

July 2012 Overview

Klamath Backcountry Trail Crew

Supervisor: Steven Addison

By Lucia Lacayo and Frithjof Hackney

Here we go, another month in the Klamath National Forest Backcountry and what a month it has been. From the supervised exploration of the cavernous Skunk Hollow Cave that took us to the belly of the Marbles to summiting the highest peak within the Marble Wilderness, Boulder Peak. We also showed our CCC hospitality by hosting Juna Helper, the soon to be record holder for the fastest PCT land record and a multitude of other thru hikers in the Marble Valley Cabin.

We settled into our first backcountry camp and couldn't have imagined a more beautiful place or a more convenient camp structure. Yet our camp quality continues to progress as we move into our second backcountry camp. This stems possibly from the continual growth of experience and comraderie in the Klamath crew.

As Yuli Garibay wrote in the crew journal "Sometimes you have to start over in order to fly". That truly appears to be the case as the crew flies higher with every new beginning at each new camp. With every passing week and day for that matter, each individual grows stronger, hikes faster, and becomes more knowledgeable with the work they are tasked to do. This was most evidenced by the recent camp move in which camp was broken down, moved to its new location, and reconstructed in a single day.

We communally toiled away at 74 checks/steps, 62 linear yards of single tier causeway, 48 square feet of multi-tier wall, 12 water bars, 1.5 miles of trail maintenance, 7.25 miles of cross cut logged out trail, one incomplete castle and whatever else might be requested of us.

The 16 remaining Klams do not however rest on their laurels after the hot long work day hours are complete. They pushed themselves competitively on the old rock laden hillside with ultimate frisbee field and continue to do so on the new, slightly less uneven, current field.

Volunteerism remains high. One example being the weekend Kenny and Frithjof missed 'Eli the bug guy' in order to do a log-out run to reopen the Rainy Lake trail so it could be restocked of rainbow trout. Camping at Sky High Lakes they bare-backed the entire Rainy Lake/Ridge Crest Trail on mule and horse. Kenny had the misfortune or opportunity if you choose to take life on with positivity as Kenny does, to receive the biggest, most barrel-bellied mule of the whole bunch, which left him at the end of the day walking like a true cowboy.

The committees have been busy bees as well. The Birthday Halloween bash went off without a hitch, made complete with tattoo booth, heaps of desserts, candy and many more attractions. We had everything from pink hair to Pocahontas, to amazon princesses to fake tarzan (the latter pair resembling a post-apple Adam & Eve at their wedding). We also had Mrs. McBroom and her trusty companion Lucky keeping an eye out on the whole event and lastly because we've had so few, the lovely Christina Morse filling the role of our resident camp bear. It was definitely stiff competition with Mr. Courtney's 'box' outfit in the costume cat walk dance-off. At the end of the night though it was the one-eyed peg-legged dread pirate Robbie who ended up stealing the grand prize with his hook.

Needless to say things are going well in the Klam. The crew in relation to the Klamath atmosphere personifies the wisdom inherent in Lucia Lacayo's crew journal entry, "Society can be complex and harsh, demanding that you struggle hard to survive. No one can make you happy. Everything depends on you as to whether or not you attain happiness, a human being is destined to a life of great suffering if he/she is vulnerable and weak to his/her external surroundings."

As we come to a close of the month, we look back to reflect then we move on to progress into the next 2 months. The loss of a crew member has only made us stronger. We wish the best of luck to Elias Carillo. On Thursday July 19<sup>th</sup> Karlson and his wife Rebecca came to visit us. He shared a favorite of

his from a well-respected Jack London, In a Far Country, a story that among other things represented the relationship between a crew and true slackers. Why not volunteer to help out? Why not be assertive during chores? Why complain? The fact that you are willing to give your all and your best will not only make you stronger and happier but it'll rub off on the crew. Why not be that example? Your crew sees everything! Near the end of our stay in our first backcountry camp, we rush to finish our rock and causeway projects. We take pride in our projects. Was it worth wet boots every morning for weeks? Knee deep mud? The dangers of crush? When we revisit this memory, none of those details will matter. We'll think "yeah I was beatin' on rocks and makin' this look good" (Christina Morse). "Its funny how when you are stripped of all your convenience at home and at a low point and don't know what to do, you can alter and shape your personality for the better. Once you find yourself feeling better" (Emerson Castillo). The crew remains intact, and, as evidenced by the laughter I hear in the distance as well as in my own heart, spirits remain high (Pat Shaper). We know our two-month marker is coming around the corner. Most of us excited and anxious to see friends and family again, but time is of the essence. The less time we spend daydreaming, the more time we spend focusing on the here and now. "Slowing down my thoughts to enjoy the moment and take a deep breath. With faith I'll reach my destination one step at a time" (Jolina Elliot). "I know that the next two months will continue to be filled with laughter, adventures, and good times. I hope I can embrace this time while it's here instead of contemplating what will happen after the season. We should all live for today and worry about tomorrow...tomorrow" (Ben Darnell).

#### Weekend Adventures:

Boulder Peak: Frithjof, Emerson, Rush & Pat

Marble Valley Cabin: All

Man Eating Lake: Kenny, Kelly-Kate, Ben, Brian, & Jolina

Frying Pan and Sky High Lakes: Aaron, Yulianna, Joey, Lucia, Christina, Evan, & Ryan

Queens Crown, Kings Castle, Marble Mtns overlooking Rainey Valley, Marble Valley, and a multitude of Lakes: Rush, Evan, Emerson, Ryan, Jolina, & Frithjof

Bear Lake: Steven, Christina, Kelly-Kate, Brian, Ben, Rush, Ryan, & Evan

#### Curriculum:

7/2 – Brian's Leather Bracelet class

7/3 – Camp tool maintenance

7/9 – Ultimate Frisbee with Agnes

7/10 – Ryan's Flag decorating class

7/15 – Eli the Bug Guy

7/17 – Rock work class

7/19 – Karlson reads In a Far Country by Jack London

7/22 – Zombie Apocalypse

7/23 – Jolina's Goal Setting class

7/30 – Ultimate Frisbee #2