



Trail Blazer

Vol. 97 Nos. 4-5 www.trailsclub.org

April / May 2024

APRIL / MAY 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

24	Weds	Evening Conditioning Hike
27-28	Sat-Sun	Backpack to Nesika Lodge
01	Weds	Evening Conditioning Hike
07	Tues	Board Meeting
08	Weds	Evening Conditioning Hike
11	Sat	DEI Committee: Naturalist Activity
17-19	Fri-Sun	Tyee Lodge is Open
18	Sat	Trillium Lake Litter Clean Up



Flat Iron Mountain. Photo: Craig Gwydir

TCO Litter Clean Up

Trillium Lake Sno-Park

Saturday, May 18

9:00-1:00

We'll be cleaning up the Sno-Park, the road to Trillium Lake and the surrounding area.

Our volunteer work counts at \$32.27/hr towards our land use fees for Tyee Lodge.

Lunch served after the clean-up



Archer Mountain Hike. Photo: Craig Gwydir

Welcome New Members!

Shawna Axness	Laura Birchard
Carl Buchanan	Rachel Cherry
Scott Diamond	Emerson Miller
Juergen Steinhart	



Archer Mountain Hike. Photo: Craig Gwydir

TRAIL BLAZER

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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 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) 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/). 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), 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



Jennifer Samuels
Vice President
Blazer Editor
VicePres@trailsclub.org



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Secretary
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TyeChair@trailsclub.org



Lori Leach
Membership Trustee
Membership@trailsclub.org



Joel Reitz
Publications Trustee
Publication-Chair@trailsclub.org

SocialChair@trailsclub.org



Craig Gwydir
Trips Trustee
TripsChair@trailsclub.org

Board Meeting (March 2024)

Board Meeting Minutes | March 5, 2023 7:00-9:00 | Zoom

Attendees:

President: Bev Drottar
Treasurer: Nicole Rogers
Secretary: Rebecca Knudeson
Publications: Joel Reitz
Membership: Lori Leach
Tyee Trustee: Paul Cutter
Nesika Trustee: Pete Recksiek
Social Trustee: Vacant
History Committee Chair: Linda Conrad
DEI Committee Chair: Julia Mace
Nominating Comm Chair: Julia Mace

Absent:

Vice President: Jennifer Samuels

Regular Business: Minutes were approved by email prior to The Blazer publication.

Treasurer's Report, Nicole

Beginning Balance 2/29/24:	\$11,533
Checks and Payments:	\$788
Deposits and Credits:	\$3,532
Cleared Balance:	\$14,276

Detailed reports for February financials can be found at: [Monthly Treasurer's Reports - Dropbox](#)

One new membership application was added to: [Membership Applications - Dropbox](#)

We had a request to provide QR codes at the lodges for some of our common fees. Joel will put it in Resources on the website. It will take the person to the website for lodge fees or a donation. The lodge trustees can decide which QR codes they want to post at their lodge.

Membership Report, Lori

First Readings:

Laura Birchard, sponsored by Paul Cutter and Beth Myers-Shenai
Scott Diamond, sponsored by Julia Mace and Jim Spencer
Rachel Cherry, sponsored by Paul Cutter and Chris Anderson
Emerson Miller, sponsored by Paul Cutter and Julia Mace
Shawna Axness, sponsored by Nellie Long and Eric Zimmerman

Second Readings, all unanimously approved:

Carl Buchanan, sponsored by Pete Recksiek and Helen Wang
Juergen Steinhart, sponsored by Paul Cutter and Eric Zimmerman

Publications Report, Joel

Nothing to report.

Nesika Report, Pete

Pete Recksiek hosted the February 10th weekend, mainly to check the status of the trails and lodge. Larch Mountain Rd was clear of snow to the MP 10 gate, but Palmer Mill Rd had drifts and downed trees. \$54 was collected for the 3 members. Generator, pipes, dorm, and lodge seemed fine. On Saturday, March 2, Pete Recksiek and Bob Walker attempted to assess the road and clear some trees but were not able to reach the main gate due to fresh snow on Larch Mountain Rd.

Tyee Report, Paul

February started with a private reservation, the leaders of Oregon and Hikers Club, with 15 attendees. The following weekend, Olivia and Pete Baake spent Friday night and Saturday waiting for PGE to repair an outage. PGE dealt with the minor repair promptly. Apparently, Olivia and Pete had fun watching the Snowcat in operation. The 3rd weekend was the biggest one of the month with a "Bus, Dine and Snowshoe" event followed by lunch for 20. Eleven NW Trackers built snow caves. Sheryl organized a 12 person "Tyee Winter Olympics" during the afternoon. All came together for a 30 person dinner on Saturday night. Many thanks to Olivia Baake for creating the weekend's menu and being lead cook, with Nina and Paul as assistants. The last weekend of the month concluded with 6 adults and 6 children at the "Kids Stay Free Weekend". It has become apparent that on-line payments are getting more popular. Some hosts are actively encouraging this, which Paul supports. Therefore, the idea of QR codes posted at the lodge was suggested. Eric Zimmerman is willing to lead this effort.

The left hood fan above the stove is not working. This summer, Paul will look into it before a replacement is installed. As mentioned last month, we are using the outside valve again for water shutoff. We need a permanent lean-to so this valve and water meter are always accessible. Paul, therefore, requests an additional line item in the budget of \$400 to pay for this project. Richard Gaunt has agreed to lead this project. Joel says he'll install a valve in April that will never need to be replaced. We will not move on this issue right now.

Trips Report, Craig

February had two day hikes and the TCO Winter Games events. There is interest among TCO members to organize a summertime "Bull Run Watershed Tour" with the Portland Water Bureau, as we did in 2023. Craig Gwydir will organize the event. TCO members (and non-members) are always welcome to join our monthly online "TCO Trips Leaders Meeting" to hear about future events, and discuss ideas about trips. These online meetings (1 hr) are posted on the TCO Meetup page.

Social Report, vacant

Update on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Outreach Activities, Julia Mace

Chris S. continues to work with Sierra Club Inspiring Connections Outdoors, leading hikes. Paul, Chris and Julia are planning to host the Sierra Club ICO outing with Codero House on March 10, Sunday, at Tyee. This event includes a snowshoe with 8-10 youth and their guardians. Tyee may welcome them with lunch and fresh cookies/ hot drinks. The expected visit is between 9-3pm. The event is on the TCO calendar.

Last month we discussed having an Outreach Interest Form that community organizations could complete when seeking to collaborate with TCO. The board approved the adoption of the Outreach Interest Form for groups that want to collaborate with TCO.

Nominating Committee, Julia

The nominating Committee has grown by 100%! Jim Spencer has agreed to serve on the

committee. Lori confirmed his eligibility to serve. Julia intends is to build a full committee based on the by-laws by April or May. Currently, the open position we will be looking to fill is Social Chair. Julia talked with Jim and his wife, Libby, about the opportunity to organize the "Annual Banquet". They are thinking about it, and David Noyes has made himself available to collaborate with them if it is not held in May when he'll be traveling. The budget for the Annual Banquet is \$1,830.

OLD BUSINESS

501c3

Lori, Rebecca, and Bev met per group call on 2/28 with Johanna, the representative from StartChurch who will be handling our interactions. A small group will work through the bylaws and Articles of Incorporation and put it out to the board for discussion and approval.

Scholarship Fund, Julia

It was moved and seconded to create a TCO Sponsorship Fund funded with freely given donations for the purpose of offering financial assistance to promote accessibility for membership and/or activities. The motion was unanimously approved. The secretary will look into how to manage the fund.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40

Next meeting, April 9, zoom

Submitted by Rebecca Knudeson, Secretary

Board Meeting (April 2024)

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

Attendees:

President:	Bev Drottar
Vice President:	Jennifer Samuels
Treasurer:	Nicole Rogers
Secretary:	Rebecca Knudeson
Publications	Joel Reitz
Membership:	Lori Leach
Tyee Trustee:	Paul Cutter
Nesika Trustee:	Pete Recksiek
Trips Trustee:	Craig Gwydir
Social Trustee:	Vacant

Regular Business: Minutes were approved by email prior to The Blazer publication.

Treasurer's Report, Nicole

March 31, 2024

Beginning Balance:	\$14,176
Checks and Payments:	\$1,479
Deposits and Credits:	\$2,462
Cleared Balance:	\$15,259

Complete reports can be found by the Board in Dropbox:

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/Trustees%20Share/Monthly%20Treasurer's%20Reports>

Taxes are ready. Nicole worked with our tax preparer.

Membership Report, Lori

Resignations:

Paul Avallone, Gini Bateman, Deeshi Connelly, Sharon Epstein, Michael French, Liz Hall, Judy Henderson, Jeff Lawton, Ann McKinney, Doug Medler, Nancy Medler, Tina Mendel, Joan Ragan, Gary Ragan, Ruth Romer, Heidi Spence, Cathy Van Zyl, Inga Winters

Empty Boots:

Michael Hewlett, passed April 19, 2023, joined TCO May 2009

Provisional:

Mary Schroder – Sponsored by Bruce Seymour and Nicole Rogers
Steve Schroder – Sponsored by Bruce Seymour and Nicole Rogers

Second Readings, unanimously approved:

Laura Birchard – Sponsored by Paul Cutter and Beth Myers-Shenai
Scott Diamond – Sponsored by Julia Mace and Jim Spencer
Rachel Cherry – Sponsored by Paul Cutter and Chris Anderson
Shawna Axness – Sponsored by Nellie Long and Eric Zimmerman
Emerson Miller – Jr Member – Sponsored by Paul Cutter and Julia Mace

Dropped for non-payment of dues:

Ray Amsinger, Derek Atterbury, Dave Barlow, Kim Barnett, Lucas Black, Mimi Cogswell, Marcy Delage, Mary Edwards, Kate Fitkin, Ling Fong, Siena Gilbreath, Helen Gorman, John Heaton, Robert Horn, Brad Huit, Atul Ingle, Didi Irwin, David Johnson, Virginia Larson, Pamela Moore, Glenice Naslund, Peter Nelson, Leslie Nyquist, Leah Power, Jeff Power, Rory Reitz, Robin Rohwer, Cherry Stovall, William Sullivan, Kassier Swenson, Kitty Tsoi, Elisa Wells, Tinghua Xu

Total membership: 241

8 Golden, 3 Junior, 34 Life, 2 Life/Golden, 5 Provisional, 189 Regular

New Life/Golden: Bonnie Bevans

Publications Report, Joel

Joel added QR codes on the website to make it easier to pay lodge fees, one for Nesika and one for Tyee. June is Jennifer's last month as Blazer editor. We will put a notice in the **May Blazer** seeking someone to take over the position.

Nesika Report, Pete

The hasp was broken on the forestry gate (main gate) on Larch Mountain Road on 3/30. The TCO lock was gone. The forestry lock and busted hasp remained. Pete Recksiek fixed the hasp by drilling a new hole on 4/6 and confirmed drivable conditions to the brown gate for the work party on 4/8. The TCO lock was replaced by Linda Conrad during the work trip on 4/8. Linda Conrad and Bob Walker led a crew to cut their way in to the lodge from the main gate on 4/8. Dave Buchanan worked on transplanting silver firs around the Nesika grounds from the Cougar Rock trail. No Nesika revenue to report during March 2024.

Tyee Report, Paul

On the first weekend of March, the lodge was occupied with 8 youth and 3 adults from troop 636. The following weekend was a snowshoe and dine on the Saturday, followed by a group of 4 youth and 2 adults from Cordero House, Beaverton. This group was coordinated with Chris S, Julia M and The Sierra Club. During the Oregon spring break week, the lodge was open most nights with about fifteen people attending throughout the week.

At present, we have used just about half of the heating oil, so we will be looking at topping off the tank for about 200 gallons. As it should be, the new furnace is more efficient than the previous one. After further thought, Paul has decided not to build a lean-to over the water valve but, in the fall, add a tall, brightly colored pole to locate the valve if needed when snow covered. The plan is to have the new valve installed this spring and possibly attach a heated cable for the winter months. Trillium Lake litter clean-up is Saturday, May 18th. It will be posted on Meetup for members only, with a maximum 20.

Trips Report, Craig

Over the past month we had 4 day hikes, 1 Wednesday night conditioning hike and 1 online TCO Trips Leader Planning Meeting. Watch for TCO hikes being planned for History Weekend (May 11 weekend) up to and around Nesika. The "Trails Club Bull Run Committee" is still waiting on availability for Portland Water Bureau tickets to visit the Bull Run Watershed this summer. Please contact Craig Gwydir (TripsChair@trailsclub.org) if you are interested in assisting on day hikes. It's pretty easy and you receive free TCO swag! Some members have asked to have some less demanding hikes. Craig Ramano, a local author on hiking/outdoor matters, has contacted us to make a connection. Craig will follow up with him.

Social Report, vacant

DEI Committee Report, Julia Mace via email

The DEI committee met online on April 1. Attendees: Chris Seubert, Paul Cutter, Julia Mace, Lori Leach, Jackie Cherry (Sierra Club guest.)

Jackie Cherry is with "Inspiring Connections Outdoors", Sierra Club. They partner with programs in the community and schools to lead hikes for both youth and adults. They are a separate branch from the Sierra Club's political focus. ICO's mission is outdoor access for all in the truest form. Resource: <https://www.sierraclub.org>

Business:

1. Julia & Beverly are planning a Naturalist Activity at Nesika on May 11, 2024, with Wild Diversity of PDX.
2. We made some progress in adding new participating organizations to the DEI initiative. Big Brothers Big Sisters has agreed to join the Inspiring Connections Outdoors program, and Chris Seubert hopes to lead a hike with their participants in late May. Also, We Belong PDX, a youth mentoring organization, has expressed an interest in the Inspiring Connections Outdoors work, and will meet with Chris Seubert in the near future about a hiking program.
3. Julia will complete the Sierra Club volunteer process to enable her to lead hikes with ICO.
4. Next meeting is scheduled for June 3rd. Julia will look into hosting this meeting in person to offer a chance for more connection.
5. Lori L. has a few connections to share with Sierra Club.

Nominating Committee Report, Julia Mace via email

Our focus has been on reaching out to members to join the Nominating Committee in an effort to get a full committee of 5 members with one being a past president. Julia has emailed several past presidents and members about their interest in participating on it. The current open position is for Social Chair, 2024. In April we will be actively seeking a member or two to chair/ co-chair this open position. Julia has confirmed with Libby Spencer and Nora Tanner that they will serve on the Nominating Committee. The open Social Chair and Nominating Committee positions will be placed in the **May Blazer** with Julia's email for contact.

OLD BUSINESS

Sponsorship Fund Donations can be earmarked for helping disadvantaged individuals explore our club's special outreach programs. A special book-keeping category will be created by our

treasurer. Members who wish to donate to this cause may send money with a note for "sponsorship fund" to our treasurer.

Non profit status, Lori

We have sent everything StartChurch needs from us. We expect to hear from them soon.

NEW BUSINESS: none

Adjourned at 8:00 PM

Next meeting, May 7, Zoom

Submitted by Rebecca Knudson, Secretary



Archer Mountain Hike. Photo: Chris Anderson



Ecola State Park. 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

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

Blazer Editor: Jennifer Samuels