

Washington Alpine Club | Bulletin

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Washington Alpine Club

P.O. Box 352
Seattle, WA 98111

www.wacweb.org

The Bulletin is 100% online

This format allows us to offer photos, color, more timely content, and saves a lot of paper and trees. For those without email, with dial up connections, or with incompatible software we will continue to mail the Bulletin.

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Cold Camp By the Lookout Tower ! by Rob Miller



the summit of Glacier

The weather on the weekend of December 7th was clear and cold, very cold. NOAA forecasted a nighttime low of 5 degrees for Snoqualmie under clear sky. What better conditions could anyone ask for to test cold weather survival skills? A night at Granite Mountain's summit next to the lookout tower on a clear cold night would be beautiful. So that was the plan.

At 10:30am Saturday morning I started a leisurely hike up the trail with a 45lb pack. I had some nice chats with fellow WAC members I met along the way. Crampons and ice axe on frozen snow was the order of the day the last five hundred vertical feet to the lookout tower. A few minutes after 2pm I was at the lookout tower where I found a reasonably flat spot in the snow to setup my tent and prepare for the night. I had one other task I wanted to achieve on this trip, capture twilight photographs of the I-90 freeway and skyline. I setup my camera tripod

and set the camera for 30-second exposures then settled into my winter sleeping bag to wait for darkness. After sundown I crawled out of the tent to take photographs. Alone at the summit on a clear cold night was very peaceful.

Anticipating I would never really manage to sleep I had a ten-hour Tom Clancy audiobook to help pass time through the night. I've had cold nights in my tent before but in summer when the nights were short. This night I would be 14 hours in my sleeping bag. Every two hours I fired up my stove to heat water bottles I used to keep my feet and chest warm. Each time I poured water from the pot back into the bottle I spilled some onto the bottom of the tent where it turned to ice within a few minutes. When the audiobook finished I still had four hours remaining until sunrise. I passed that time listening to Richard Strauss's "A hero's Life" and Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto #3. Finally a few minutes after

Continue on pg .4

WAC Information

Calendar

JANUARY	
January 8	Tele/Rando Class starts (Weds)
January 11	Kids Nordic starts at Hyak
FEBRUARY	
February 8	Ski Patrol Race
February 22	Hog Loppet Ski Tour
February 23	WAC Fun Day
MARCH	
March 1	Climbing Class Instructors Training
March 9	Snoqualmie Loppet
March 15	Scouts First Aid
March 28	Wilderness First Responder Class
APRIL	
April 19	Olympic Beach Cleanup
AUGUST	
August 1-3	Snoqualmie Pass Trail Runs

Is Your Contact Info Current?

You can check these things on the Washington Alpine Club website: www.wacweb.org. If your mailing address or email address changes please let us know!

Moving?

Send change of address forms to:

Washington Alpine Club

PO Box 352

Seattle, WA 98111

Or email Dave Mitchell at:

dtmitch@mindspring.com

New Email Address?

To update your email address log on to

www.wacweb.org

If you don't have an account, you can use the shared name and password:

User name: climbing / Password: climbon

Join the WACList on Yahoo

If you want to get mail on the WAC email list, join the yahoo group at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/waclist/>

Post message: waclist@yahoogroups.com **Subscribe:** waclist-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Important: You must be a current member! We have to approve you before you can join, so please put your name in the comment section.

Washington Alpine Club

Founded 1916 Incorporated 1923

P.O. Box 352, Seattle, WA 98111

www.wacweb.org

Member Of

Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs,
Washington Association, Washington
Environmental Council, Washington Wilderness
Coalition, and MidFORC Coalition

The primary purpose of this club is to encourage the healthful enjoyment of the great outdoors, to preserve its natural beauty and to promote good fellowship among all lovers of nature.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Susan Ashlock | 000-000-000

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Randy Oakley

Nordic

Eli Holmes, Karel Zikan

Back Country

Susan Ashlock, Alex Ford, Denny Trimble

PROPERTY & MEMBERSHIP

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President's Corner

January 2014 by Mike Mahanay

I can't remember the last time we have had such a pathetic snowpack. Although Crystal, Stevens, and Baker are open, the snowpack is minimal. The Summit is not even close to opening. The base is a mere 10 inches. Certainly not enough to build snow caves. We need some good storms but they just aren't coming. Cliff Mass reports that we are at 43% of normal precipitation and very little of that is in the form of snow. The forecast is calling for rain at the passes! Last year at this time we had a base of 70 inches. The good news is that winter solstice occurred which means we are now seeing longer days.

Snoqualmie Pass has been deserted but there are still opportunities for snowshoeing the WAC Trail System, Commonwealth Basin, Gold Creek, as well as exploring the backcountry with free heel skis.

We had an excellent Snow Dinner! I know I say it every year, but I think this was the best on record. A wonderful group of people participated and we had a fine array of delicious food. It was a beautiful day, and a time to meet new people, and see old friends! Thanks to Chris Harvey and Diane Gelotte for bringing main courses – curry and baked ham. We had an amazing assortment of excellent healthy side dishes too. Thanks also to all who attended and for all the excellent and creative potluck food!

Both the Backcountry and Climbing Classes are now accepting applications. Susan Ashlock, Alex Ford, & Denny Trimble are leading the Backcountry Class. Typically this class is comprised of skiers, split boarders, and snowshoers, but they always need people to help with the snowshoe portion. Contact Susan, Alex, or Denny to see what you can do to assist. The Climbing Class is led by Pat O'Brien and co-chairs Erik Poley and Wayne

Begasse. All our classes expect to reach the maximum enrollment, and introduce new folks to the wonders of the outdoors and the WAC - safely. WAC classes reach maximum enrollment so don't delay. Randy Oakley has arranged a second "Skiing the Steeps" workshop at Alpentel in February (pending snow!) This is a fantastic opportunity to take your skills up a few notches. Check the website for more details.

Guye Cabin is in excellent shape and ready for lots of use over the winter. Folks are using it as a base to meet, play, rest, have a hot lunch, and spend weekends and vacations year round. There are almost always WAC members and their guests at the Cabin. Do your part to keep the Cabin clean and running smoothly. Sign the Cabin Log, and pay your fee for you and your guests when you arrive, and introduce yourself to everyone. Help out by doing a chore or two, and haul recycles and trash home. See something that needs to be done? Go ahead and do it!

This is important: The Summit has done a great job of plowing our parking so far this winter. We owe our winter parking to Sahalie so please follow our parking process. Don't forget to carpool, and if you bring guests, you might unload and shuttle extra cars over to the Summit hotel. Be sure to wave and make friends with Summit snowplow drivers,



Summit Security, and Sahalie folks when you see them. We have parking for 12 cars on our side. Park north of the A frame fire station only off the road, if we need more we should park only at the far north end of the Sahalie side. See map on page 6. Do not let the public park in our spaces. Everyone will have to do their part to ensure our signs, cones, pylons, and tape are out in the parking area all day on the weekends and holidays. If you see them out of place, blown over, etc. please put them back where they should be.

In our daily lives we are part of many different communities - our home, our neighborhood, school, work, yoga class, running club, church, and the most special – the WAC! Of course it is this sense of community that makes our Club so special. We are a diverse group of family and friends that enjoy seeing each other, spending lots of time together, and providing support for each other. We love introducing people to the wonders of the outdoors, teaching them new skills, growing their confidence, and stretching their boundaries as we all grow in our lives.

Get outside and make friends with the great people that make up the WAC! Enjoy the snow and winter weather!



New parking procedures in place this winter. Park in the lot to the north of the Cabin. Details on page 6.

Cold Camp By the Lookout Tower ! by Rob Miller cont pg 1



7am I crawled out of my tent to greet the brightening sky. I managed to get through 14 hours of five-degree weather in reasonable comfort. Three hours later I was back at the car having had a wonderful night of solitude.

The Rainier photo was taken just a minute before sunset. The other photo is a 30-second exposure capturing traffic on the I-90 bend at Snoqualmie about 45 minutes after sunset.

Nadia Hakki at Sundance Cinemas in Seattle

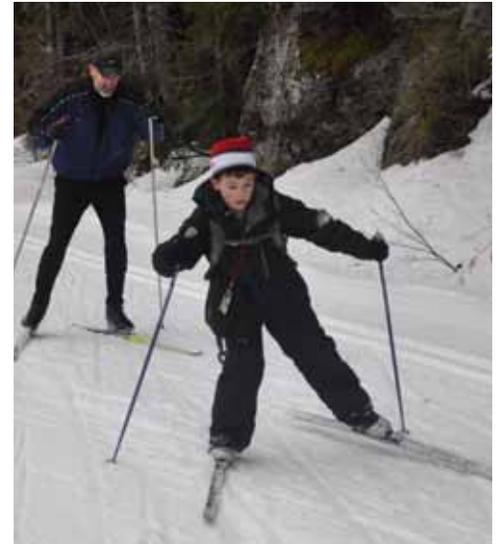


Artist, Nadia Hakki has her paintings on display at Sundance Cinemas in Seattle. Go see a movie in this fine theater and check out her landscapes of eastern Washington and southern Utah. The theater is for folks over 21 only (they serve beer and food which you can take into the theater) and they validate parking in the lot above and behind Trader Joe's. The paintings are on display on the second floor above the main lobby and will be up through March 15th.

Ski Patrol Race

February 8, 2014

From Summit West to Meany Lodge following the old route. The WAC is the current trophy holder. If you are fast and competitive you'll want to participate in the backcountry ski race. We'll also do a tour to place the route on the day before.



Hog Loppet Ski Tour

February 22, 2014

The Hog Loppet is a non-competitive 30k Ski Trek from the top of Mission Ridge Ski Area to Blewett Pass.

A shuttle bus service provided. This is recommended for intermediate skiers and above due to the length and some steep terrain and ungroomed conditions. Here is an article that tells more about this annual event:

<http://www.skileavenworth.com/events/hog-loppet>

Classes



WAC fun day

February 23, 2014

Thanks to Eli the winter games of the WAC have been reinvented! We have snowshoe and ski races on the WAC Trail System for athletes of all ages and abilities. Snacks and prizes. Fun for all kids and adults.

Snoqualmie Loppet

March 9, 2014

A winter highlight! Come join the 7th annual 35K "Citizen's Race" from Hyak to Cabin Creek.

We ride the lift up as soon as they open, ski the Mount Catherine Loop, do the long flat Iron Horse, a short loop through the Troll Hagen, then a loop around Cabin Creek to the finish.

There is a Half Loppet option that begins and ends at Hyak. For the full Loppet you'll need to be an intermediate Nordic skier (Classic or Skate) Afterwards we'll meet back at Guye Cabin for recovery food & treats!

Backcountry Travel Class



This three-week course covers avalanche education, safe winter travel techniques, and winter camping. The format is three evening lectures in town, and three weekends in the mountains.

No prior avalanche education is needed to take this course. While the avalanche education curriculum is similar to an AIARE level 1 course, the WAC is not affiliated with AIARE and we offer no certifications to students. This course is a good refresher if you have already taken a level 1 course, and should allow a skilled student to take a level 2 course in the future.

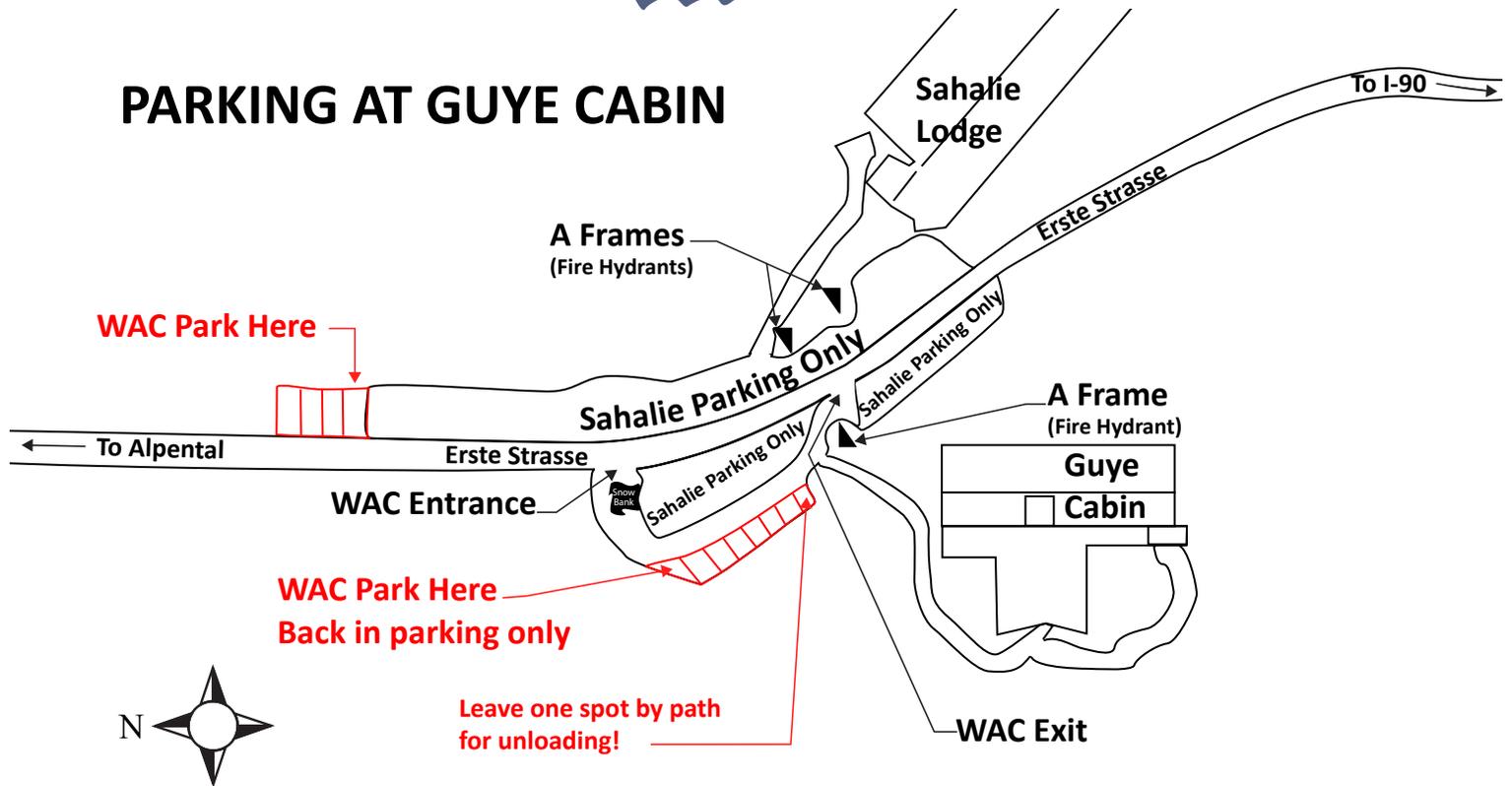
Applicants must be 18 years of age or older. Applications are due now!

For more information:

<https://sites.google.com/site/wacbcclass/>



PARKING AT GUYE CABIN



Please note there will be new parking procedures in place this winter. We will only park in our new lot to the north of the Cabin. The trail will go in from there.

<http://www.wacweb.org/About/renew.view>

Thanks to an army of people that helped out over the summer, Guye Cabin is ready for anything this winter! Dale Ott, Archie Brenden, Jiri and Magdalena, Chris Martin, and a whole bunch (90) of others worked hard over the summer helping in a plethora of ways. We also have split and stacked a winter's worth of firewood, and did extensive trail and grounds work. The trails are improved. Some new trees were planted. We have a new range hood, new fridge, and new benches outside.

Guye Cabin Recycling

The WAC is green & The Cabin follows the same recycling program as the city of Seattle. There are three bins to sort garbage, recycling, and compostable items. Note - we need to take them home when you leave and put them in your home bins. Thanks!

Special recognition also goes to Phil Harvey, Dennis Saunders, and Ralph Preston for their ongoing commitment to our Club and the Cabin.

Paper coffee cups and their lids are both recyclable (not just the cardboard sleeve) after being poured out. Seattle is one of the few areas in the country where both are able to be recycled. Plastic cups and bottles for drinking were a common occurrence in our garbage. Please recycle these! Empty plastic food trays from microwave meals and to-go clamshell containers can be quickly rinsed and then recycled. Plastic 'to go' boxes can be rinsed and recycled.

Thanks to each and every of you who helped! The Cabin is better than ever and ready for coming Winter Season! We really appreciate everyone's participation.

Paper/cardboard 'to go' boxes, napkins, all food waste, vegetables, coffee grounds, etc. should be composted.

When you renew please purchase the Annual Cabin Fee option. You won't every have to worry about writing a check when your visit the Cabin, and most importantly you'll be helping support the kind of work and upgrades we do each summer. You can renew and pay the annual Cabin fee online!

Membership

It's time to renew your membership! Support the WAC and renew your membership for 2014 now!

Fall is the time to renew your membership in the WAC for another year. These rainy days and long nights make it is super easy to do! Just look yourself up in the members section (climbing/ climb on is the user name/password) to see when your membership expires.

We recommend you just renew online via Paypal.

Just go to this link, and scroll down to the renewal section:

<http://www.wacweb.org/About/join.view>

Please consider adding an additional gift to your membership renewal check. Your contribution will help us with scholarships and Cabin expenses. Thanks for supporting your club!

You can also pay by check - Please send your check today made out to "WAC", to:

**Washington Alpine Club
c/o Membership
P. O. Box 352
Seattle, WA 98111**

Membership@washingtionalpineclub.org

We hope that you continue to support the Washington Alpine Club and take advantage of all the opportunities that membership offers.

RENEW ONLINE >>

Annual Dues (renewals)	Regular Members (18-64yrs)	Senior Dues	Out of State Dues
1 YEAR: Through Dec 2014	\$30.00	\$15.00	\$20.00
2 YEARS: Through Dec 2015	\$60.00	\$25.00	\$35.00
3 YEARS: Through Dec 2016	\$85.00	\$35.00	\$50.00
4 YEARS: Through Dec 2017	\$115.00	\$45.00	\$65.00
5 YEARS: Through Dec 2018	\$135.00	\$55.00	\$80.00

Annual Cabin Fee:

Instead of paying nightly (\$15) to stay at the Guye Cabin, you can pay the annual cabin dues which are effective Jan 1 to Dec 31. You can add the annual cabin dues to online renewal or check, with a note indicating that you are including cabin dues and which WAC adult members are included (if paying dues for a family with 2 or 3 adult WAC members).

Individual Member	\$80.00
Immediate Family of two WAC Members	\$130.00
Immediate Family of three or more WAC Members	\$150.00

Get your WAC tee shirt!

They are cut very nicely and come in WAC green, Sunset orange, Snow Lake blue or Snoqualmie Pass granite grey.

You can pick them up at WAC events, downtown at lunch, in West Seattle, Pat O'Brien's, or at the Annual Meeting.

S,M,L,XL.



The Washington Alpine Club is on Facebook!

Facebook is yet another way to keep up with the Washington Alpine Club. Once you've joined Facebook, go to the WAC page and join the group. And invite your friends to join the group. You can connect with other WAC members, get information on upcoming events and post messages for other members.



www.facebook.com/groups/6180692402



Washington Alpine Club
P.O. Box 352
Seattle, WA 98111

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FIRST CLASS

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