



Trail Blazer

Vol. 99 No. 4

[TrailsClub.org](https://www.trailsclub.org)

April 2026

Interested in Bike packing?

The Trails Club is exploring one- or two-night bike packing trips in Oregon and Southwest Washington—and we want to know if you're in!

Routes would be easy to moderate, suitable for both beginners and experienced riders. Expect 15–40 miles per day, manageable climbing, and classic Pacific Northwest scenery.

Do you prefer to ride on paved paths, gravel roads, or natural dirt trails? Let us know.

Options may include traditional camping or more formal lodging such as huts, cabins, or yurts—your preference matters, so speak up!

Interested? Have ideas about routes or places to stay?

Contact Lori Leach at membership@trailsclub.org to share your thoughts.

Whether you're curious to try bike packing or ready to help lead a trip, your input is welcome!

April 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

Wednesday Evening Hike

Apr 1, Wed

Leader: Sebastian and Lori Leach



Details

Board Meeting

Apr 7, Tues

On Zoom



Details

Wednesday Evening Hike

Apr 8, Wed

Leader: John Koger and Lori Leach



Details

Tyee is Open

Apr 10-12, Fri-Sun

Leader: Eric Eisinger



Details

Wednesday Evening Hike

Apr 15, Wed

Leader: Greg and Lori Leach



Details

Wednesday Evening Hike

Apr 22, Wed

Leader: Bruce Seymour and Lori Leach



Details

Volunteer Weekend at Nesika

Apr 25-26, Sat-Sun

Leader: Pete Recksiek



Details

Wednesday Evening Hike

Apr 28, Wed

Leader: Sebastian and Lori Leach

TCO Trails Report (March-15-2026)

USFS Multnomah Falls Trails

The latest USFS trails closures can be found at:

<https://fs.usda.gov/r06/columbiarivergorge>

- Larch Mountain Trail (#441) is currently OPEN and clear of obstacles approaching the High Water Trail.
- Wahkeena Trail #420 is currently OPEN.
- Franklin Ridge trail #427 is currently OPEN but has many trees down and across the trail.
- The 0.5 mile connector trail between Multnomah Lodge and Wahkeena Trailhead is currently OPEN.

Multnomah Basin Trails

- The High Water Trail is currently clear of obstacles.
- The Cougar Rock trail has at least one treefall that is easy to navigate around. The bridge crossing on the Cougar Rock trail has a hole in the middle that will be repaired in the spring.
- The Elevator Shaft user path has at least 8 trees down on the east section, but it is reported to be passable for advanced hikers with navigation. The Elevator Shaft rock fields are clear of obstacles.
- The 0.5 mile Multnomah Basin Cutoff Trail has one tree down that is easy to walk over.
- The Ornament Trail is currently clear of obstacles.
- The 0.7 mile connector trail between Nesika Lodge and Franklin ridge was reported clear of obstacles as of March-1-2026.

Note that conditions can change quickly on these trails.

Please report any change in Multnomah Basin trail conditions to

tripschair@trailsclub.org. Thanks!



Welcome

New Members:

Rick Lathrop, sponsored by Joel Reitz and Mark Barham
Beth Silva, sponsored by Glen Conrad and Nina Rohrs
Julie Norrande, sponsored by Craig Gwydir and Rebecca Knudeson
Wendy Lou, sponsored by Sheryl Wagner and Lori Leach
Kassandra Griffin, sponsored by Linda Conrad and Nina Rohrs

Newberry Ski Adventure March 13-15, 2026

Planning for this event began in late November 2025, when I first posted an announcement in the December Blazer. Several members expressed interest, with six people ultimately deciding to go, and two cabins were rented at the Paulina Lake Resort located on Paulina Lake in the Newberry Volcanic caldera. The weather turned out to be a bit unstable when the date finally arrived, with some clouds in the sky and a bit of rain in the forecast,

but we were reassured by the Resort staff that the 3-mile road and the trails into the cabins would be snow-covered and skiable. However, when we arrived at the 10-Mile SnoPark (5600'), we found that the lower mile of the road had fully melted out down to the pavement, and the trails down to the dirt! Fortunately, the Resort was able to provide us a shuttle to get us into our cabins for the weekend, and the roads and trails in the caldera (6300') still held adequate snow for skiing. The rain held off, and we received only a light dusting of snow on Saturday morning.

After breakfast, we hiked a mile or so down to see Paulina Falls, and then put on our skis and headed out past Paulina Lake to East Lake on a very scenic and moderately challenging adventure. Rolling terrain and crusty snow held our attention as we skied about 8 miles out and back, getting a good workout before returning to the Resort's restaurant for a much anticipated (and very delicious) dinner.

Sunday morning broke with blue skies and sunshine, so we hiked for a couple of hours along the shore of beautiful Paulina Lake before packing up for the trip home. An enjoyable adventure overall, well worth repeating in winters to come!

Tom Thrall











Photo: Nancy Schmidt - Newberry Ski Weekend



Photo: Rebecca Knudson - Newberry Ski Weekend



Photo: Nancy Schmidt - Newberry Ski Weekend



Photo: Craig Gwydir - Elevator Shaft



Photo: Craig Gwydir - Elevator Shaft path on ridge



Photo: Craig Gwydir - Cleared stairs at Nesika

Board Meeting

Trails Club of Oregon Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 3/10/2026 Time: 7:00-9:00 PM Location: zoom

Attendees:

President:	Bev Drottar
Vice President:	Eric Zimmerman
Treasurer:	Sydney Jackson
Secretary:	Rebecca Knudeson

Publications:	Joel Reitz
Membership:	Lori Leach
Tyee Trustee:	Eric Zing Eisinger
Nesika Trustee:	Pete Recksiek
Trips Trustee:	Craig Gwydir
Outdoor Ed/Outreach Trustee:	Sebastian Powers-Leach
Committee Chairs:	Jeff Churchill (Social)

REGULAR BUSINESS

Minutes were approved unanimously on 3/15/26 by email prior to the Blazer publication. The use of Tyee by a Sierra Club youth group on 3/15/26 was also approved by email. Eric E will host.

Treasurer's Report, Sydney

Beginning Balance, 3/9/26:	\$11,309.11
Checks and Payment:	630.77
Deposits and Credits:	4,962.76
Cleared Balance:	15,641.10

Sydney is planning to get the taxes to our tax person soon. Complete reports can be found by the Board in Dropbox:

Membership Report, Lori

Membership readings, all unanimously approved:
Rick Lathrop, sponsored by Joel Reitz and Mark Barham
Beth Silva, sponsored by Glen Conrad and Nina Rohrs
Julie Norrander, sponsored by Craig Gwydir and Rebecca Knudeson
Wendy Lou, sponsored by Sheryl Wagner and Lori Leach
Kassandra Griffin, sponsored by Linda Conrad and Nina Rohrs

Membership summary, 252 total:
197 Regular, 8 Golden, 3 Junior, 34 Life, 4 Life/Golden, 6 Provisional

Publications Report, Joel

Columbia Sportswear employee store invite went out to the membership on Feb 25th, for use Feb 27- Mar 22.

Joel has collected the mail from the post office and posted the items for the Board. The lodge host forms provided an insight in how badly the host form is used such as not identifying member vs. non-member (Mazama members do NOT get reciprocity) and payments made "on-line" that did not occur.

This verification step must be the host's responsibility. The form as it is might be OK if all the information is entered, but when it is not filled out, it is almost impossible to verify what was intended.

Craig will pick up the mail the mail in April when Joel is not able.

Nesika Report, Pete

Pete Recksiek hosted a recreational weekend 2/14 to 2/16. Members split wood and restocked the wood room. The Franklin Ridge connector trail was cleared of several blown down trees. The lodge was accessible by road, and fuels were restocked.

On March 1st, Dave Letcher noticed the main gate was pinned and shut, but not locked. The gate hasp (flat piece of steel that holds the padlocks) was missing along with the forestry gate

lock. The TCO lock was wedged in the gate. A new hasp was made by Rob Parker and a new pad lock installed from the Forestry Duty Supervisor.

New door knobs were installed on both bathrooms that do not lock (the deadbolts remain on both doors). They had locking doorknobs with the key on the inside and had the potential to lock someone inside. The purchase and installation was a generous donation to the lodge. A lockbox for donations and day fees was installed on the wall next to the guest registry book. The steps were cleared next to the water fountain with the intention to clear the lower area for recreational use.

The Forest Service is still working on the Basin Road, felling hazard trees near where they intend to install/repair water bars. Please contact Pete Recksiek if you intend to drive in past the green gate during the week.

Tyee Report, Eric Zing

February was a little busier at the lodge. The TCO winter games was a success. Lori hosted another group from the Trackers. Eric Z. installed the day use donation box. It was filled with \$55! Eric Z. also installed a pub quality dart board for our nightly entertainment. Last weekend he hauled up 4 gallons of antifreeze and 30 rolls of TP! Looks like a big storm is a coming for the weekend! He hopes to see y'all there!

Trips Report, Craig

There was 1 day hike and 1 snowshoe event during the month of February. The TCO Hike Leaders semi-monthly ZOOM meeting has changed to a broader topic format titled "TCO Trails Talk!"

The TCO Stormy Trails committee examined the following Basin trails on Feb 14, 2026 and found them clear: High Water Trail, Basin Cutoff Trail, Ornament Trail, Nesika/Franklin Connector path, and Cougar Rock Trail. On the Elevator Shaft path, the upper boulder field has a large snag across the stone path with a makeshift detour in place. There are 6 limbed snags on the east/flat portion of the path that are easy to step over.

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 Ed and Outreach, Sebastian

The OEO Committee had another meeting (this time on Zoom) on the 25th of February. The Committee discussed our current goals and future action items while also welcoming two new committee members to the group. Some current aims include creating promotional materials for tabling events and the planning of a few lodge outreach events the summer (more info to come). Several committee members will be tabling during the Leave No Trace presentation at Cedar Mill Library on March 19th.

We will meet virtually during the last week of March. Our next in-person meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 26th at 2pm (location TBD). If you would like to join the OEO Committee or learn more about how you can help expand outdoor education and outreach, please email oeochair@trailsclub.org.

Social, Jeff

Jeff has a couple of members who may be interested in helping with the social committee.

History

Ben Carscallen (who is not a current member) posted on the Trails Club Facebook page an

intriguing photo of some 1928-1930 "schedule pamphlets" from the Trails Club.

OLD BUSINESS

501 (c) 3

Our application has finally been sent to the feds. Now, we'll wait to hear from them.

Day use fees for external non-member groups

We moved, seconded and unanimously approved the following: Include in the Policy and Practices document that external non-member groups will be charged \$5 per person for a day fee at the lodges. The Board may vote to waive the fee for disadvantaged groups.

Threadneedle Account

Bev will send an email to Chris Monti to check about the progress of this transfer.

Thank-you Joel for the lovely article about this memorial fund.

NEW BUSINESS

We moved, seconded and approved to move the April board meeting to April 7 instead of 14.

Adjourned at 8:36

Next meeting: ****Please submit all monthly reports by Sunday 4/5/26 for agenda****.

Meet via zoom on April 7th 7-9pm, trailsclub.org/zoom

Submitted by Rebecca Knudeson, Secretary

Board of Directors



President

**Beverly
Drottar**

[President
@TrailsClub.org](mailto:President@TrailsClub.org)



Vice President

**Eric
Zimmerman**

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Treasurer

**Sydney
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Nesika
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Membership
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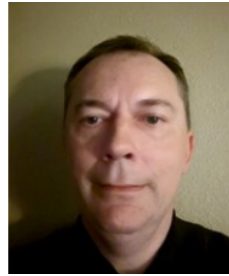
Publications
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and Outreach
**Sebastian
Powers-
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Trips
**Craig
Gwydir**
TripsChair@TrailsClub.org



Standing Committees



Social

Jeff Churchill

[Social](#)

[@TrailsClub.org](#)



Leave No Trace

**Dolores
Niebergall**

[LeaveNoTrace](#)

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History

Linda Conrad

[History](#)

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Conservation

Dave Letcher

[Conservation](#)

[@TrailsClub.org](#)



Your Advertisement Here

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



If you would like to place an ad 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

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Trails Club of Oregon

P.O. Box 19891

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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 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/).

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

