



# Trail Blazer

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February 2021



Nesika Road Clearing with Trailkeepers of Oregon  
Photo: Paul Williamson

## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



### MT RAINIER WINTER BACKPACKING

Sat, Feb 6 - Sun, Feb 7

Host: Nathen Barton

I love backpacking in the snow and thought I would see if there is similar interest out there. This trip we would start out from Paradise (Mt. Rainier) and make for Camp Muir. Likely we won't get that far, so probably we will get to a stopping point a few miles and a few thousand feet higher up the mountain, dig in, and spend the night.

You will need: Snowshoes and crampons/microspikes, preparation for 0 degree sleeping, snow shovel, GPS app on your phone, ice axe.

This date is tentative, we might have to adjust the date a little for weather. We may have a practice trip before if folks want to test their gear. You will need to watch YouTube videos on using an ice axe to arrest your fall, but the route is not steep, no glacier crossings, and is a good entry level trip for crossing snow and using an ice axe.

I have done this route before. There will be a Facebook chat for the trip.



### MT ADAMS WA SNOWSHOE

Sun, Feb 7

Host: Jennifer Samuels

This will be a 5-8 mile snowshoe day trip near Trout Lake WA, heading out from one of the snoparks in that area.

Exact location won't be chosen until a day or two before the trip – when there is specific info about snow conditions for that area. Worst case (no snow), we'll swap to a hike, maybe with spikes, but the trip will take place unless there are dangerous winter conditions.

We will follow COVID distancing, bring a face covering and respect others' space. Please don't come if you or someone you've been exposed to has been sick.

As always, bring 10 essentials, food and water, dress for cold weather and practice leave no trace.

Events & Activities continued page 4

## February Events

6-7	Sat-Sun	Mt Rainier Winter Backpacking
7	Sun	Trout Lake WA Snowshoe
10	Weds	Trip Planning Meeting
27-28	Sat-Sun	Full Moon Showshoe & Camping
Scheduling, fees, and lodge availability are updated on website <a href="http://www.trailsclub.org">www.trailsclub.org</a>		

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Welcome new members!  
Brad Huit  
Anjanette Milazzo  
Zhen Yang

Total members: 325  
Golden: 11; Junior: 3; Life: 35; Life/Golden: 3;  
Provisional: 3; Regular: 271



# Board Meeting

Trails Club of Oregon Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 5, 2021 7:00 - 9:00pm

Location: Zoom

Present:

- Sheryl Wagner ..... President
- Beverly Drotter ..... Vice President
- Bill Yandon ..... Treasurer
- Rebecca Knudeson..... Secretary
- Glen Conrad..... Nesika Trustee
- Nathen Barton..... Tyee Trustee
- Lori Leach ..... Membership Trustee
- Joel Reitz ..... Publications Trustee
- Linda Conrad ..... Social Trustee
- Dolores Niebergall..... Trips Trustee

## 1. Approved minutes of the November meeting

## 2. Treasurer’s Report - Bill reported

Beginning balance.....	\$21,045
Total deposits.....	\$2,573
Total expenses.....	\$9,592
Ending balance.....	\$14,026

## 3. Committee Reports

### a. Nesika - Glen reported

He did an emergency trip to replace tarps that had blown off on Redwing’s floor. There were no water leaks in the basement. It should be more secure now. 3 separate groups hiked into lodge over New Year’s weekend. There is quite a bit of blow down and rain erosion on the road. We will need several trips to cut up blow downs.

### b. Tyee Lodge - Nathen reported

There is some water dripping on a stove from the overhead vent fan. The cause is not certain. It may just be condensation in the fan. He will be able to look at it in a couple of weeks.

### c. Membership - Lori reported

First Readings:

**Lucas Black** (Portland) sponsored by Linda Conrad and Jennifer Samuels

Second Readings - all accepted:

**Anjanette Milazzo**  
**Brad Huit**  
**Zhen Yang**

Total members: 325  
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### d. Publications – Joel reported

He added a new lodge fees category on our website for the minimum winter opening charge.

### e. Trips - Dolores reported

First aid training will be deferred for awhile due to COVID.

We’ve had one successful zoom planning meeting and another coming up next week. Some leaders have refrained from planning trips due to COVID.

### f. Social—Linda reported Nothing to report

## 4. New Business

- a. 2021 budget  
Moved, seconded and approved the budget for 2021.

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*Board Meeting Minutes (continued)*

- b. Garmin  
We will go from \$34/month plan to \$11.95/month to match our use as a club. The lower plan doesn't include tracking but can be added for a month as needed. Dolores will be responsible to manage the account.
- c. Tye proposed updates and cost estimates.  
Moved, seconded and approved to have an energy audit performed and develop a plan of action for making Tye energy efficient with a goal of improving the warmth at the lodge.  
Moved and seconded to spend up to \$1500 on an overall design plan to improve Tye. When the exact amount for improvements is determined, the board will need to approve. 7 in favor, 2 opposed. Motion carried.
- d. FWOC—Is there a need for the greater membership to vote on resolutions? Tabled
- e. COVID activity club rules (for hikes and backpacks).  
Need to post our COVID policy on the Meetup announcements.  
COVID Policy: The Trails Club of Oregon will adhere to all current state and county COVID regulations: face coverings are required for all hikers and must be worn when within 6 feet of anyone.

Submitted by Rebecca Knudson, Secretary



*Wildlife near Nesika. Photo: Ralph Bloemers*

*Upcoming Events & Activities (continued)*



**MONTHLY TRIPS PLANNING MEETING (ZOOM)**

**Weds, February 10, 7:00-8:30pm**  
**Host: Dolores Niebergall**

Happy New Year!! The trails beckon us. Please consider joining our planning team! Have some place you would like to explore? We follow ALL CDC, state and local guidelines on our trips in regard to COVID. Goals are better met with action plans! See you on the 10th!

[Zoom meeting HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 906 118 7636  
Passcode: 1243



**FULL MOON SNOWSHOE AND SNOW CAMPING - TYEE**

**Sat, Feb 27 - Sun, Feb 28**  
**Host: Nathen Barton**

We are planning a full moon snowshoe based at Tye Lodge. I am organizing it on Meetup but it is not published and may not be published if there is enough friend and club member interest.

**Reminder: Tye Lodge Use this Winter**

Tye Lodge use (both daytime AND overnight) is by reservation only until COVID restrictions are lifted. Please do not come to Tye unannounced. Tye reservations are listed on the Trails Club calendar (<https://trailsclub.org/activities/calendar>). During 'normal times' if there is a name on the calendar, that person is a host and you can visit Tye. For now, if there is a name listed they have reserved the entire lodge and you may not visit Tye, again due to COVID restrictions. You may reserve the lodge if you have been trained as a host and have a key. There is a new key system with a code. If you have not gotten a code, you will not be able to enter when the lodge is not in use. All key holders should have received a code. Log in to the Trails Club website to see your code or contact Joel Reitz ([publicationchair@trailsclub.org](mailto:publicationchair@trailsclub.org)). Please reserve the lodge by contacting [tyewinter@trailsclub.org](mailto:tyewinter@trailsclub.org) and make sure your reservation is on the club calendar.

## Conservation Notes:

New Year's greetings from your Conservation Committee! This past year we have been so consumed by the pandemic, it took the west coast going up in flames this fall to remind us that climate change inexorably marches on, threatening our lives and futures even more than COVID-19. These past four years have seen decades of progress in protection of our air, water, and beautiful places reversed. Between 125-165 protective rules and policies have been rolled back. Some of this is irreversible, such as the dynamiting of the pristine and biodiverse Sonoran Desert for the border wall, continuing even to the last day of the past administration, but we can hope for much to be reinstated and hopefully new climate action progress soon. There is light at the end of the tunnel!

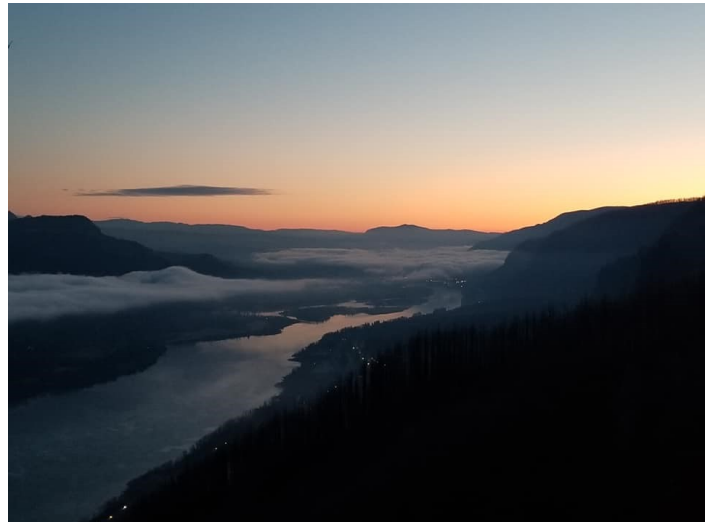
The big picture: The young climate activist Greta Thunberg and the Dalai Lama recently launched five short films by climate scientists on climate change feedback loops. These films are well worth watching. If you can't find time to watch them all, try to find time to watch the introduction and the forests film, the latter particularly relevant to Oregon and Washington. The films can be found at: [feed-backloopsclimate.com](https://feed-backloopsclimate.com)

Oregon: In Oregon, our greatest opportunity for mitigating climate change is in optimal management of our forests. Investigative reporters Tony Schick of OPB and Rob Davis of The Oregonian/OregonLive, along with ProPublica, authored a series of three articles on the timber industry in Oregon. Although the articles are controversial, they are well worth reading.

Schick, Tony (OPB), Davis, Rob (The Oregonian/OregonLive) and Younes, Lylla (ProPublica). "**Big Money Bought Oregon's Forests. Small Timber Communities are Paying the Price.**" *OPB* June 11, 2020. <https://www.opb.org/news/article/oregon-investigation-timber-logging-forests-policy-taxes-spotted-owl/>

Davis, Rob (The Oregonian/OregonLive) and Schick, Tony (OPB). "**What Happened When a Public Institute Became a De Facto Lobbying Arm of the Timber Industry.**" *OregonLive* August 4, 2020. <https://www.oregonlive.com/politics/2020/08/what-happened-when-a-public-institute-became-a-de-facto-lobbying-arm-of-the-timber-industry.html>

Schick, Tony (OPB), Davis, Rob (The Oregonian/OregonLive). "**Timber Tax Cuts Cost Oregon Towns Billions. Then Clear-cuts Polluted Their Water and Drove Up the Price.**" *OregonLive* December 31, 2020. <https://www.oregonlive.com/environment/2020/12/timber-tax-cuts-cost-oregon-towns-billions-then-clear-cuts-polluted-their-water-and-drove-up-the-price.html>



*Nesika sunset. Photo: Rachel Eggers*

Forestry can be conducted in such a way that it improves forest health, ecological values, and mitigates climate change. Zena Forests and Hyla Woods are two examples of family forestry businesses that put forest health first, and forest income second, while still succeeding as businesses. Below are links to two talks by Ben Deumling of Zena Forests on Sustainable Forestry, the first under the auspices of Oregon Wild, the second as a Mazamas Conservation Committee webinar.

"Sustainable Forestry for the Future" <https://oregonwild.org/about/blog/webcast-sustainable-forestry-future>

"Using Natural Forest Resources Responsibly" (Will be posted later this month) <https://mazamas.org/virtualmazamas/>

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## Nesika Road Clearing - Partnered with Trailkeepers of Oregon



Photos: Paul Williamson

### Conservation Notes (continued)

What can you do? Think globally, act locally, stay informed, get involved.

Nationally and globally: Consider becoming a member of one or two reliable non-profits whose causes are close to your heart. Organizations with lawyers who sue to protect the earth are especially effective, such as National Resources Defense Council, Center for Biological Diversity, League of Conservation Voters, and many others. And if it is the fate of the bugs, bees, and butterflies that is breaking your heart, consider Xerces Society, headquartered in Oregon. Make a New Year's resolution to respond to a call for action once a month, once a year, whatever works for you, writing and calling legislators on crucial issues.

Locally: Again, consider signing up with a local non-profit or two with whose mission moves you. A prior Conservation Note included a list of some local organizations. Oregon Wild and Wild Salmon Center are intensely involved with issues and decisions involving Oregon forests and waters. There are many important decisions currently in the making regarding the OFPA, salvage logging, wildfire prevention strategies, and new appointments to the Oregon Board of Forestry. Adding your voice can make a difference.

Your personal life: You are already demonstrating your value of our forests and mountains by being a member of TCO. Most of you likely already drive as little as possible, and use water and power responsibly. Most of you probably already source your food locally and organically as much as you can, not just for your own health, but for the health of the planet. Consider adding to this sourcing your wood products locally, from family forests with FSC certification. The Build Local Alliance can help you find what you need (<https://buildlocalalliance.org>).

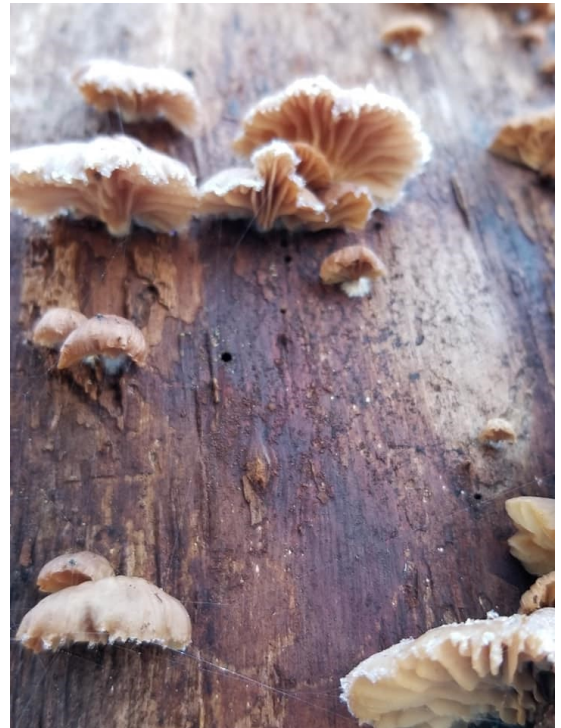
Stay informed, stay safe, and do what you can, and a Happy and Healthy New Year to you all!

- For the love of our forests, mountains, and streams, *Your Conservation Committee*

## New Year's Eve Nesika Hike



*Photos: Patrice*



*Mushrooms and Frost at Nesika  
Photos: Rachel Eggers*



*Photos: Jennifer Samuels*



## TRAILS CLUB OF OREGON

P.O. BOX 67095

Portland, OR 97268

[www.trailsclub.org](http://www.trailsclub.org)

## February 2021

### Gentle Reminders

For activities such as bicycle, snowshoe, and XC skiing check with the leaders for the difficulty level. Good equipment for the specific activity is required for all events. For hikes, snowshoes:

**Class A** - Shorter, less strenuous activity, typically 4 to 8 miles, less than 1500 feet elevation gain.

**Class B** - Moderate to difficult, typically 6 to 12 miles, up to 3000 feet of elevation gain.

**Class C** - Long and difficult, strong experienced participants only, typically over 8 miles, and over 3000 feet of elevation gain. Boots are recommended for B/C hikes.

Harsh or unusual conditions may greatly increase the exertion and skill required. Be prepared for the level of activity you are planning to take. Contact the trip leader if you have any questions and to let him or her know that you will be attending. Bring plenty of water and a sack lunch. Please, no alcohol. Remember to bring your Ten Essentials. Pets allowed on designated trips only.

Stay with the group and follow the leader. The leader is responsible for the group's safety. The leader determines which route is taken. The leader has authority to determine if a participant is prepared for the activity. Group safety must come first.

### Fees

There is no charge to Trails Club members for day activities; non-members pay \$2. Please contribute to any carpooling expenses at the rate of \$.15 per mile. With multiple riders the driver can collect up to \$.30 per mile shared by all the riders. Other fees may apply.

If you have RSVP'd for an activity at a lodge involving food expense and are unable to participate, you are obligated to do one of the following: Cancel before the food is purchased, find someone to take your place, or pay for your share of the food.

All activities must be approved by the appropriate activity Coordinator or the Trips Trustee.

### Newsletters

Send write-ups to: [blazer@trailsclub.org](mailto:blazer@trailsclub.org)

Submissions are due by the fifteenth of the month prior to publication.

Please use the following format:

### Month Day (Day of week) Event Title - Class A, B, C

**Description Text** - Please include distance, elevation change, and round trip driving distance.

*Do not capitalize full words, lines or sentences for emphasis*  
Day trip descriptions should be under 100 words.

**Depart:** Meeting place, with address if possible, and departure time

**Leader:** Name, Phone, and/or email.

Editor: Jennifer Samuels

Send pictures, new events, corrections and anything else for the Trails Club of Oregon website to: [webmaster@trailsclub.org](mailto:webmaster@trailsclub.org)