



Trail Blazer

Vol. 98 No. 12

TrailsClub.org

December 2025



New PO Box

Trails Club of Oregon

PO Box 19891

Portland, OR 97280-0891



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>

December 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

Tyee is Open

Dec 5-7, Fri-Sun

Leader: Sebastian Powers-Leach



Details

Deschutes River Backpack

Dec 5-7, Fri-Sun

Leader: Linda Conrad



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

Tyee is Open

Dec 29-31, Mon-Wed

Leader: Joel Reitz



Details

Tyee is Open

Jan 1-4, Thu-Sun

Leader: Paul Cutter



Details

Tyee is Open

Jan 9-11, Fri-Sun

Leader: Lori Leach



Details

Newberry Ski Weekend March 13-15, 2026

Mar 13-15, Fri-Sun

Leader: Tom Thrall



Welcome

New Full Members:

Elizabeth Madsen – Sponsored by Nancy Schmidt and Lori Leach
Molly Poole – Sponsored by Olivia Miller Bakke and Lori Leach
Pierre Provost – Sponsored by Joel Reitz and Mark Barham
Craig Keller – Sponsored by Gregory Barrell and Lori Leach
Volker Czechowski – Sponsored by Paul Cutter and Lori Leach
Gregory Bishop – Sponsored by Rebecca Knudeson and John Koger



Photo: Juergen Steinhart - Tye chair from Paul Cutter to Eric Eisinger



Photo: Lori Leach - Triple Crown and Pittock hike



Photo: Juergen Steinhart - Pre Thanksgiving at Tye



Photo: Dolores Niebergall - Larch Mountain Trail



Photo: Dolores Niebergall - Trail Signs



Photo: Dolores Niebergall - Trail Signs



Carl and Table Lakes Backpack trip report

See other trip reports on the [TCO website](#).



A couple of years ago, I hiked with a TCO group into beautiful Carl Lake, hoping to explore some of the nearby features on the south side of Mt. Jefferson. It was mid-June, and we had a

great time at the lake, but were limited in our wider explorations by lingering snow and blowdown on the trail. I resolved to return a little later in the season, and was able to secure a Central Cascades permit this year for three days from September 15-17. I was joined on this trip by David Noyes and Gregory Bishop.

With excellent weather and AQI in the forecast, we hiked on Day One into Carl Lake along the Cabot Lake trail (5 miles, 1000' elevation gain) to set up a base camp. We found numerous good campsites and only one other party, who had pitched their tent at the other end of the lake. After dinner, we took a side trip to visit South Cinder Cone (4.5 miles RT, 1200' elevation gain), with its unique views of the central Cascades, from Black Butte to the east, Broken Top, Three Sisters, Washington and Three-Fingered Jack to the south, and Jefferson looming large to the north.

On Day Two, we headed north on the Cabot Lake trail (also called the Table Lake trail on one trail sign), passing through remarkable landscapes with lava flows, mountain views, deep forest and hidden lakes, to arrive at secluded Table Lake in the heart of the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness. After lunch, Greg was brave enough to take a brief dip in the lake, finding the water was decidedly not warm. We returned to our camp at Carl Lake after an exceptional day in the wilderness, during which we saw no people other than ourselves, and were all alone at the Lake that evening. The Milky Way shone clearly, with so many stars I could hardly make out the individual constellations.

We broke camp the next morning and reluctantly returned to our car, feeling refreshed and rejuvenated. It had been a great trip.

Tom Thrall







Board Meeting

Trails Club of Oregon Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Nov. 4, 2025 Time: 7:00-9:00 PM Location: zoom

Attendees:

President:

Beverly Drottar

Vice President:

Eric Zimmerman

Treasurer:	Vacant
Secretary:	Rebecca Knudeson
Publications:	Joel Reitz
Membership:	Lori Leach
Tyee Trustee:	Paul Cutter
Nesika Trustee:	Pete Recksiek
Trips Trustee:	Craig Gwydir
Outdoor Ed/Outreach Trustee:	Vacant
Committee Chairs:	Jeff Churchill (Social)

REGULAR BUSINESS

October board minutes were approved on Oct. 20, 2025, by email prior to the Blazer publication.

Treasurer's Report, Beverly

Beverly is handling receipts, deposits, and reimbursements temporarily. Lori has been helping a lot with treasurer duties.

The October statements haven't come in yet. Bev has asked Chris Monti to disburse \$5,000 from the Fidelity account to checking for end of year costs and tax bills.

We discussed the importance of turning in receipts for expenses and forms for meal fees and overnight fees. We **must** account for all money received and all money disbursed. We should use the host forms even on work weekends because sometimes it's hybrid with some people who come and don't work.

Membership Report, Lori

Readings, all unanimously approved:

- Elizabeth Madsen – Sponsored by Nancy Schmidt and Lori Leach
- Molly Poole – Sponsored by Olivia Miller Bakke and Lori Leach
- Pierre Provost – Sponsored by Joel Reitz and Mark Barham
- Craig Keller – Sponsored by Gregory Barrell and Lori Leach
- Volker Czechowski – Sponsored by Paul Cutter and Lori Leach
- Gregory Bishop – Sponsored by Rebecca Knudeson and John Koger

Membership Summary, 10/14/15

Total: 250

9 Golden, 2 Junior, 32 Life, 3 Life/Golden, 16 Provisional, 188 Regular

Publications Report, Joel

1. Updated Safe Deposit Box inventory on Drop Box (need to add an inventory copy in the box as well as envelopes for the 2 new items as all other items are in envelopes).

We did not find the item "N7 Microfilm of the Nesika Register Book up to May 4th 1972," but the empty envelope for it was present. We will remove the empty envelope. The book has already been digitized.

2. Published the "Policies and Practices" document on the website's bylaws page in both PDF and HTML versions (HTML adapts to screen size).

3. Separated Membership Renewals from New Member Applications in the Payments section.

4. Added the Dues Notice questionnaire to the payments section for membership renewal.

5. Added short URLs for /renew, /join, /AGM, /zoom. This makes for a better QR code.

6. Will work on converting all forms to online forms, with New Member Application next.

7. Investigated starting "Informed Delivery" for our PO Box.

8. The Board approved to move the PO Box to Multnomah Village near I-5. Discussed how the mail pick up could work, how to do mobile deposits and how to communicate with treasurer.

Nesika Report, Pete

The final repair was done on the front door by installing the pane of glass. Shelves were hung in the basement above the work bench, and the basement cleaned and organized. Oil was changed in the generator and Kubota. The culvert near the Ornament Trail was patched using galvanized roofing sheets to prevent washout that undermines the Basin Road. Wood was stacked in the lodge and dorm. Shower head and curtain were replaced in the non-stinky bathroom. Linda Conrad hosted a "Veterans' Weekend", to commemorate those who had a hand in building the lodge (see photos in the Blazer). The turnout was great despite the rainy weekend. The water system will be drained and shut off November 11th, though the lodge will be able to be used.

Tyee Report, Paul

Two cords of wood were hauled up from town. On a very wet Saturday, the work party of nine folks chain sawed a few logs from the winter trail and stacked the wood that had been hauled up, filling the left wood bay. Paul estimates there is enough wood for a minimum 3-4 years, including the wood in the basement. A low level retaining wall was built from the fire escape to the wood chute to back up the french drain that had been built previously. During the deluge on Saturday, we noticed water seeping in between the block wall and concrete floor at the back of the basement. A temporary water chute was built. More investigation and ideas are needed for next year. Led by Sebastian Powers-Leach, the wood debris pile was split into three and burnt.

All are welcome to attend the Pre-Thanksgiving potluck on Saturday 11/22 for a 1:30 PM dinner. Paul is sure there will be a hike afterwards. The lodge will go into its winter status after that weekend. Hosts, please note.

Trips Report, Craig

There were 2 day hikes, a day field trip, a TCO Stormy Trails cleanup event, as well as the weekly Wednesday evening hikes during the month of October. There were a total of 3 volunteers during the TCO Stormy Trails cleanup event.

The TCO Stormy Trails committee examined the following trails and found them clear of obstacles as of Oct 31: High Water Trail, Basin Cutoff Trail, Ornament Trail, Nesika/Franklin Ridge Connector Trail and 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 Ed and Outreach, vacant

Sebastian Powers-Leach has volunteered to fill this board position starting with the new term. At the annual meeting, the Board will recommend him for a vote as the Outdoor Ed and Outreach Trustee.

OLD BUSINESS

501(c)3 Non-Profit Update

Lori is currently gathering the additional required information to complete IRS Form 1023, titled "Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code," which is the official long-form application for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.

Insurance, Eric

Hopefully, before the annual meeting, we will have more concrete numbers to discuss. Our current insurance premium renews on 12/12 so we could possibly transition seamlessly. Eric is always looking for input as he's not an insurance guy and many hands make lighter work.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Meeting

Board positions to fill: Tye Chair, Treasurer, Education & Outreach, President, Nesika, and Membership.

At the meeting we will leave the Tye Chair open, and see if we get some response. Paul will hold things together through the winter if necessary. The treasurer needs to be a CPA or an experienced bookkeeper. The president and the Nesika and membership trustees are willing to continue in their positions. Lori and Joel will develop a ballot.

Plans:

Bev needs an annual summary from all departments. If you wish to present yours, please keep it BRIEF (<5 min).

Awards: Any nominations for the Henry Waespe Distinguished Service Award (club award for service) and Mary Lou Green High Miler Award (for club hikes)? The Waespe Award is at Nesika. Paul will check Tye for the Una Davies High Traveler Award (PCT) and the Mary Lou Greene awards. We'll ask Dolores to get the Waespe award from Nesika.

Budget for 2026

We looked at the spreadsheet for the budget. Board members with expenses will complete their part of the sheet before our December board meeting.

Adjourned at 9:07

Next meeting Dec 7, 2025, at 5 PM at Bev's house

Submitted by Rebecca Knudeson, Secretary

Board of Directors



President



Vice President



Secretary



Treasurer
VACANT

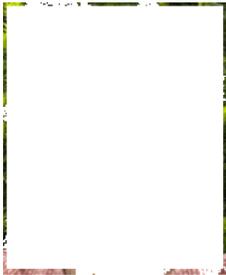
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Drott**

President
@TrailsClub.org



Nesika
**Pete
Reckseik**

NesikaChair
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Outdoor Education
and Outreach

VACANT

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**Eric
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**Paul
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Trips
**Craig
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**Rebecca
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Publications
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TrailsClub.org



Standing Committees



Social

Jeff Churchill

Social@TrailsClub.org



Leave No Trace

**Dolores
Niebergall**

LeaveNoTrace@TrailsClub.org



History

Linda Conrad

History@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/).

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

