



Trail Blazer

Vol. 97 No. 6 www.trailsclub.org

JUNE 2024

JUNE 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

1-2	Sat-Sun	Volunteer Weekend at Nesika
3	Mon	Outreach Committee Meeting
4	Tues	Board Meeting
5	Weds	Weds Eve Conditioning Hike
12	Weds	Weds Eve Conditioning Hike
19	Weds	Yearly Solstice Hike, Triple Crown?
21-22	Fri-Sun	Tyee Work Party
26	Weds	Weds Eve Conditioning Hike



Nesika Lodge Hike. Photo: Nicole Rogers

Nesika History Report

Linda Conrad, Nesika History Committee Chair
 We had a good day clearing roads and trail on Friday. Only two trees down on road so we concentrated effort on the Cougar Rock Trail, trying to clear from both Lodge and basin. Not quite meeting in the middle yet. So much fireweed and salmon berries in basin still. The trail by high water was cleared by Pete Bryant to the basin bridge by the high water trail. Candace was able to work on her trees which are now over six feet. Thanks to Trish for cooking on Saturday and Sunday. I was able to spend four hours on pictures accompanied by Leah an ex trails club member who says she will rejoin. Still so much yet to do.

The Board of Directors is sorry to announce that this year we will not have an annual picnic, since we have not had a social chairperson to plan the event.

The Nominating Committee (led by Julia Mace) is currently looking for a member who can fulfill this role.

We will hold the regular Annual Meeting in November, details TBD.

Note from the Editor:

After editing 42 issues of The Trails Club Blazer, this is my final volume - thank you for reading!
 Jennifer Samuels, Editor, The Blazer
 December 2020 - June 2024



Rowena Crest Hike. Photo: Sheryl Wagner

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



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President@trailsclub.org



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Blazer Editor
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Joel Reitz
Publications Trustee
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SocialChair@trailsclub.org



Craig Gwydir
Trips Trustee
TripsChair@trailsclub.org

Board Meeting

Board Meeting Minutes | May 7, 2024 6:15-8:00 | 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

Beginning Balance, Aug:	\$15,259
Checks and Payments:	\$1,790
Deposits and Credits:	\$1,149
Cleared Balance:	\$14,618

Taxes have been filed. Nicole is still working to get on the Fidelity account. Complete reports can be found by the Board in Dropbox:
<https://www.dropbox.com/home/Trustees%20Share/Monthly%20Treasurer's%20Reports>

Membership Report, Lori

Reinstatements: Derek Atterbury, Valentine Power, Leah Power, Jeff Lawton
Provisional: Damon Sawyer

Total membership: 246
8 Golden, 3 Junior, 34 Life, 2 Life/Golden, 6 Provisional, 193 Regular

Publications Report, Joel

Joel is looking at different ways to publish The Blazer.

Nesika Report, Pete

The access road to Nesika was cleared on the April 6 weekend, hosted by the Conrads. A huge Douglas Fir had to be removed from the monster trail. A water leak was heard under the wood room floor. Bob Walker and Pete Recksiek assessed the damage the following weekend. They made repairs but discovered more leaks. They determined the PVC valves failed during the hard freeze in January, leaking water into the lodge by gravity and then freezing the lodge pipes. Every valve on the property was shut, and water still leaked into the lodge. It was further confirmed when the lower tank was filled and leaked back through the valve to the hose bib. The valves need to be replaced, buried deeper and/or the boxes stuffed with insulation or hay during winterization. The lodge crawlspace vents also need to be stuffed with rags or insulation during shutdown. While water was running under the lodge for several months, none seemed to be collecting or flooding anywhere, apparently

seeping through the ground somewhere. Still, it is dank under the floorboards even with the pipes sealed, and may need to be dried to prevent rotting of the subfloor and the proliferation of mold. The wood-fired boiler coils filled with water and also burst. To prevent more water flowing into the boiler and leaking all over, the hot water line was disconnected and capped. The coils are welded in the boiler and the whole things needs to be replaced. Pete and Bob will look into a replacement. There aren't too many wood fired water heaters on the market. Ours had been made by a member. We really need to look at the whole water system. We do have water in the lodge. They collected \$408 the last weekend the lodge was open.

Tyee Report, Paul

The one weekend scheduled this month was cancelled due to lack of participants. We're gearing up for spring and summer with various minor projects for the lodge. Sheryl has agreed to paint the game room mural. Then, we will get the laminate floor down (donated labor and material). The cracked tiles on hearth will be replaced. Replacement water valve will be installed, and the fire extinguishers will be re-certified as soon as vehicle access is possible.



Nesika Decorations. Photo: Nicole Rogers

Trips Report, Craig

There were 3 TCO organized day hikes in the month of April. Wednesday night conditioning hikes resumed for 2024. There was an online April TCO Trip Leaders meeting. The water bureau will have Bull Run Tours available this year but request that anyone who went last year not repeat because they have limited space.

Social Report, vacant

Nominating Committee, Julia via email

The committee met on April 23. Members of the committee: Chair Julia Mace, Nora Tanner, Sheryl Wagner, and Libby and Jim Spencer. They articulated the Social Chair's responsibilities: attend monthly TCO board meetings, chair the social committee, plan and organize social events for TCO. They developed a plan to solicit interest from the membership for this open positions.

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

Julia and Bev will host People of Color Outdoors for a Naturalist Walk and Talk on May 11, at Nesika. Chris Seubert will host Big Brothers/Big Sisters hike on May 18 through Sierra Club Inspiring Connections Outdoors. Cordero House sent a thank you for hosting a group in March at Tyee.

501c3 Meeting Report

Bev, Lori and Rebecca met to start work on the documents received from Startchurch. We agreed to begin with Startchurch's bylaws template and incorporate TCO's necessary bylaws into it. We will identify components of our current bylaws that aren't essential and place them in a **Core Policies** (things that are changeable but less so) document. We will also establish a **Current Practices** (things that are more changeable) document to track board only decisions. Both these documents will be maintained in Dropbox. These actions will simplify our bylaws and eliminate the discrepancies between them and our current operations. It will also provide a method to maintain an easily accessed record of board decisions. One major bylaws change we want the board to consider is to remove the social committee trustee and replace it with a DEI trustee.

The social chair would, then, become a committee position.

A question for the board: What is a legal special meeting? Our bylaws were adjusted to allow remote meetings, but, in reality, it looks like our Annual Meeting in November would be best for our timeline. We could hold a special meeting for the Articles of Incorporation before the Annual Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Name change for DEI

We will think about it for the next meeting.

Blazer Editor

Leonora Ko is willing to be editor but would like to be gifted an annual membership during the years she edits the Blazer. It was moved and seconded that we gift Leonora a membership as a thank you for being the editor until the end of the year when we will reevaluate the gift. The motion passed with 4 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstention. Joel will work with her to get started.

Joel Tye Use

Joel requested a private use of Tye for a men's group on June 2-3, Sunday-Tues. The Board approved.

Nesika Key

A member requested that Duane Bollard be given a Nesika Key. We have not received his form or money yet. The board decided that he can have a loaner key for this weekend.

Adjourned at 8:44

Next meeting, June 4, Zoom

Submitted by Rebecca Knudeson, Secretary

Multnomah Basin Trail Conditions, May 2024

This section describes the status of the traditional trails and user paths around Nesika Lodge. These trails had been in use for decades, then were damaged by the 2017 fire. Restoration of these trails is underway.

- **Cougar Rock Trail:** This trail has been cleared 0.65 miles starting from its east end, near Nesika Lodge. The cleared portion of the trail passes Cougar Rock. This trail is an "out-and-back" until more work can be done and is flagged in sections. The west end of the trail, starting at the High Water Trail, has not been cleared yet.
- **High Water Trail:** The High Water Trail has been cleared from Larch Mtn trail up to the basin road. Logs have been cut and cleared from the trail.
- **Franklin Ridge connector trail:** This 0.5 mile legacy trail that connected the Monster Trail with Franklin Ridge has been only about 15% cleared. The remaining portion is a dense bush-whack.
- **Elevator Shaft trail:** This difficult legacy user path has been cleared through the rock field starting at the 400 trail and up the offtrail ridge. The user path ends in dense brush on the Multnomah Plateau.

Please note these trails/user paths are not US Forest Service trails. They are not signed and require navigation. Please use at your own risk. If you have interest in helping flag or clear these trails, please contact Craig Gwydir (TripsChair@trailsclub.org). Thanks!



Bell Creek Hike. Photo: Nicole Rogers



Sunset at Nesika Lodge. Photo: Tricia Shultz

Book Review: Day Hiking Columbia River Gorge, 2nd Edition by Craig Romano
Craig Gwydir

Author Craig Romano has recently updated this comprehensive book of hiking knowledge to a second edition, available online (Kindle), and soft paperback formats. The soft paperback format (320 pages) fits easily into a hiking pack at 4.74 in x 6.75 inches and is certainly worthwhile to bring along as your reliable outdoor guide.

Popular and not-so-well known hikes are included in detail on both the Oregon and Washington sides of the Gorge, from the Sandy River Delta all the way out east to Cottonwood Canyon State Park. A section at the beginning of the book named “Hikes At A Glance” contains well-organized information about each listed hike, such as distance, difficulty, dog-friendly, waterfalls, kid-friendly status, seasonal status, among other important details.

For each hike within this new 2nd edition, there are directions to the trailhead, detailed map illustrations regarding trails, points of interest, named creeks and rivers, as well as (new) color photos, and of course a detailed description of the hike. The information is detailed and well-organized.

The book is informative to a beginning hiker, and an experienced Gorge hiker will also find something enlightening within these pages (I did!). Hike descriptions have been updated to include details about the 2017 Gorge fire where applicable.

There is also information included about car camping and backpacking for those looking beyond hiking. The new color photos add visual appeal and enhance the reading experience. Simply, a very well done, up-to-date, reliable trail publication for outdoor adventurers of any level! Very well done! Highly recommended! Go out and update your existing copy of this book, as the updates are well worth the price.



Trail Clean-up at Trillium Lake. Photo: Nicole Rogers



Lessons From Bigfoot

Dolores Niebergall

Leave No Trace Committee Chair and
Certified Leave No Trace Instructor

The 7 Principles of Leave No Trace:

- 1) Plan Ahead and Prepare
- 2) Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces
- 3) Dispose of Waste Properly
- 4) Leave What you Find
- 5) Minimize Fire Impacts
- 6) Respect Wildlife
- 7) Be Considerate of Others

Assess your knowledge of Principle #2 with the following quiz:

You are alone or with a group, walking along a trail. You come to a stretch that is wet and muddy. True or False: You should avoid walking through muddy trail sections

Consider viewing this video before answering - [CLICK HERE](#)



Bigfoot's correct answer from knowledge quiz: False

When walking in mud keep your pace shorter, your feet low and pace steady. Avoid sudden changes in direction or speed.

Please Leave No Trace: Bigfoot's been doing it for years!



Nesika Membership Hike
Photos: Nicole Rogers

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