



Trail Blazer

Vol. 99 No. 1

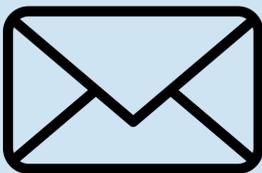
TrailsClub.org

January 2026



Club Logo Merch

We'd love your input! Please take a few minutes to complete our quick survey and share your ideas for future club logo merchandise as well as suggestions for events and activities you'd enjoy seeing the club offer. Your feedback helps guide what we create and plan, ensuring it truly reflects the interests of our members. Click the link below to participate — we appreciate your time and creativity! <https://form.jotform.com/253288844169067>



New PO Box

Trails Club of Oregon

PO Box 19891

Portland, OR 97280-0891

Hosts and Potential Hosts:

Our president has emphasized the importance of accurately documenting lodge fees and expenses for all hosted trips. Doing so prevents the treasurer from having to guess or follow up about any payment or reimbursement they receive.

Lodge and Meal Fees — Order of Preference

1. **Encourage online payments whenever possible** and review the receipts for accuracy. The website can be accessed from either lodge to allow guests to make online payments.
2. **Checks made out to “Trails Club of Oregon.”**
3. **Cash** that the host then converts into a single check.
4. **All payments must be recorded accurately on the Lodge Form** and mailed to:

**Trails Club of Oregon
PO Box 19891
Portland, OR 97280-0891**

If no checks are mailed, the lodge form may be scanned and emailed directly to the treasurer. treasurer@trailsclub.org. *Please do NOT mail cash.*

5. **Some hosts may receive complimentary overnight vouchers as a “Thank You.”** Please document these on the lodge form as well.
6. Moving forward, donations for day use are suggested but not required. Each lodge will have a locked donation box. The lodge chair will be responsible for submitting those funds.

Expenses

1. All expenses must be documented with receipts - please keep them after shopping. Submit them by mail or by scanning and emailing the **Revenue & Disbursement Voucher Form**, which can be found at the lodge or on the website.
2. Except for work parties, the cost of food you submit for reimbursement cannot be more than the total meal income collected from the attendees.

Thank you,
Paul Cutter. (outgoing Tye Trustee)

Pete Recksiek (Nesika Trustee)

January Events

Check the [Trails Club of Oregon website calendar](#) for up-to-date event listings.
Click on the Details Icon for a link to the event.

See the [trip reports](#) on the TCO website to see what you have missed!



Details

Board Meeting

Dec 7, Sun

In person at the presidential residence



Details

Tyee is Open

Dec 19-21, Fri-Sun

Leader: Lori Leach



Details

Tyee is Open

Dec 26-29, Fri-Mon

Leader: Sheryl Wagner



Details

Nesika is Open

Dec 29 - Jan 1, Mon-Thu

Leader: Pete Recksiek



Details

Tyee is Open

Jan 1-4, Thu-Sun

Leader: Paul Cutter



Details

8 Miles on Leif Erickson

Jan 3, Sat

Leader: Sebastian Powers-Leach



Details

Tyee is Open

Jan 9-11, Fri-Sun

Leader: Lori Leach



Details

Tyee is Open

Jan 16-18, Fri-Sun

Leader: Sheryl Wagner



Details

Trackers NW event - private event

Jan 24-25, Sat-Sun

Leader: Paul Cutter



Details

Tyee is open!

Jan 30 - Feb 1, Fri-Sun

Leader: Sheryl Wagner



Details

Tyee is open

Feb 6-8, Fri-Sun

Leader: Paul Cutter



Details

Tyee Kids stay free weekend

Feb 13-16, Fri-Mon

Leader: Linda Conrad



Details

Tyee is Open!

Feb 20-22, Fri-Sun

Leader: Sheryl Wagner



Details

TCO Winter Games!!!!

Feb 21, Sat

Leader: Sheryl Wagner



Details

Newberry Ski Weekend March 13-15, 2026

Mar 13-15, Fri-Sun

Leader: Tom Thrall



Welcome

New Provisional Members:

Anne Deis, Jr Member

Elizabeth Markhart – Sponsored by Silke Brunning and Volker Czechowski

New Members:

Inge Winters – Sponsored by Jeff Lawton and Catherine Schiedler

Kent Greenen – Sponsored by Glen Conrad and Dolores Niebergall

Silke Brunning – Sponsored by Lori Leach and Joel Reitz

Maggie Klaus – Sponsored by Sebastian Powers-Leach and Greg Barrell

Janet Mallon – Sponsored by Lori Leach and Celine Stroinsky

Wendy Maihack – Sponsored by Lori Leach and Joel Reitz

Brenna Stahr – Sponsored by Lori Leach and Joel Reitz

Sidney Jackson - Sponsored by Lori Leach and Joel Reitz



Photo: Craig Gwydir - Ornament Trail



Photo: Juergen Steinhart - Larch Mountain Trail Slide



Photo: Serge Kise - Nesika Trail Clearing



Photo: Pete Recksiek - Nesika Road Clearing

OHS digital no. bb03,802



Samuel Lancaster (center foreground standing in profile) is pictured here with early members of the Trails Club of Oregon on Larch Mountain summit where the Larch Mountain trail was established.

TCO's 1st President and 1st Lodge

Board Meeting

Trails Club of Oregon Board Meeting Minutes

Date: December 7, 2025 Time: 6:30-8:00 PM Location: Bev Drottar's home

Attendees:

President:	Bev Drottar
Vice President:	Eric Zimmerman
Treasurer:	Vacant
Secretary:	Rebecca Knudeson
Publications:	Joel Reitz
Membership:	Lori Leach
Tyee Trustee:	Paul Cutter
Trips Trustee:	Craig Gwydir
Outdoor Ed/Outreach Trustee:	Vacant
Committee Chairs:	Jeff Churchill (Social)
	Dolores Niebergall (Leave No Trace)
Incoming Outdoor Ed/Outreach Trustee:	Sebastian Powers-Leach
Potential Treasurer:	Sidney Jackson

Absent:

Nesika Trustee:	Pete Recksiek
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BUSINESS by email in between board meetings

- November board minutes were approved by email on 11/18/25 prior to the Blazer publication.
- On 11/10/25 the board approved, via email, Tyee's use by Outdoor Service Guides on Feb. 5-8, 2026.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report, Lori Leach

Due to the change of treasurer, October is included since the report was not ready last month.

Beginning Balance, 10/31/25:	\$10,137.25	11/30/25:	\$9331.08
Checks and Payment:	1,065.18		10,619.13
Deposits and Credits:	259.08		9538.14
Cleared Balance:	9,331.08		8250.09

Complete reports can be found by the Board in Dropbox:

Membership Report, Lori

Provisional:

Anne Deis, Jr Member

Elizabeth Markhart – Sponsored by Silke Brunning and Volker Czechowski

Membership Readings all approved unanimously

Inge Winters – Sponsored by Jeff Lawton and Catherine Schiedler

Kent Greenen – Sponsored by Glen Conrad and Dolores Niebergall

Silke Brunning – Sponsored by Lori Leach and Joel Reitz

Maggie Klaus – Sponsored by Sebastian Powers-Leach and Greg Barrell

Janet Mallon – Sponsored by Lori Leach and Celine Stroinsky

Wendy Maihack – Sponsored by Lori Leach and Joel Reitz

Brenna Stahr – Sponsored by Lori Leach and Joel Reitz

Sidney Jackson - Sponsored by Lori Leach and Joel Reitz

Membership Summary: Total: 261

9 Golden, 2 Junior, 32 Life, 3 Life/Golden, 19 Provisional, 1 Provisional Jr, 194 Regular

81 members have paid dues for 2026

Lori has developed a business card type format for the activity leaders to hand out to potential members. It includes a QR code and blanks for the activity they were on, the date and sponsors' names.

Publications Report, Joel

Joel has been collecting the mail at the new mailbox. It is mostly membership checks that he deposited and reported to Lori. He also has the PGE bill (auto-pay) and the insurance notice, which was sent to Eric. We have a new PO Box address, 19891, with a 97280 zip code. Joel is converting all online forms to reflect this change. We have already started mail forwarding. LODGE HOSTS: make sure that any paper forms at the lodges reflect the NEW address.

Nesika Report, Pete

Dolores Niebergall gave a slide presentation on "Leave No Trace," and Linda Conrad gave a presentation on essential winter camping gear. The water system was shut down for the winter, while the kitchen was cleaned and stocked for the winter trips. 35 gallons of diesel fuel and 5

gallons of propane were delivered. A wood processing trip was completed during which wood was hauled, split and stacked for the winter. A trail was cleared to the spring box, which is in decay (the cover is sagging and rotted). A repair is planned for spring.

Tyee Report, Paul

On the first weekend of the month, Troop 3969 (boys) and 5396 (girls) stayed overnight. There were approximately 19 youth and 7 leaders (\$445). The Pre-Thanksgiving meal was a huge hit with 35 sitting down for dinner. The weather was very mild with no snow in sight. Thanks to Eric Zimmerman for encouraging Paul to have this event for a 4th year. Five stayed overnight on Friday and twelve on Saturday.

There was some dampness in the basement. The south wall will need some form of permanent drainage installed.

Trips Report, Craig

There were 6 day hikes during the month of November. Thank you to Lori and Sebastian for leading hikes this month. The TCO Stormy Trails committee examined the following trails and found them clear of obstacles as of Nov 29: High Water Trail, Basin Cutoff Trail, Ornament Trail, Nesika/Franklin Ridge Connector Trail, Cougar Rock Trail

Please email tripschair@trailsclub.org if you are interested in assisting with trail work, including trail scouting, restoration and maintenance.

Call for help: If you are interested in learning about adventures on the Multnomah Plateau and willing to help co-lead hikes and/or join a TCO trips planning committee, please join our "TCO Hike Leaders Meeting" this month, or send questions to tripschair@trailsclub.org.

Outdoor Education and Outreach, vacant

Sebastian, the incoming chair, already has several committee members: Tom Thrall, Eric Zimmerman, and Gregory Barrell.

OLD BUSINESS

501c3 Nothing new to report

Insurance, Eric Zimmerman

Eric doesn't have a viable alternative to our current insurance provider yet and will likely delay a change until we have our 501c3 finalized. Brett Oliver is creating a packet for us to review.

The insurance numbers for the policy renewal this month follow:

Nesika Fire Insurance (Oregon Fair Plan Association): \$7,235. This policy is barebones, only covering Nesika if it burns down (No earthquake or flood).

Tyee & Liability Insurance (Nautilus): \$4,737

Directors and Officers Insurance: TBD ~ \$752 previously

Eric will see if we could decrease our insurance costs by raising our deductibles to \$10,000.

NEW BUSINESS

Day use fee for lodges

Moved and seconded to suggest donations for day use, instead of charging a flat fee for a day. (It is difficult for hosts to chase around after day users who might be in the lodge for a few minutes or all day.) The motion was approved unanimously. Each lodge will have a locked donation box. The lodge chairs will be responsible for submitting those funds.

Treasurer Position

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to appoint Sidney Jackson as TCO

treasurer. Lori will work with her during the transition.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to add Joel as a signer on our checking account.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to amend our Policies and Practices document as follows:

There will be no less than 3 and no more than 5 board members as signers on the Club's checking account, as appointed by the Board.

Joel will make that change on the P and P document. He will also update our current safe deposit box location.

Lori suggests that we get an online version of QuickBooks. She will let us know what she finds out.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to discontinue our Garmin contract since it is not being used. Lori will do that.

Adjourned at 8:00

Next meeting, January 13, zoom

Submitted by Rebecca Knudeson, Secretary

Board of Directors



President

**Beverly
Drott**

[President](#)

[@TrailsClub.org](#)



Vice President

**Eric
Zimmerman**

[VicePres](#)

[@TrailsClub.org](#)



Secretary

**Rebecca
Knudeson**

[Secretary](#)

[@TrailsClub.org](#)



Treasurer

**Sidney
Jackson**

[Treasurer](#)

[@TrailsClub.org](#)





Nesika
**Pete
Reckseik**

NesikaChair@TrailsClub.org



Tyee
**Eric
Eisinger**

TyeeChair@TrailsClub.org



Membership
**Lori
Leach**

MembershipChair@TrailsClub.org



Publications
**Joel
Reitz**

PublicationChair@TrailsClub.org



Outdoor Education
and Outreach
**Sebastian
Powers-
Leach**

OEO@TrailsClub.org



Trips
**Craig
Gwydir**
TripsChair@TrailsClub.org



Standing Committees



Social

Jeff Churchill

[Social](#)

[@TrailsClub.org](#)



Leave No Trace

**Dolores
Niebergall**

[LeaveNoTrace](#)

[@TrailsClub.org](#)



History

Linda Conrad

[History](#)

[@TrailsClub.org](#)



Conservation

Dave Letcher

[Conservation](#)

[@TrailsClub.org](#)



Your Advertisement Here

Adds from TCO members for mutual benefit can be placed in the Trail Blazer



If you would like to place an add send your input to: Blazer@TrailsClub.org

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 \$.20 per mile. With multiple riders the driver can collect up to \$.50 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.

TRAIL BLAZER

Published monthly by the

Trails Club of Oregon

P.O. Box 19891

Portland, OR 97208-0891

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 second Tuesday of the month, 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 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/](https://www.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 Trail 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.

Send write-ups to: Blazer@TrailsClub.org

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

Trail Blazer Editor: Joel Reitz

Send pictures, new events, corrections and anything else for the

Trails Club of Oregon website to: webmaster@TrailsClub.org

