



Trail Blazer

Vol. 99 No. 8

TrailsClub.org

August 2026

The Trails Club of Oregon now has 501(c)(3) status!

Trails Club of Oregon is a tax-exempt public charity under IRC Section 501(c)(3), effective March 2, 2026 (EIN: 93-6026721). Donor contributions are fully tax-deductible, and the organization is eligible to receive tax-deductible bequests and gifts.

August 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](#)

Aug 5, Wed

Leaders: TBD



Details

[Nesika Volunteer Weekend](#)

Aug 8-9, Sat-Sun

Leader: Pete Recksiek



Details

[Wednesday Evening Hike](#)

Aug 12, Wed

Leaders: TBD



Details

[Wednesday Evening Hike](#)

Aug 19, Wed

Leaders: TBD



Details

[Tyee Open \(w/meals\)](#)

Aug 21-23, Fri-Sun

Leader: Sebastian Powers-Leach



Details

[Wednesday Evening Hike](#)

Aug 26, Wed

Leaders: TBD



Details

[Timberline Daydream, Tyee open](#)

Sep 4-7, Fri-Mon

Leader: Sheryl Wagner



Details

[Board Meeting](#)

Sep 8, Tues

On Zoom (no August meeting)



Details

[Appalachian Trail north from Mt Graylock](#)

Sep 14-28, Tue-Tue

Leader: Linda Conrad



Details

[Broken Top Loop Backpack](#)

Sep 15-17, Wed-Fri

Leader: Tom Thrall



Welcome

New Members:

Debra Dia, Sponsored by Cara Nixon and Lori Leach
Sierra Wolf, Sponsored by Pete Recksiek and Rob Parker
Brian Francis, Sponsored by Nora Tanner and Julia Carroll
David Hoffman, Sponsored by Joel Reitz and Mark Barham
Richer Schenker, Sponsored by Sebastian Powers-Leach and Eric Zimmerman



Photo: Craig Gwydir - Nesika



Photo: Craig Gwydir - Obsidian Loop backpack



Photo: Craig Gwydir - Obsidian Loop backpack



Photo: Craig Gwydir - Obsidian Loop backpack



Photo: Craig Gwydir - Obsidian Loop backpack - Arrowhead Lake

Trails Club of Oregon Board Meeting Minutes

Date: July 14, 2026

Time: 7:00-9:00

PM Location: Zoom

Attendees:

Vice President:	Eric Zimmerman
Treasurer:	Sydney Jackson
Secretary:	Rebecca Knudeson
Publications:	Joel Reitz
Tyee Trustee:	Eric "Zinger" Eisinger
Nesika Trustee:	Pete Recksiek
Trips Trustee:	Craig Gwydir
Outdoor Ed/Outreach Trustee:	Sebastian Powers-Leach

Absent:

President:	Bev Drottar
Membership:	Lori Leach

REGULAR BUSINESS

By email in between board meetings, the following votes were unanimously approved:

The June minutes on 6/15/26 prior to the Blazer publication.

On 7/1/26 the use of Tyee by Scout Troop 396, West Linn, on 11/14-15/26.

On 7/2/26, \$800 for Nesika's spring box cover replacement.

Treasurer Report, Sydney

Beginning Balance, 5/30: \$16,331.01

Cleared Balance, 6/30/26: \$11,803.53

We are officially moved into the 501(c)(3) Tech Soup - discount QuickBooks, and the old QuickBooks subscription is cancelled. (But, we are still able to access this information.) The migration process has unfortunately been a nightmare! Only about 70% of the information came into the new one and after many calls with QuickBooks, they said this was the best that the software will do.

Sydney has worked the books so that balances currently tie, but for the following month, she's going to dig into specific transactions so that the reports are clean and easy to understand for 2026.

Complete reports can be found by the Board on google drive.

Membership Report, Lori

Membership readings, all unanimously approved:

Debra Dia, Sponsored by Cara Nixon and Lori Leach

Sierra Wolf, Sponsored by Pete Recksiek and Rob Parker

Brian Francis, Sponsored by Nora Tanner and Julia Carroll

David Hoffman, Sponsored by Joel Reitz and Mark Barham

Richer Schenker, Sponsored by Sebastian Powers-Leach and Eric Zimmerman

Membership summary: 265 Total

8 Golden, 3 Junior, 34 Life, 4 Life/Golden, 13 Provisional, 203 Regular

Publications Report, Joel

Nothing to report.

Nesika Report, Pete

On June 13, Pete Recksiek hosted a volunteer weekend. Boards were delivered and painted to replace the curled siding. Lodge windows were cleaned, wood was processed, and the water system drained and refilled.

On June 28, Pete Recksiek and Rob Parker cleared the road of overgrowth from the lodge parking lot to the Multnomah Creek Bridge to accommodate traffic for next weekend's July 4th opening. The spring box was found to have caved in, and a temporary cover was built by Rob. The spring box was cleaned of debris and the water system drained and refilled. Oil was changed in the generator and Kubota.

On July 3, the lodge was opened for recreational use by hosts Pete Recksiek and Nina Rohrs for the long holiday weekend. Around 20 members and nonmembers attended, enjoying the beautiful weather and fireworks shows from the point. Pete led a hike around the Nesika Loop Trail, taking a break along Multnomah Creek to dip in the refreshing water. Rob Parker continued his dedication to exterminate the rodents by chasing a rat across the grass with a barbecue spit, unsuccessfully. Don't give up, Rob!

Carl Buchanan applied for a Nesika key request. Board unanimously approved.

Tyee Report, Eric Zinger

Paul Cutter hosted a Catlin Gable school group for a week and a group from Costa Rica. The lodge is in great condition. Paul washed the chair covers.

Foundation leaks: Excavation around the wood chute found a cave eroded underneath. Eric filled it with 400 lbs of concrete and built a curb to divert water. He replaced the perforated drain line with solid line from above the wood chute down to near the septic tank. He also graded between the lodge and woodshed to move water away.

Trips Report, Craig

There was 1 day hike, 1 backpack trip, and the Wednesday night hikes continued through June.

When examined on June 14, there were no obstacles on the Basin trails; however, some of the Basin trails had brushy overgrowth (ferns) in short sections. These brushy sections should be cleared by the next Nesika work party weekend.

Significant work had been done in June (thanks Rob Parker and team!) clearing brush from Multnomah Basin road towards the Nesika Lodge parking lot.

Outdoor Ed and Outreach, Sebastian Powers-Leach

The OEO Committee hosted our Tyee Open House on Saturday, July 11th. We welcomed 9 guests to come see the lodge, learn about the club, and chat with current club members. Overall, it was a positive experience and also informative on how we can improve similar future outreach events. Special thanks to Julia Carroll, Tom Thrall, Nora Tanner, Mary Beth Sadlouskos, Greg Barrell, and Eric Zimmerman for volunteering their time and resources to help put on this event!!

Tom Thrall (assisted by Julia Carroll) lead an Intro to Backpacking overnight at Tyee on July 10th. They had several participants, and practiced skills one would need for a short backpacking trip. The Committee hopes to organize similar educational events in the future.

If you are interested in joining the Outdoor Education and Outreach Committee, or are interested in occasionally helping with our events, please email oeo@trailsclub.org for more info!

OLD BUSINESS

Website, Payments & Email, Eric Z

The payment form is working. trailsclub.org/pay/ is live and has taken real payments at both Nesika and Tyee, plus \$20 in donations, our first donations since gaining 501(c)(3) status.

For Sydney: Stripe now shows the lodging / meals / donation breakdown on every transaction, so donations can be reported separately from lodge revenue without hand-sorting.

For the lodge chairs: Nesika and Tyee each have a password-protected page listing the last 90 days of payments, so hosts can check a guest in without asking for a receipt. Joel will change Stripe payout date from the 1st to the 28th to improve bookkeeping cutoffs. He will also remove lodge/meal product from WooCommerce to separate it from membership dues checkout.

Pete will verify Nesika Stripe payment from the July 4th weekend.

Payment defect was found and fixed this week. Bank transfers (ACH) take several days to clear, and the form was wrongly telling members those payments had failed. One member paid four times as a result and was refunded. It now shows such payments as "clearing," prevents duplicate payments, and alerts the Treasurer if a transfer ever bounces. (Eric will follow up with the member directly.)

Email migration to Google is ready. Our mail setup has been replicated to Google Workspace and is ready to cut over on July 20-24, subject to aligning schedules with Joel. The Club's Blue Host email services will be migrated to google email.

Steinle Challenge Grant, Rebecca

Longtime member, Robert Steinle, has offered a challenge grant now that TCO holds 501(c)(3) status. He will match member donations dollar-for-dollar up to \$5,000, plus a \$1,000 bonus if members hit that ceiling within a set time period, up to \$11,000 to the Club. The Board moved and unanimously approved to go ahead with Robert's challenge. We decided to hold the fund raiser from mid September through November, allowing us to promote it at the annual meeting and to complete it before the holiday season. We discussed projects the lodges need. Right now, the Forest Service road to Nesika needs to be graded. Tyee needs new siding. The lodge chairs will bring other ideas to September's meeting. Google Sheets was suggested to track non-cash/in-kind donations. IRS thresholds that require a written acknowledgment are \$250 for cash and \$500 for non-cash donations. Lori and Rebecca will draft the Challenge Grant details, with Joel's help, and present it at the September meeting.

Threadneedle → Fidelity Transfer

No news. Bev can contact Chris. Eric will follow up.

501(c)(3) follow-on filings

Bev was to sign the Business Annual Report and the Department of Justice registration form. In her absence, nobody was able to report on this action. Bev can send a written update or report on it in September. These are statutory filings with deadlines; a two-month drift is worth avoiding.

Nesika tractor removal

The old tractor was pushed outside the garage. Pete is still working on placement and a removal strategy. They will try to get it going to move it out.

Water Bars, Basin Road

No work has been done as of June since the crews are working on fires. The Forest Service planned to complete the road repair this summer. Pete should be contacted by anyone who wants to go in midweek.

NEW BUSINESS

None

Adjourned at 8:20

Next meeting, September 8, Zoom

Submitted by Rebecca Knudeson, Secretary

Board of Directors



President

**Beverly
Drott**

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



Vice President

**Eric
Zimmerman**

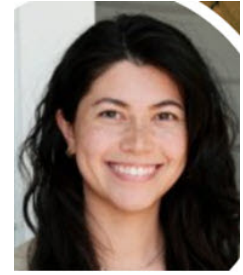
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Membership

**Lori
Leach**

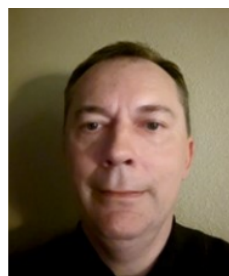
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Outdoor Education
and Outreach

**Sebastian
Powers-
Leach**

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Trips

**Craig
Gwydir**

[TripsChair](#)
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Standing Committees



Social

Jeff Churchill

[Social](#)
[@TrailsClub.org](#)



Leave No Trace

**Dolores
Niebergall**

[LeaveNoTrace](#)
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History

Linda Conrad

[History](#)
[@TrailsClub.org](#)



Conservation

Dave Letcher

[Conservation](#)
[@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 for day activities. 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

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Donor contributions are fully tax-deductible,
and the organization is eligible to receive tax-deductible bequests and gifts.

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

