MT. HOOD CHAPTER REPORT 2013

Our year started with the New Year's Day ride at McIver State Park led by Pam & Lot Scholz and darn good soup by Barb VanDershelden. February 2 Harold Kenny packed the Sandy River Delta parking lot with 11 trailers for a joint ride with North Valley. May 22 Deniece Tucker led her annual Deschutes River Ride.

In 2013 OET put the "horse" in Herman Creek Horse Camp with the construction of two-stall corrals. In addition the parking for horse trailers was restored and signed at the trailhead parking area. Herman Creek provides the only Horse Camp in the Columbia Gorge. Our OET State Board approved a grant of $1,171 for materials. North Valley and Mt. Hood each chipped in $240. Thanks to our Mt. Hood volunteers Dave Adams, Lot Scholz, Pam Scholz, Barb Adams, Harold Moyer, and to Marty DeVall and Bruce Farrier from North Valley. The Forest Service is currently working to open a non-motorized trail near the camp.

Ten of our members joined in the fun at the OET State Round-up February 22-23. Colene Everett and Dianne Treat headed up our decorating team and brought a ton of neat horsey items. Colene, Dianne, Wendy Kerns, Paula Zirkle and Barb Adams decorating six tables and set-up the Mt. Hood Chapter display.

Wendy Kerns and Harold Kenny formed a recruitment team. They put up a display, and along with other volunteers brought home six new memberships from OSHET April 5 & 6. Their efforts at four feed stores netted one new member.

March 30 Diane Treat and the Rodeo Rebels conducted our annual Play Day, this year at Shooting Star Ranch. Participants treated everyone to a tasty pot luck. The weather was sunny and warm. The top five prizes were won by: Dave Adams, Harold Kenny, Diane Treat, Mary Hauer and Lauri Malone.

Of course our year is not complete without our camp-outs, speakers, rides, and just the fun of spending time with members. Our big camp-outs for 2013 took place at Corncob Ranch Memorial Day weekend, and LL Stub Steward State Park in July 19-21.

We returned to one of our traditions, a hiking work party. This year it was brushing three miles of McIntyre Ridge Trail. Who knew we could hike six miles? We needed to get Eagle Creek Trail #501 open so the next day our horses came along with us for log cutting and a nice ride back out. In addition we scouted/worked on Plaza, Old Baldy, and Lower Douglas. All of these trails are in Mt. Hood National Forest, Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness, where we have a long-term commitment to Wilderness Trails.

In July, as directed by a vote of our chapter members, Dave and Barb Adams installed "horse site" posts at the 11 corral sites in Clackamas Lake Campground. The corrals are in the first 19 sites that are shared by both campers and horse campers. On the weekends you need to make a reservation for one of the corral sites, or plan on getting their early. The corral sites are level and have the large parking areas so they are very attractive to non-horse campers.

September 7 we quickly put a work party together with BCH to clear logs from Paradise Park Trail so that BCH packers could deliver supplies to a PCTA work party. Thanks to Bonnie and Ray Whiteman, Dave and Barb Adams, and BCH Gary Sischo along with the Guy brothers.

It was a big year for the Sandy River Delta mowing trails, putting in more trail signs, planting parking lot signs along with pavement paint. We are working closely with Friends of the Sandy River Delta (SRD) and the Columbia Gorge Scenic Area to enforce the long slot parking for horse trailers. Seasonal Rangers helped out with parking lot issues. Thanks to Dave Adams, Harold Kenny, Harold Moyer, Pammy Hirigaray, Larry Yost and family, and Lin and Nancy from Vancouver.

This year brought a new development at the SRD. Multnomah County Sheriff's Department along with the Forest Service and other enforcement and social services agencies moved 50 illegal campers from the beach area along with filling a 40 yard dumpster with trash. As a follow-up OET and Friends of the SRD did two more clean-ups. Crown Point Refuse donated a 20 yard dumpster and metal container for the November 21 clean-up. Nine equestrians volunteered and helped to completely fill the dumpster and half of the metal container.

Members represented equine interests at the BLM meeting March 5; the Army Corp meeting March 6; the Mt. Hood National Forest meeting; the Zigzag Ranger District and Mt. Hood Recreation director meeting; Friends of the Sandy River Delta meetings, and with the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area, other Columbia Gorge related meeting including State Parks; and the East County Safety meetings.

Speakers included: Kim McCarrell (yea, Kim!); Harold Kenny and Dave Adams…How to set-up a highline; David Asmar, DVM, Equine First Aid; Shakyra Rosario DVM, EFEH presented, "Equine Chiropractic Care". Megan Rioux-Forker, DVM, Columbia Equine Hospital. Thanks to Wendy Kerns for recruiting speakers. Thanks to Marge Reed who donated a number of items for our meetings raffles.

September 29 Linda Lesowske headed up our Gresham Teddy Bear Parade entry. The weather was terrible before and after the parade but not during the parade. Spirits were high and 15 volunteers along with horses and mini-horses joined in on the fun.

A big issue that started in 2009 is the road decommissioning plan in the Zigzag Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest. A new trailhead to replace the old Douglas Trailhead (Wildcat Mountain Quarry) was constructed in 2012. The connector trail is planned for July 2014.

Our gift "exchange" Christmas party was a blast. Gifts ranged from creative (nice bodice purse!), practical and beautiful. Good job members and a whole lot of laughs. This party is always so much fun.

Thanks to our officers for 2013, Barb Adams, Wendy Kerns, Linda Lesowske, Julie Burns and Barb VanDershelden.

Barb Adams