

# Washington Alpine Club | Bulletin

April 2014 | Volume 99, Issue 4



Washington Alpine Club

P.O. Box 352  
Seattle, WA 98111

[www.wacweb.org](http://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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## The WAC on Mount Rainier



Wheaties and Herbert T. Elsner WAC



Mount Rainier Party 1920

# WAC Information

## Calendar

APRIL	
April 5-6	Wilderness First Responder Class
April 19	Olympic Beach Cleanup
April 26-27	Snow 1
MAY	
May 9-11	Alpine Climbs
May 16-18	Alpine Climbs
May 10	Open House/Stay over/cabin work party
JUNE	
June 14	Open House/Stay over/cabin work party
JULY	
July 12	STP Seattle to Portland Bike Ride
July 19	Open House/Stay over/cabin work party
AUGUST	
August 1-3	Snoqualmie Pass Trail Runs
August 16	Open House/Stay over/cabin work party
August 23-24	Rhapsody Bike Ride
SEPTEMBER	
September??	Intermediate Climbing Class
September 27	Open House/Stay over/cabin work party

## Is Your Contact Info Current?

You can check these things on the Washington Alpine Club website: [www.wacweb.org](http://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](mailto:dtmitch@mindspring.com)

### New Email Address?

To update your email address log on to

[www.wacweb.org](http://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](mailto:waclist@yahoogroups.com) **Subscribe:** [waclist-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto: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](http://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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Work Party . . . Archie Brenden | 206-799-0705

Membership To be Announced | 000-000-0000

Publicity . . . . . Kay Ishii | 206-336-7721

Cabin Supply. . . . .Tami Sargent | 360-377-3217

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

Bulletin Editor. . Magda Balise | 360-378-6026

Conservation . Mike Mahanay | 206-931-4713

Circulation . . . . . Ira Rushwald | 206-725-2725

By Laws . . . . . Ira Rushwald | 206-725-2725

# President's Corner

**April 2014 by Mike Mahanay**

Spring is here! And with it comes the unpredictable weather behavior. Sun, rain, snow- it just can't make up its mind. We certainly can't call this a warm spring- at least so far. We had an excellent ski season with over 10 feet of snow and all of it coming in February and early March. Now everyone is switching to climbing, soccer, cycling, running, and other spring activities.

The WAC had a shortened but good winter season of backcountry, downhill, nordic, and boarding! It is bittersweet that all the ski classes are finished and ski season is quickly winding down. There is still plenty of soft spring snow and the ski areas are week to week. Be sure to check the avalanche conditions before you head out off the groomers.

This was a very good winter at Guye Cabin! The Cabin hosted the Snow Dinner, Winter Backcountry Travel Class, Climbing Class Instructors Training, Snoqualmie Loppet, Boy Scouts and Nathan Hale science students. A huge thanks is in order to everyone who kept the Cabin in order over the winter. We really appreciate you!

The winter is an excellent time to travel and WAC folks are known not to let the dust settle. They have been seen all over the West this winter. Jackson Hole, Methow, Ouray, Boulder, Whistler, Colorado, Sun Valley, Hut skiing in the Rockies, Lake Tahoe, West Yellowstone, and Ouray are just a few of the places we have been to over the last few months.

As we move into Spring it is time to start putting those Summer Peak lists together. We are anxious to see who completes the Chief Six Peaks this season by climbing the Snoqualmie Peaks.

The WAC Climbing Class is off to a great start! The next two weekends will see the class at Spire Rock, followed by trips to Snoqualmie Pass, the Nisqually Glacier at Mount Rainier, and then a climb of Mount Baker. Thanks to everyone who volunteers to make this class a great success each year! There is no better place in the Pacific Northwest to learn to climb than the Washington Alpine Club!

Our Club is one of the sponsors for the annual Olympic Coast Beach Cleanup on April 19 & 20. If you have never been to the Washington Wilderness Coast this is a great opportunity. As always, we are responsible for the Hoh River Beach and Jefferson Cove to the North. Hoh River Beach is where the Hoh River empties into the Pacific Ocean. If you have been out to our Olympic Coast, you know what a beautiful, wonderful, and wild area it is. Like last year, we'll camp Saturday night on the Beach. Please contact me if you would like to participate in this event, or have questions about it.

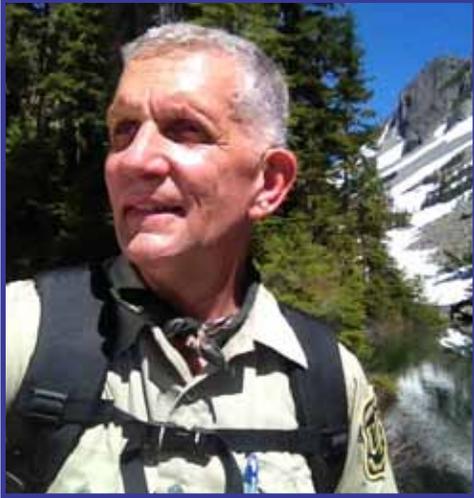
With the warm Spring weather we'll have Guye Cabin open one weekend each month beginning in May. This year we will have work parties every month through October. Come on up for the day to stay over, help out, to play, or to hike the trails. We'll do lots of trail work this summer and stock up on firewood for next winter. If you have used the Cabin in the last year, you'll want to show up, and give some love back.! This is a great way to meet some new people in the WAC and invest in the Club's future. Check the website for the dates. Please email and let me know you are coming or if you have questions.



As we transition to the warmer weather please keep the WAC in your plans. The Climbing Class will be going into June, there will also be work parties and events at Guye Cabin, and an assortment of climbs, hikes, skis, and bike rides to participate in!



## Volunteer Backcountry Ranger by Phil Harvey



This summer be a Volunteer Backcountry Ranger for the North Bend Ranger District.

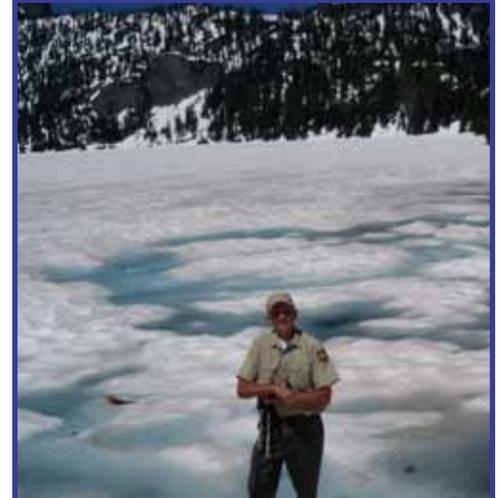
Did you know that the US Forest Service (at least in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest) relies on volunteer backcountry rangers for about 60-70% of the hours that are logged each summer hiking season. For the hiking season of June to September each year these volunteers hike the trails of their choice as often as they like to take notes on trail maintenance needs, do light duty trail work, write updated trailhead trail condition reports, man facilities like the Granite Peak lookout tower and help hikers and other backcountry users with a variety of needs.....fixing boots and packs, educating on wilderness and backcountry ethics and regulations, advising on routes and trail choices and even calling in the pros for law enforcement or emergency medical needs.

One of the most active teams each summer is based at the North Bend Ranger District and WAC members should consider being involved if you like to frequent the hiking along the I-90 corridor , the Alpine Lakes Wilderness or the Highway 410 corridor out of Enumclaw. It is a fantastic way to have a reason for roaming all those trails you've thought about doing

or for discovering areas you didn't even know existed up in our local ranges just east of Seattle. And for many of these areas the Guye cabin makes a great central location for your volunteer work. This will be my fourth summer of volunteering and I often make an overnight stay at the cabin a part of a weekend hiking plan. I'll stop by the North Bend Ranger Station on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning to check in, pick up a radio and a trailhead maintenance bag and head up to the assigned trail (I usually get my first choice). After a day on the trail, the Guye cabin is a convenient overnight accommodation so I can do a second trail on Sunday.

This year the orientation and training weekend is May 31st and June 1st at the North Bend Ranger Station. You'll get a US Forest Service uniform shirt, trail head parking pass and training on radio use, wilderness regulations, no trace backcountry use, simple trail maintenance, interacting with the public, handling the rare confrontational situations and the local history of our wilderness areas. It is also a chance to meet a bunch of great like-minded people.

Usually the volunteer rangers go out on day hikes but overnight and multiday trips are always welcomed too. Occasionally there are



opportunities of clean up abused backcountry sites, haul supplies to lookouts, make signs at the NB workshop and install them on the trails and come up with your own projects for doing work that the paid staff rarely has time to do. And training is available to learn how to open, staff and close the Granite Peak Lookout. Staffing of this lookout is done entirely by volunteers and is an especially fun way to spend a couple of days up in our gorgeous mountains. If you like hiking the areas off the Mountain Loop highway the Verlot Ranger station also has needs for volunteer backcountry rangers and they welcome the trained rangers from the North Bend district because of the reputation the group has built over the years.

Interested? Let me know....

Phil Harvey: email [harvepster@gmail.com](mailto:harvepster@gmail.com) or phone 425-444-6471. It is a very enjoyable way to enjoy our local mountains. You'll get a great sense of pride in representing the long history of the US Forest Service and the National Wilderness System. The conversations you'll have with fellow hikers will be entirely different when you are wearing the uniform than those you usually don't have at all when you are just another anonymous hiker.

## Montana Ice by John Sanford



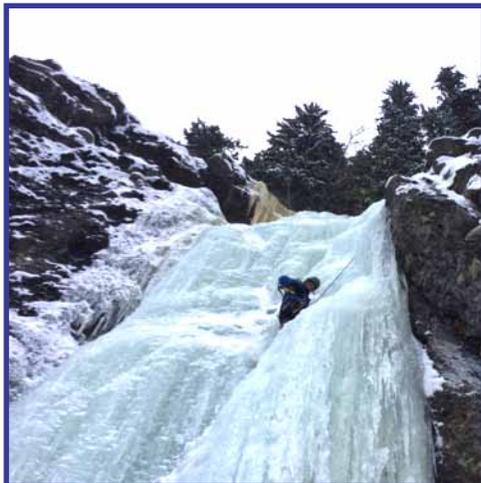
During the last weekend in March Tim Dardis, myself and a group of Russian climbers traveled to Bozeman, MT for ice climbing in Hyalite Canyon. The drive to Bozeman (Fri) took about 11 hours; the drive back on Mon took a bit longer due to weather. Hyalite Canyon is one of several great ice climbing areas in Montana and Wyoming. The trailhead is about an hour from town and road to it is plowed through until the end of March (4WD or AWD recommended however). From there the climbing areas are half an hour to several hours away. The ice is generally in good shape from early Dec to the end of Mar. We found it to be quite fat and hard.

On the first day we setup four top ropes in the Genesis area, which consisted of multiple 60 ft WI3 – WI5 climbs (WI = water ice; for the uninitiated, not all ice is water ice), with each of us taking a lap or two on each of the routes. Since that is the most popular area and a good start for beginners like us, the ice was a bit ‘picked-out,’ but still fun and good

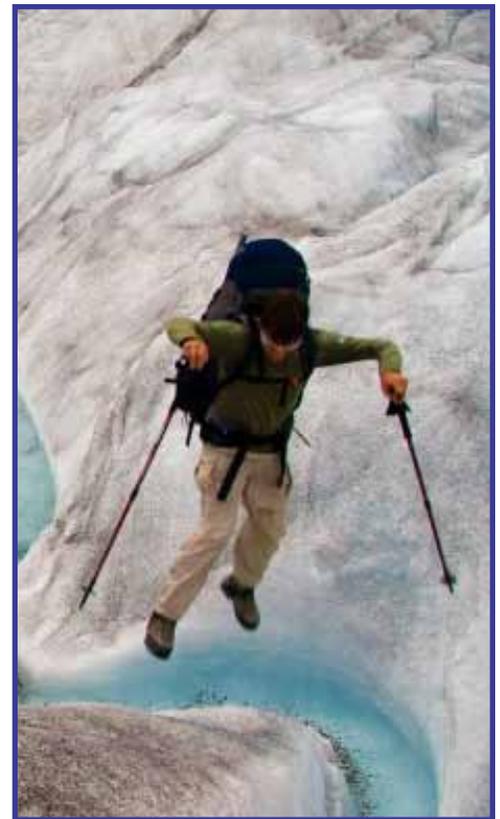


practice. The WI4 routes were in good shape and quite challenging, with blue, brittle ice on the bulges and arêtes.

The next day part of the group worked Genesis and then moved to Green Sleeves for practice leading, while Tim, Alex and I did an ‘alpine’ route up and over Green Sleeves (WI3; 90 ft), then up through the snow to Hang Over (WI3), a 2-pitch ice climb. We rapped down Hang Over (WI3) and then walked back out to the car. We discovered that at least for beginners, climbing and cleaning multi-pitch ice climbs is very time consuming (but fun!)



For those interested in ice climbing, I highly recommend Hyalite. It is far cheaper than Ouray, and unlike Ouray, has natural ice and is not crowded. There are countless climbs of varying difficulty and in most areas minimal avalanche danger. There are also a number of mixed routes. The book *Winter Dance*, is a great guidebook (the photos alone are worth the \$25) and the website [Montanaice.com](http://Montanaice.com) is quite helpful. We are planning a return in 2015!





## Guye Cabin Work Parties Beginning in May

This year we would like to see if we can find folks to commit to working on certain projects at the cabin on specific weekends. This will allow us to have the materials and helpers etc they need to accomplish the tasks.

Here is the list we would like to do this summer. Some are must dos, and others are nice to have.

Normal summer work:

Chainsaw rounds / Split wood

Trail work / yard work

Paint /repair outside Cabin

Guye Cabin Work Party Dates are on the website!

We would like to thank all our volunteers for helping us for the last year (and years past). Working together we have made the WAC into something very special. We certainly appreciate the continuing support of those who have already contributed. But we would especially welcome anyone who has not yet contributed in the past to take a volunteer job to help our devoted "regulars". We would like to get to know you better and we could really use your help. Volunteering with the WAC can be very rewarding and provide an additional avenue to finding interesting things to do with the club.

### Summer Cabin Open Dates:

May 10

June 14

July 19

August 23

September 27

October 18

## WAC Chief Six Pin



There is renewed interest in WAC climbers achieving the Chief Six Pin. Our own Wolfgang Bethge recently achieved his goal by completing The Chair on October 12, 2002. His tired party returned in the dark to the cabin.

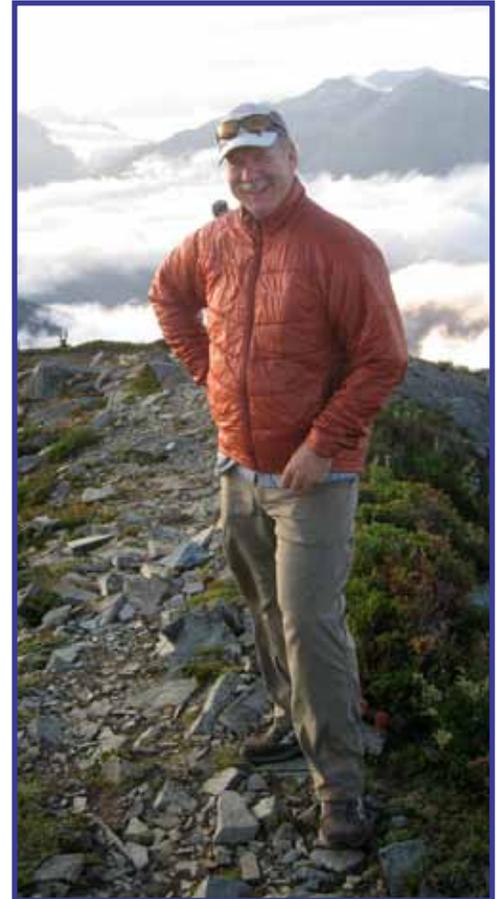
This year there is time to do some of these using the beautiful WAC Guye Cabin as a base camp. Some such as Granite and Silver have trails to the top, while others such as The Tooth and The Chair require technical gear.

To be awarded the WAC Chief Six Pin; Guye, The Chair, The Tooth, and Snoqualmie Mountain must be climbed, along with any two of Keleeten, Kendall, Lundin, Denny, Silver, or Red Mountain.

The WAC climbing class often does spring ascents of The Tooth, Lundin, Snoqualmie, and Kendall each May.

The Chair	6,238'
Denny Mountain	5,520'
Guye Peak	5,168'
Kaleetan Peak	6,259'
Kendall Peak	5,784'
Red Mountain	5,890'
Silver Peak	5,615'
Snoqualmie Mountain	6,278'
Mount Thompson	6,554'
The Tooth	5,604'
Alta Mountain	6,156'
Bryant Peak	5,801'
Chickamin Peak	7,000'
Granite Mountain	5,629'
Hibox Mountain	6,560'
Huckleberry Mountain	6,320'
Lundin Peak	6,057'
Mount Roosevelt	5,835'
Rampart Ridge	5,870'
Tinkham Peak	5,395'

Of course there are other peaks in the area that are not included in this list such as McClellan's Butte, Abiel Peak, Caroline Peak, Preacher Mountain, and Alaska Mountain.



## 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.





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

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FIRST CLASS

TO: