

November 27, 1993

The first meeting of the Portland Chapter of the Pacific Crest Trail Association was moderately attended and considered a success. I would like to thank the attendees, Lesya Struz, Joris Naiman, Roger Carpenter, Denell Zander, Brice Hammack, and Jill Wilson. The meeting was relatively unstructured so that a free-flowing line of discourse could be established. The discussion was quite lively for the duration and I have attempted to identify and review the major topics.

The next meeting is planned for Tuesday, January 18, 1994 at 7:00 (location to be announced). Our primary agenda topics will be to identify specific volunteer projects for next year and to establish long range objectives for volunteer activities in the future.

Major points

- As soon as I connect with Nancy DuPont, I will put Lesya Struz and Joris Naiman on the list of hikers whose names are distributed to people inquiring about hiking long-distance on the PCT.
- I called Larry about the "Philosopher's-type" guide and he didn't know anything about it. I then remembered some files that I could have easily overlooked and I found the *Thru-Hiker's Guide to Resupply Points on the Pacific Crest Trail* by Bruce D. Ohlson.

We discussed carrying this item in the PCT store. This is a good idea that will require some investigating. I will contact Bruce and discuss possibly distributing his guide in one form or another. I will also contact Gordon Smith of Van Buren, Missouri, who supported thru-hikers along the PCT in 1992 and is putting together a PCT Hikers' Aide. We may be able to propose something to Larry that is quite high in quality.

- Larry hadn't heard that Wilderness Press will not be updating the guidebook. I will contact Jeff Schaffer.
- In response to a question about the best way of distributing newsletters as promotional devices, the group suggested that District Coordinators (DC) are the best people to accomplish the task. I will propose the idea to our current DCs.
- I am investigating alleged clearcutting or proposals to clearcut by Plum Creek Timber Company.
- We will contact the Trails Club of Oregon and the Mazamas (coordinator of programs) about our presenting a slide show.
- The Northwest Trails Fair is March 20, 1994 from 10:30 to 4:00 at the World Forestry Center. I will register us for a booth at this event. A slide show video would be good for this event as well as future events. Larry says we don't have the money for it right now, but we soon will. If anyone has any suggestions about how we would put it together (who to contact, what to include, etc.), I'd love to hear them.

- The bylaws have just been completed and I will get a copy of them soon. I will bring it to our next meeting.
- Brice Hammack will host a bash on October 22 and 23, 1994. Let's make sure that there is good reason to celebrate.

Observations

I was asked many times what I wanted out of the meetings and what my goals were for the PCT. Well, quite simply put, I want the PCT in Oregon and southern Washington to be adequately maintained. There are other goals I have, but they all hinge on adequately maintaining the PCT.

This year I concentrated on getting organized. That included creating roles that didn't exist before but for which there clearly was a need (district coordinators). It also included recognizing special projects that were currently in process and deserved a greater deal of support (signing projects).

Next year my goals will include a greater emphasis on volunteer projects:

- Complete a significant proportion of the sign installation work in the Mount Hood N.F. (110 miles).
- Complete the sign inventory for the Willamette N.F. and order the signs. (165 miles; inventory taken for at least 40 miles in 1993)
- Complete the signing of the Umpqua N.F. (40 miles).
- Complete a significant proportion (if not all) of the trail construction and signing of the PCT relocation in Crater Lake.

These are lofty goals and they range across the entire region. This group will be primarily interested in the Mount Hood N.F. signing project, but interest in the other projects, as well as projects that haven't been mentioned, will be encouraged.

A major theme of the meeting was the frustration with work projects that either don't happen or don't work very well when they do happen. One way of addressing this problem is to maintain a positive, open relationship with the land management agency. Another way is to receive training either through the U.S.F.S. or another agency and then conduct trail projects independently using our trained volunteers as leaders. Alice Kreuper is an expert on this, so I will talk to her. Lesya will talk with the Mount Hood N.F. and investigate the feasibility of setting up this type of an arrangement with them.

Hope to see you in January,

Steve Queen