



# Trail Blazer

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December 2023

## DECEMBER EVENTS

Event information, sign-up and scheduling are available on

TCO Website Calendar

<https://trailsclub.org/activities/calendar>

Meetup

[www.meetup.com/Trails-Club-of-Oregon](http://www.meetup.com/Trails-Club-of-Oregon)

1-3	Fri-Sun	Women's Weekend at Tye
2	Sat	Litter Clean Up
3	Sun	Board Meeting
26-2	Tue-Tue	New Year's at Tye (for Members)
28-1	Thu-Mon	Nesika Open



Gorge Hike. Photo: Nicole Rogers

## Welcome New Members!

Karl Ahlen

Belkis Davis

Mee Choe

Norma Gregor

Tina Hayworth

Bill Hulley

## Annual Meeting Report

November 12, 2023

### Awards

Waespe Award: Candace Bonner, for her conservation work for TCO

High Mileage Award: Craig Gwydir

Lifetime Membership: Glen Conrad, in recognition of his many years as Nesika Trustee

### Empty Boots

A moment was observed for long time members

Leona Schiewe

Bernice Schuchardt.

### Elections - All approved unanimously:

President: Bev Drottar

Treasurer: Nicole Rogers

Membership Trustee: Lori Leach

Tye Trustee: Paul Cutter

Nesika Trustee: no candidate

Social Trustee: no candidate

### Vote - Approved unanimously:

An advisory vote to investigate whether TCO currently could qualify as a 501c3 non profit with simple changes in our bylaws, practices, and articles of incorporation, as needed.

31 members attended



Gorge Hike. Photo: Nicole Rogers

## TRAIL BLAZER

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**Trails Club of Oregon**  
P.O. Box 67095  
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Organized 1915

Incorporated 1923

Member of the  
*Federation of Western Outdoors Clubs (FWOC)*

Electronic subscription is included with membership. Send address changes and club correspondence to: [Membership@trailsclub.org](mailto:Membership@trailsclub.org) or the address above.

The purpose of the Trails Club is to foster and stimulate interest in hiking, climbing, skiing, camping and other similar outdoor activities and to promote activities of a social nature for the benefit of its members. The Club's interests and concerns are conservation of natural beauty and resources of the country. All Club activities are affected by the voluntary participation of the members.

Membership requirements include an approved outdoor activity, a scheduled lodge visit, recommendations by two members within a one-year period, approval by the Board of Trustees, and payment of \$50 in dues and a \$15 entrance fee.

### Board Meetings:

Usually first Tuesday of the month when the date is at least the 4th, 7:00pm, over Zoom. See the calendar on the TCO website for the link if you wish to attend. Contact the President prior to a meeting if you have an issue to bring to the board.

### Trails Club of Oregon & Meetup Websites

Our website ([TrailsClub.org](http://TrailsClub.org)) is the official site for club events and information. There is also a Trails Club Meetup.com site that allows event planners to organize TCO events online, and publicize these events to a wider audience ([Meetup.com/Trails-Club-of-Oregon/events/](http://Meetup.com/Trails-Club-of-Oregon/events/)). However, all events posted on the TCO Meetup site should be added to our TCO website as well.

While we try to get every event in The Blazer and on the Trails Club website ([www.trailsclub.org](http://www.trailsclub.org)), some events, especially those planned on short notice, may not appear in The Blazer.

Use the Calendar menu item for a listing of events. Registration on the website is not required to view the events.

Also: All may use the Payment menu item on our website to pay your membership dues. You can pay for all members in a household in one transaction.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Beverly Drottar  
President  
[President@trailsclub.org](mailto:President@trailsclub.org)



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Vice President  
Blazer Editor  
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Joel Reitz  
Publications Trustee  
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David Noyes  
Social Trustee  
[SocialChair@trailsclub.org](mailto:SocialChair@trailsclub.org)



Craig Gwydir  
Trips Trustee  
[TripsChair@trailsclub.org](mailto:TripsChair@trailsclub.org)

# Board Meeting

Board Meeting Minutes | November 7, 2023 7:00-9:00 | Zoom

## Attendees:

President:	Bev Drottar
Vice President:	Jennifer Samuels
Treasurer:	Rachel Eggers/Nicole Rogers
Secretary:	Rebecca Knudeson
Publications:	Joel Reitz
Membership:	Lori Leach
Tyee Trustee:	Paul Cutter
Nesika Trustee:	Crissi Milner
Trips Trustee:	Craig Gwydir
Social Trustee:	David Noyes

## Regular Business:

Minutes of the October board meeting were approved by email prior to The Blazer publication.

## Treasurer's Report, Nicole

Beginning Balance, Aug:	\$14,733
Checks and Payments:	\$7,407
Deposits and Credits:	\$1,068
Cleared Balance:	\$9,334



Lost Lake Hike. Photo: Nicole Rogers

Complete reports can be found by the Board Members in Dropbox

Five new membership applications were added to (uploaded October 15 - 29):  
[Membership Applications - Dropbox](#)

Nicole is running into some challenges obtaining receipts for expenses. We do need adequate proof of purchase and a completed voucher before a reimbursement check can be issued. This is especially important for IRS compliance. If we are serious about becoming a 501c3 we do need to maintain detailed receipts as we will come under a higher level of government scrutiny. Nicole has quite a bit of experience with the IRS. We are subject to an audit any time, especially since we have not shown a profit. Then, the odds of an audit go up under a 501c3 status. She wants to do everything she can to make sure we are 100% good in that regard. We just need receipts. It is not a trust issue, it is an IRS and treasurer accountability issue. Receipts are not required for mileage reimbursement, but the IRS does expect individuals to log their miles. She does provide an example of a log when she is asked about it. [Note: if we do not follow these procedures, we put our treasurer into a bad situation that threatens her professional credentials!]

Transition of QuickBooks and check payments have been made to Nicole. Rachel is now in a consulting role. Full transition of the accounts themselves will not occur until January or February after the extended membership vote.

## Membership Report, Lori

### Empty Boots:

Leona Schiewe (May 1920 - October 2022): joined TCO in 1946

Bernice Schuchardt: (1934 - March, 2023): joined TCO in 1968

**Membership Report (continued)**

First Readings:

**Sanjana Sachdeva** - Sponsored by Shirley Hoehne and Joel Reitz  
**Philip Scott** - Sponsored by Nicole Rogers and Eric Zimmerman  
**Nora Tanner** - Sponsored by Julia Mace and Paul Cutter  
**Mary Bourret** - Sponsored by Dolores Niebergall and Trisha Schultz  
**Amelia Marcum** - Sponsored by Nicole Rogers and Crisse Milner  
Unanimously Approved

Second Readings:

**Norma Gregor** - Sponsored by Paul Cutter and Linda Conrad  
**Belkis Davis** - Sponsored by Paul Cutter and Nicole Rogers  
**Karl Ahlen** – Sponsored by Julia Mace and Nicole Rogers  
**Bill Hulley** - Sponsored by Nicole Rogers and Linda Conrad  
**Mee Choe** - Sponsored by Nicole Rogers and Linda Conrad  
**Tina Hayworth** - Sponsored by Nicole Rogers and Linda Conrad

Total Membership: 286; Golden 8, Junior 1, Life 35, Life/Golden 1, Provisional 7, Provisional Jr 0, Regular 234

Dues notices are going out tomorrow.

**Publications Report, Joel**

Joel revamped the website and organized the home page to be more relevant.

**Nesika Report, Crisse**

We held a work party the first weekend in October with a small group in attendance.

A number of people visited the lodge on a membership hike. We were able to complete a few tasks including replacing broken windows in the lodge and applying trim, building doors for the basement area of the dorm, checking on the new baby trees and stocking kindling for the winter. An impromptu work party was held the following weekend by the Conrads. The stairs to the loft area were completed, window trim was painted and curtains were put up in the dorm. Linda Conrad hosted a Halloween Celebration at the lodge over Halloween weekend.

Larch Mountain Road construction is complete, and the road will be open for use until weather limits access. Crisse encourages everyone to take some time to visit the lodge via the road and then hike in from the falls after the road is closed. Nesika is ready for winter visitors! We are still needing a volunteer to step into the role of lodge trustee for next year.

**Tyee Report, Paul**

Paul had two more meetings with The Forest Service regarding our 2022 billing and 2023 work-in-lieu volunteer hours and payments. He discovered:

- Work-in-lieu time cannot be backdated to 2022. Therefore, we will probably need to pay the full billing, \$1900.
- All work-in-lieu time must be done by TCO members on the Mt. Hood NF. Any road maintenance and clearing at Nesika does not count. The work must be an official TCO event.
- All hours and names are to be documented and given to the forest's permit officer. Hours are paid at the Oregon contractual rate of \$32.27/ hr.



Pre-Thanksgiving Celebration. Photo: Craig Gwydir

We have been given 3 areas to work for litter pick up:

1. Wildcat Mt trailhead, (not Wildwood as previously mentioned because it is BLM land).
2. Salmon River and surrounding area.
3. Trillium Lake sno-park and the road to the lake next year when the snow melts.

We have been given permission to cover these areas with 2-3 larger events or smaller groups. The Forest Service needs to know ahead of time. Because 2023 hours need to be credited before the end of the year, Paul has chosen Wildcat Mountain for Saturday 12/2, assuming the snow level stays high. If not, then we'll do the Salmon River area. A decision will be made a few days before the event. The Wildcat Mountain area is in a poor way, due to trash left by target practices. At present Paul has 5 volunteers without any advertising and is looking for 7-9 more.

The food dehydration class of 12, with 2 instructors, was a big hit. Many thanks to Delores for all her organizing skills. The month finished with firewood transferred to the basement and then 12 rounds cut for next year. We cleared the Tye-Mazamas trail from the top and the Mazamas cleared from the bottom. Later, 10 TCO volunteers visited the Mazamas in the afternoon. They returned the favor in the evening. Paul wants the 2 neighbors not to be strangers and to have future winter visits in each direction.

An alternative scouting group has asked to use Tye on the first weekend in March. They will use only one dorm. Paul will host. The Board unanimously approved.

### **Trips Report, Craig**

We had 4 day hikes, 1 online trips planning meeting, 1 backpack event and weekly Wednesday conditioning hikes this past month. We are looking into more dog friendly hikes, as well as shorter day hikes as available daylight is at a premium. We expect to post more day hikes to the Ornament Trail up through the Holiday season as part of TCO membership hikes.

We're trying to build a relationship with Oregon Hikers and Climbers, a very large MeetUp group.

The Bell Creek trail to the east of the Oneonta trail should have been opened by now, but the Forest Service still has a portion to clear. Craig is watching for the opening so he can do a featured hike. Horsetail Creek Drainage is a future hike for R and D. Craig has been talking to SAR, a search and rescue group, to make sure they know the facilities we have available at Nesika.



Pre-Thanksgiving Party. Photo: Nicole Rodgers

### **Social Report, David**

We held an Annular Solar Eclipse Alternative at Stub Stewart State Park on October 14, with 8 participants.

David cannot continue as the social trustee next year due to work and family commitments, so we need to add that position to our requests at the annual meeting. He would like to continue as a committee member for social activities, but cannot attend the monthly board meetings.

## OLD BUSINESS

### 501c3 discussion

At the Annual Meeting, we will outline what we have found out about getting tax exempt status and provide an Informational sheet with pros and cons and costs before we ask for an advisory vote about continuing the process.

Communications with new members  
No further discussion at this point.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Planning for the Annual Meeting

We walked through the agenda for the meeting, assigning tasks.  
Joel will send out an email blast about the meeting this Sunday at 1:00.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33

Next meeting:

### **Christmas Potluck**

Sunday, Dec 3, 5:00pm  
Bev's home  
18 SW 148th Ave  
Beaverton, OR 97006  
503-481-3328.

Let Bev know if you can attend, and what dish you wish to bring.  
New board members will join us.

Submitted by Rebecca Knudeson, Secretary



Butcher Ridge Hike. Photo: Craig Gwydir

## 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 conditions may increase the exertion and skill required; be prepared. Contact the trip leader if you have any questions and to let him or her know that you will be attending. Bring the 10 Essentials and please, no alcohol. 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.

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

**Blazer Editor:** Jennifer Samuels