MT. HOOD CHAPTER Year End Report 2014

Sandy River Delta: Our current long-term project is working with "*Friends of the Sandy River Delta*." Mt. Hood Chapter members hold the secretary and treasurer positions in the "Friends" group. Friends raised $1,200 to buy stone for the trails. OET provides the tractor and some of the volunteer muscle to get the stone placed. That same OET tractor does all of the trail mowing.

- In 2014 teamwork between the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, Multnomah County Sheriff's Department, the Citizen's Patrol, Friends of the Sandy River Delta and OET Mt. Hood resulted in the following: *Halting illegal camping* in the area west of Thousand Acre Rood at the Sandy River Delta Park; *Clean-up* of the tremendous amount of trash left behind; Increased signage and patrols; and money allocated for *social services* to help those moving out of the SRD. *Stenciling* in the parking lot and warnings followed by *tickets i*mproved trailer parking in the six long slots, and *stopped illegal parking* on the tight curves.
- Mt. Hood OET hosted our first "*Puppies and Ponies" education day* at the SRD in 2014. Members brought horses and mini-horses to help off-leash dog walkers learn how to, "*Meet a Horse*". Members took part in the annual, "*Hootnannie*" sponsored by the Confluence Project. The "*Bird Blind*" at the SRD is one of the seven installations as part of the Confluence Project to commemorate the route taken by Lewis and Clark. Volunteer hours turned in to the Columbia River National Scenic Area totaled 300 for Mt. Hood OET and 300 for Friends of the Sandy River Delta for a total of 600 hours at the SRD Federal Park.

Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness: A BIG project this year was the construction of the *connector trail* from the new Douglas trailhead, Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness. At the request of our chapter, *Trailkeepers of Oregon* agreed to take on this project. Equestrians from OET and BCH joined in. Zigzag Ranger District funded the track hoe work and design of the trail. The work took place July 25-27. In 2000 Jack and Vicki Peasley got our chapter interested in working on trails in the Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness. It's now 2015 and we are still on the job. In May BCH Territorial Riders joined with our saw crew to open *Eagle Creek Trail #501*. Zigzag Ranger District volunteer hours total 103 for Mt. Hood.

OET State Round-up: Mary Blankevoort secured a donation of 100 copies of the book, Horse Nation. Colene Everett gathered items to decorate four tables, and to add a Southwestern favor to our MH display. Colene and Diane Treat put together our auction package offering a large-size handmade saddle rack, two blanket and two bridle racks made by David Treat, and some accessories. Colene presented the package retailing at $205. It went for $150, the highest bid of the day. Our chapter won the "Best Chapter Display" award. Harold Kenny, Lot and Pam Scholz, and Barb and Dave Adams were recognized for trail work. Bunny, Diane, and Barb all made it to the "Best Southwestern Dressed" line. Our crew selected four logo items for the monthly meeting raffle.

Play Day March: Diane Treat made the arena arrangements and bought a HUGE breakfast casserole and sticky cinnamon rolls. Riders and spectators brought more food to create an excellent pot luck. Harold Kenny took first place with Colene vowing to get the trophy away from him next year. Debbi Davidson took the third place spot.

Recruitment: In 2013 Wendy Kerns reassembled the Membership Committee and began efforts to inform the public of the mission of Oregon Equestrian Trails and encourage membership and involvement within our chapters. A dedicated group of six members explored their options and made themselves available to answer questions, educate and promote membership. Brochures were distributed and booths were established at feed stores, a department store and OHSET events held at a local equestrian center. In 2014, these members continued to promote OET and have added one local Veterinarian facility to their list of activities and a second Veterinarian facility will be added in 2015. In 2015, the Membership Committee will continue their efforts of education and membership and encourage the best recruitment activity; WORD OF MOUTH.

Campouts: For the eighth year members gathered at Corncob Ranch for Memorial Day weekend. The weather was the best ever and the rodeo exciting as always. At Mt. Adams Horse Camp in May we headed to Historic Hickey Shelter for lunch. There was an illegal fire threatening the shelter so we called the Forest Service. They drowned it while we lunched. In July we camped at Clackamas Lake with North Valley. During our joint pot luck we celebrated the corrals finished in 2010. With both chapters, plus the normal horse campers, we filled nine of eleven corral sites at Clackamas and most sites at Joe Graham.

Facebook: Team members met in January to get our chapter Facebook up and running. At the end of the year we had gathered 114 friends. Facebook Team: Lauri Malone, Lot Scholz, Wendy Kerns, Barb Adams.

Speakers: Kim McCarrel presented us with favorite camps from her new book, *Southern Oregon Horse Trails*. *Linda Keeter* from the Burnt Spur Ranch presented self-defense products and answered many questions.

Meetings: BLM, Wilderness, Zigzag RD, Oregon State Parks and Mt. Hood National Forest meeting were attended and comments submitted.