted us to clear rocks. The Park Service came in afterward to clear the logs.
- *Little Brown* – We closed the Old Highway with spotters. We were pushing rocks off the trail.
- *Roberta* – The North Cascade Parks sawyers came and cleared the hazard trees. They spent 8 days down here.

#### **17. Mar 9: 100 Intro to Trail Maintenance: Roberta**

- *Roberta* – That one was at the Mazamas meeting room. Nobody was there to let us in. The phone number went to an answering machine. Finally, someone else came to work and let us in. We were in the upstairs room. 22 of 25 came. It was a really engaged group.

#### **18. Mar 9: GTRT Logout 400 Trail and PCT South of Moody: Underbucker**

- *Underbucker* – We started at Eagle Creek hatchery and went east on 400. There were 2 logs within 1/2 mile of the hatchery. Leif lent us his new big saw. One log was 48 inches. We did get it out, but it took us a long time. Then we got to Moody Street late after lunch and started logging out the PCT northbound from Moody Street. The logs were 36 to 40-inch range. We got about 1/2 mile up the trail before we ran out of time. Next time we can go in with slightly smaller equipment.

#### **19. Mar 9: GTRT, Teakettle: Kelley and Pace**

- *Kelley* – It was a good day. Lots of rocks to move, lots of switchbacks inundated with rocks. There is 1 big log we'll have to go back to get. We only made it about a mile up.

#### **20. Mar 10: Intro to Trail Logout for Prospective Crosscut Sawyers: Underbucker**

- *Underbucker* – That was here at REI. We had 5 of 10 show. It went well. One of the people was Stacy Lee, admin for the Portland Hikers group on Facebook. I asked her if it was appropriate for us to keep posting maintenance trips there and she said yes. It is educating their hikers about why the trails are closed. She encouraged us to keep posting our exploits in the burn area.

#### **21. Mar 11: GTRT Logout: Roberta, HeyMan, and Underbucker**

- *Roberta* – We cleared 1 log (40") and worked on 1 log (61")
- *Kim* – Liked seeing Little Brown talk about what happens when a rigging rope snaps when it is under pressure and see our rope snap.
- *Underbucker* – We think the knot used to attach the rope to the pulley came unattached. That it pulled itself through. Followed safety protocols made the event startling only.
- *Roberta* – I worked on Kim's crew and our log was 40 inches and shattered.
- *Kim* – We got our log cut and cleared.
- *Underbucker* – We got our log cut, just not moved.
- *HeyMan* – We had some hikers come through. They had to be escorted down to the Law Enforcement Officers. It could have been a \$280 fine.
- *Roberta* – We are going back to get the big log on the 31st.

## **Future Events**

**Next meeting:** April 11, REI Clackamas

**Advanced Skills Training:** March 16-18, Wind River

**Estacada Crosscut Saw Training and Certification:** March 24-25, Clackamas River Ranger Station

**Columbia Cascades TSC:** April 20-22, 2018, Cascade Locks

**Wind River Saw Certifications:** April 27-29

**West Cascades Trail Skills College:** May 4-6

**Allingham Trail Skills College:** May 31 - Jun 3

**Big Bend Trail Skills College:** Jun 8-10

## **Reports**

### **Columbia Cascades Regional Rep (Dana)**

- Roberta and I have been discussing with NFF a possible grant to help with our GTRT work.
- Next week is PCTA staff retreat, we'll be at the retreat center in Eagle Creek.
- Our whole staff is so impressed with everything the chapter has been doing to repair the burn area.
- Looking forward to seeing folks at Wind River this weekend!

## North Cascades Regional Rep (Michael)

### Chair (Roberta)

- FS Awards for 2017: Zipper pulls are in, and more carabiners. Please take yours or for people you know, and check off from the list.
- GTRT update
  - Loads of crews! Thank you everyone.
  - PCTA to work on PCT and the network of trails from Herman Creek Trailhead. TKO doing Angels Rest and State Parks trails. Sawyers from North Cascades National Park cleared Larch, Wahkeena and other trails in the middle. We might be asked to help with trails that are above the Historic Highway before it reopens. We already did Wahkeena, reported earlier.
  - Possibly applying for a grant for a person to do lead one or two crews per week plus do the GTRT admin work for PCTA.
  - Burn Area crew leader checklist changes: We removed the DRA step because we don't have that doc. If I get it, I will forward it along. I need to send that to everybody. May not be applicable anymore, but it is good to read.
  - Based on the meeting with the USFS and TKO, our trails are everything leading out of the Herman Creek trailhead. TKO did an assessment on Angels Rest. The tread wasn't damaged much but the trail is in bad shape and there are some danger trees. One of the conversations we are having is the standard to which the trails need to be restored to. The trails east of Moody are to open as soon as possible.
  - The NW Forest Foundation wants a lot of data. They want to hire either a full time (3 months) or a part time (6 months) position to deal with logistics (my job) for the GTRT area.
  - We want to publicize the work we are doing in the burn area so copy Vanessa, Emily, and Rachel on emails with pictures and share the pictures on Facebook. Take pictures of the burn area and the work crews, group shots, anything finally flowering, animals.
    - *HeyMan* – There are some fronds of ferns starting.
    - *Kim* – It's going to look like fountains of ferns coming up.
  - Friends of the Gorge will be working on invasives removal and planting if needed. The biologist wants to focus on the 1/4 mile of the trailhead right now.
    - *Pam* – Is there a list?
    - *Roberta* – No. If you see Stinky Bob, Himalayan Blackberry, English Ivy.
  - We are still going with the 2 crew leader and radios.
    - *Pace* – The radios on the Stevenson Cache have no work channel.
    - *Kim* – I'll check them out. There were some being used in Central Oregon. Did they say TAC or PROJ? Anything?
    - *Pace* – They say "Dana" on them.

### Volunteer Coordinator (Rosemary)

#### Trail Skills College (Tammy)

- We had our final TSC meeting last night. We are having a baked potato bar Friday night. Been wanting one for a long time! Ryan found someone for the Friday class. Saturday night is the raffle, Friday night is the speaker. Chris, who did the annual celebration is coming back. Saturday is also when Crux Brewery will be there giving out free beer. We had 149 applications for 90 spots, per Ellen. We still have some open classes.
  - *Becky* – Ellen didn't say which TSC classes were closed. One of the open ones was for chainsaw, one was a 1/2-day tool maintenance, and one was a leadership.
- This weekend is Advanced Skill Training. We have places to sleep. It is first come first serve for bunk house space. I'm bringing my RV, the rest of you might want to be concerned about that. Friday is the potluck. We are full. 10 or 12 people per class.
  - *Pace* – For the rigging class, I sent out some info you should bring with you. There is still some snow at the Trapper Creek trailhead. It is bare down at Wind River. We may need to use Little Brown's truck to pull people in. We will be working in snow. Elevation is 1,700 feet.

#### Outreach and Events (Tammy)

- REI has asked us to do something at their Get Ready to Backpack classes in Portland and Tualatin.
- Tammy arranging a location for the May meeting that can't be here at REI.

#### Partnership Crews (Kelley)

- *Roberta* – Has New Seasons contacted you?
- *Kelley* – Nope. Should I reach out to Liz?
- *Tammy* – I'm going to reach out for a food donation for TSC so that might trigger something.

## Training and Safety (Dana)

### Saw Program (Leif)

- *Underbucker* - Estacada still a go. Only 2 days instead of 4. Ruth can go to either. I had to move some people around because Sacramento enrolled too many students. We are bringing in a Forest Service instructor from Klamath Falls. He's a crosscut specialist so it matches Estacada well. It's going to be a well-represented class. I'm not involved in the planning of Wind River so I don't know how far along they are. I don't even know if it is open.
  - Chris K - They snuck it in in the bottom of the TSC email. It is open.
- *Underbucker* - We have repeatedly had people show up to class without current first aid and CPR so Ellen will be asking for copies of that. We can't even let them in the door if they don't have the first aid.

### Tools (Leif)

- *Underbucker* - Leif did get the new chainsaw and we tested it out on Moody Street. We have special chains for charred wood that hold up better.

### Budget (Little Brown)

- I got with Kim, he sent me some forms. He's going to show me what he does and I'll take over in June.
  - Kim - We did get our budget in.

### Crew Leader Development (Pace and Little Brown)

- It's going well. Peter and Thomas are good to go. Thomas needs to see his section.

### Stats (Pace)

- We are now ahead of both 2017 and 2016 YTD.

	Feb 2018	Feb 2017	Feb 2016	YTD Feb 2018	YTD Feb 2017	YTD Feb 2016
Total Volunteer Hours	935	682	796	1,735	943	1,629
Specialized hours	66	87	162	131	114	312
Number of Trail Crews	6	4	9	12	4	12
Miles Logged out	0	2	17	3	2	21
Miles Maintained	6	4	1	11	4	3
Feet of Rehab/Recon	2,251	0	630	4,748	0	660
Number of Logs Cleared	4			24		
Volunteer hours by Category						
Trail Maint - crews & scouting	514	330	479	914	333	692
Trail Maint - support	158	324	290	449	563	768
Trail Skills Training	188	17	21	298	36	159
Outreach Events	75	11	7	75	11	10
	935	682	796	1,735	943	1,629

## Discussion Items

- JHAs
  - *Roberta* - We have a new JHA for rigging. It is posted on the website. Other thing, don't forget about your trails. We need to start thinking about the Zigzag mess.  
*Chris K* - I'll try to get up there in April to see how it is.
  - *Kim* - Do we have a JHA for the brush cutter?  
*Roberta* - No.
  - *Chris K* - We need the Rigging JHA, Crosscut JHA, and the Burn Area JHA? So 3 JHAs?  
*Roberta* - Yes. The Burn Area JHA replaces the General Work JHAs. If there are equestrians involved they have a Livestock JHA.
  - *SteveQ* - If you want to get a form and don't know where they are, go to [mthood.pcta.org](http://mthood.pcta.org) and click on the Caretaker Corner tab and they will show up.
  - *Pace* - There is a new Check in and Check out procedure for burn area

- TCPs
  - *Roberta* – If you want to submit your hours for scouting you must submit a TCP. You don't have to use dispatch but you must email it to your agency partner and Dana and to me. You can pick a friend or family for dispatch/contact.
  - *Chris K* – There are times when I do overnight scouts. I will have to check in/check out each day?
  - *Roberta* – That's what we do for work crews. We have our own forms training for those going to leadership training. Pace will teach you that.
  - *Roberta* – Sacramento has a new TCP, but we have an arrangement that we can still use our TCP. I will, given time, will work on that to get formal approval to continue using what we have. Carry on as you were. TCP for your sections should be easy to find and print out from the website.
- Radios
  - *Kim* – Mt Hood has been doing this radio thing for a long time and it's good to have someone to have our back. Many of the other regions don't do that. They have radios but are instructed to not use the radio unless it's an emergency. They don't check in. It's part of an effort to track people and make sure everyone makes it back.
  - *Roberta* – Columbia Dispatch wants to know what time you are finishing, but let's keep the standard practice adding that if it's scouting hours then you must submit TCP.

## Announcements/Reminders

- If you are logging onto the PCTA website to enter a Project Report for your activities on GTRT projects, select the "Report on or view existing Projects" before you pick "Create a new project". Scroll down the listing by date to find if your project is already listed, then select submit report under Choose Action.
- **9 Vacancies:** 1) Steamboat Lake (reserved for Lamar Fontaine); 2) Indian Heaven South (reserved for Thomas Calvary); 3) Three Corner Rock North (fostered by Tami); 4) Lolo Pass South (reserved for Peter Hoffman and Diane Kelso); 5) Pinhead Buttes; 6) Lower Eagle Creek; 7) Middle Eagle Creek; 8) Upper Eagle Creek; 9) Indian Springs Trail 435;
- **Columbia Dispatch:** Dispatch 7 days a week, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. Remember to submit a TCP to your agency partner, your alternate dispatcher, Dana, and Roberta.

## Round the Room

- *Tim Lagasse* report
  - I think the only thing I have going on is the PGE partnership crew in May. We should be able to talk about that one this weekend. Probably time to get things rolling.
  - I guess there is that Mt Hood 50 crew thing too. Haven't had time to look at those dates they had and see if any of those work. I'm pretty sure the May date was the day that we'll be doing logout, can't remember the June date. If you can find someone to lead them, no issues with having them brush around the Warm Springs River where Dana said there is brush.
    - *Roberta* – Kelley, are you working with him on that? As the Partnership Coordinator?
    - *Kelley* – No.
    - *Roberta* – I guess we don't have any crew leaders available.
    - *Kelley* – I'll let her know.
- *Kim* – Pam and I spent February in Baja. I came back and could see tremendous improvement in the Gorge. We are planning on doing some work, a 2-day informal event on our old Three Corner section. If people want to come and help, let me know.
  - *Tami* – Let's coordinate. I'd like to work up on mine, we can camp on my section.
  - *Kim* – We are going to be up and down the trail doing different Trail Skills Colleges for the summer
- *Pace* – I'm going to relax next week after all the training. I got a new truck.
  - *Tami* – Is that why you volunteered Little Brown truck to take people up?
  - *Pace* – We can use mine too.
- *Chuck* – Spent February and March on the 400 trail and Herman Creek Trail. I got to use the 16-inch chainsaw. I'm looking forward to crew leader training.
- *Ruth* – The doctor I work for doesn't get a lot of personal calls and his kids were calling, fighting over a sticker one earned for doing work last summer. I offered to bring another one but he said no, only one earned it.
- *Frank* – I spent a month down in Tasmania. I marveled at some of the biggest trees in the world. Their eucalyptus rival the redwoods. One fell and when they put it back together it would have been the tallest tree ever recorded. I'm looking forward to leading a bunch of trail work in the burn area.
- *Busdriver* – I'm recovering from cataract surgery.
- *Freerfall* – I went to DC. It was cool to see the fruits of our labor. Our team went to the Oregon and Washington offices and one thing we were pushing for was funding the cantilevered walkway along the Bridge of the Gods and I just saw Merkley and Wyden, Blumenauer and Walden have all signed on to a letter encouraging funding the FLAP grant to have the engineering permits and design planning for the walkway. That's the big bipartisan letter they put together. We are very optimistic that that will happen. Funding will be another step as well. So that's cool. I think we had good visits. We were lucky that our reps do get recreation, and the PCT. They are very friendly visits. I say the one visit that didn't go well was in a Democrat office because the staffer didn't care. Walden's office was quite receptive. I think the

mood in DC is let's wait until midterms and let's keep stalling.

*Steve Q* – Did the reps you visit have PCT covered by their offices?

*Freefall* – Not all. The ones without the PCT still have trails. It was a great experience. I'll try to go back next year. The Fire Bill, that's a big one they are pushing for as well. The sell is that the colleagues that are in Louisiana, Ohio, Kansas, those places not in the NW who don't care about what's going on here. Stevens Pass, the purchase was ready to go then there was a fire. The funds that were going to pay for the Stevens Pass were raided to pay for the forest fires. There was a closing date. They had to get a loan to get the land. There is a lot of energy to get a Fire Bill passed. We were being told in DC the reason it isn't getting done is leadership in the house. The donor we had with us has paid for some of the EPA studies because the Forest Service can't afford it. I didn't know that.

*Chris K* – That came up in the National Forest meeting.

*Kim* – PCTA now has people to focus on acquisition.

*Freefall* – They are still waiting on 2018 budget and were talking about 2019 stuff already.

- *Carole* – I was called for jury service April, May, and June. My orientation for jury duty is on Pace's drainage day class.
- *Little Brown* – My jury duty is in Tacoma and only for a week. My son, I brought him out for a day of trail work and he got a sticker and a pin. He was so tickled about the sticker he may come out again. He is 26. I haven't seen the rigging JHA. When we were pulling on the rope puller, I was pulling really hard, and the rope was coiled in front of me. When that thing popped out so fast it uncoiled the rope so fast. It made a lot of noise.
- *Kelley* – I leave Sunday morning for Hawaii. Looking forward to getting on my trail.
- *ChrisK* – I'm working 7 days a week at my paying job. I'm looking forward to tomorrow.
- *Underbucker* – Did the Northwest Forest Pass go out? I didn't get mine.

Grant Mcomie wants to do a follow-up of their first piece they filmed in 2014; it will be in spring and I sent photos of what we've done. They want to do a before and after filming. There is still snow but with this mild weather it will probably go away fast. If you can let me know when the road opens, we can do a survey as soon as we can access the area. He needs a week notice to get a film crew. It would be nice if we can get more funding for equipment for Gorge specific items. Like additional rigging equipment for the burn area. We also had to buy extra-long wedges. The special saw chains are \$60 apiece. If NFF can cough up some money, we could justify getting equipment expenditure reimbursement.

*Roberta* – Dana is working that grant. If you can get her a list she can add it to the grant.

- *Becky* – I'm looking forward to leadership training this weekend.
- *Ron* – Years ago on Wahkeena, we blasted the rock off the switchback with Claude. Media was there. It was one way of getting the rock off. We also went on Horsetail and Dana's husband was pulling the come-along and it snapped around a tree.

Ainsworth State Park is open but you need a reservation to get past the guard. We've had as many as 6 Law Enforcement Officers making sure people don't go up the hikes. One is Adam from Estacada. He gets to listen to all of our radio chatter because his desk is by dispatch. He is a real nice guy. He stands there and is happy talking to people.

- *HeyMan* – My daughter got accepted to the college she wanted. Now both my kids will be up in the Sound. I learned a lot this last weekend at the crosscut log out. It was really a treat to have Winston there. I learned a lot. I would like to work with him some more.
- *Tami* – I'm going to see how far I can get scouting on Friday. Heyman will be my tracker. Hopefully my friend that had 2 hip replacements last year will be able to watch Journey. This weekend is a trial for the rest of the year.
- *Brooke* – I'm doing some skiing here and there. Looking forward to getting out in the garden and beating back the squirrels. I work at Blount, we make chains and bars so I reached out to Leif.
- *Tammy* – I went to Rwanda and it was beautiful. A year ago, I promised I would take the pictures off the old pictures boards. They are here. I don't want them so please look at them, take them. Most are from 2008. I'm taking the boards to Goodwill. Next June, 2019, I'm going to go climb volcanoes in Rwanda.
- *SteveP* – When we cut the 48" log, on the release cut, it swept 10 feet across the trail. So stay out of the way. There is only about a foot of snow at Frog Lake.
- *SteveQ* – The July picture in the PCTA calendar. I was right behind the person who took that. The woman at the front of the pack is the one who gave me my trail name.