

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">The Bulletin of the Washington Alpine Club</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">March 2019 Edited by Robertson Miller</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contributors Elden Altizer Mike Mahanay Chris Gibbons Chelsea Sweetin</p>
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President's Corner by Elden Altizer

Last month I was griping about rain in the mountains, but now all I can say is WOW! This winter is turning out to be a banner snow year. The cabin is truly a winter wonderland right now, and it is seeing lots of use. Besides all the skiers and snowshoeing, quite a few groups have been there. Boy Scouts, College groups, Inter-City Outings, and most important, the Annual Birthday gathering for Bill Hooper! Happy Birthday Bill! Outside groups helps fund the cabin and I hope we present a warm welcome to our guests. In March we have an exclusive mid-week use by Nathan Hale High School March 5-8, more scout groups on weekends, and the Vashon Island Harbor school the 14th & 15th.

The Backcountry Travel course has been in full swing and will be wrapping up the first week of March. We should have a lot of enthusiastic backcountry skiers headed for the hills with the skills and knowledge for safe outings. Thanks to all the instructors and co-chairs that made this happen.

The Basic Class will kick off with the first student meeting March 5th. Instructor trainings are already in full swing with training at the cabin. We're looking forward to another successful class!

I'm excited to share that the board is initiating a project to create a long-term club strategy and goals for the WAC. When I became the Washington Alpine Club President, I began studying the activities and missions of other outdoor clubs and organizations such as The Mountaineers, The



Mazamas, Colorado Mountain Club, California Alpine Club, Access Fund and the American Alpine Club. In November I visited facilities run by the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Adirondack Mountain Club. Each of these organizations are unique – just as the WAC is different from any other outdoor club. Two significant observations I’ve noted:

1. Most of these groups have seen significant membership increases in the past 5+ years while the WAC has maintained a respectable but steady membership of approximately 500 members.
2. Most have established long term strategy plans, with distinct goals and plans to meet those goals.

As a board we help lead the club to meet the needs of our members, meet financial responsibilities, maintain the cabin, ensure education programs, hold social functions, and promote conservation and environment stewardship. A long-term strategic plan, developed with the input of the entire membership, will help your board identify what needs our attention and work to sustain our club well into its second century. The process to create this plan will take the better part of this year, and perhaps into 2020. Each of you can play an important role in shaping our club’s future by:

1. Responding to an all membership survey that will be sent within the next month.
2. Attend a “Town Hall” session later this year in Seattle

Finally, thanks for renewing your membership (462 members as I write this).

Cabin Report by Mike Mahanay



With 5' of new snow it took a tremendous effort to dig out the Cabin!

Jerilee Stapp Ruiz shoveling snow off roof of Guye Cabin March 11, 1956. I was 14.

Thanks for the picture Jerilee!

Well, so much for the early spring... Winter returned with a blast! World class powder snow in February and plenty of it! We are now at 229 inches for the season. 81 inches in February alone! February is also setting a record for one of the coldest Februaries ever. So, the snow is staying cold and powdery giving us fantastic skiing.



With the world class snow the Cabin has been very busy- thanks everyone for pitching in to make things go smoothly! Here is some feedback from Ron Kennedy-

Hello again Mike,

Everyone had a bunk in the end, so no worries! A couple of the regulars pitched in to help ensure everyone from our group was accommodated. It always amazes me how Guye Cabin folks are so flexible and friendly. We're grateful to be part of it. Thank you for your kind assistance, good time was had by all!

Mark Hume and Archie Brenden installed new outside lights! The Cabin is now all LED saving energy and money.

Most important!

Please help around the Cabin. If you don't see something that needs to be done, please ask! Shoveling the snow from the deck, front and back stairs, and A frames needs to be done each weekend.

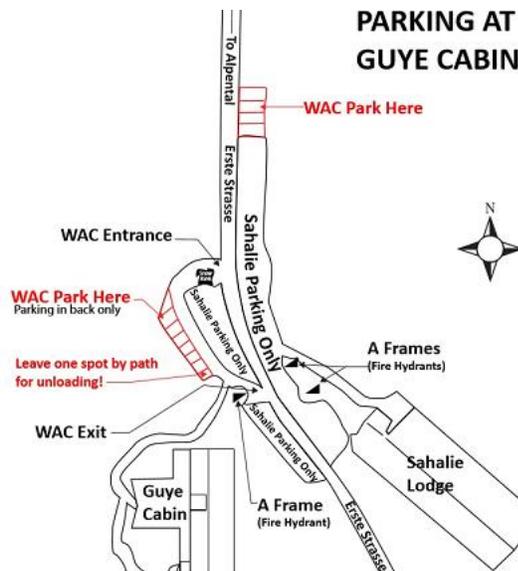
Be sure and look at the WAC WAC Calendar on the weekend before you come up. Some weekends there are groups or classes. Nathan Hale and Harbor School are coming up and these dates will be exclusive use for them.

Be sure you park in the WAC places! We are very fortunate that we don't have to pay for plowing so let's keep our neighbors happy! See the Parking Map.



Bill and Jared Hooper birthday party!

It is always one of the highlights of the winter to have the Hooper clan up!



Up Coming Events

- March 3:** Board meeting at REI to discuss long-term planning for the WAC Member feedback prior to the meeting requested.
- March 5-8:** Nathan Hale – exclusive cabin use
- March 9-10:** Emotional First Responder class at the cabin
- March 14-15:** Vashon Island Harbor School at the cabin
- March 23:** Basic Class Mount Si fieldtrip
- March 30:** Basic Class Spire 1 fieldtrip

See the calendar of events at <https://washingtionalpineclub.org/> for more listings

Club Activities of the past month

Basic Class Instructor Training event – by Robertson Miller



The weekend of February 23/24 was supper busy at the cabin, skiers, families with children, visitors and about 40 Basic Climbing Class Instructors who had come for training in preparation for the soon to begin 2019 Basic Climbing Class.

This year we had at least 20 first year instructors. These were last year's Basic Class students. Now they are back to help teach this year's class. To have 20 returning out of 32 students from last year may be an all-time record. It is a testament to the quality improvements the co-chairs have

made in recent years that makes continued participation year after year so rewarding.

Saturday morning began in the cabin with plan presentations by the co-chairs. Pat O'Brien talked about what it takes to be good instructor. He also talked about class ethics with the goal of making the class fun, rewarding and safe for all participants. All this was followed by knots tests (all instructors must demonstrate mastery of class rope skills). Then we headed out to the snow for real-world teaching scenarios. On Sunday the first-year instructors created their own day plan with the goal of learning how to plan fieldtrips and teach skills. The weekend was a huge success. This year's students have a lot to look forward to.



Basic Climbing Class Update by Robertson Miller

The Basic Class Instructor team is looking very strong this year. Thirty-two students have paid their tuition. Ropes and gear have been purchased. The class is ready to roll. The first Tuesday class is March 5th and every week thereafter for three months. As always, we believe we have a quality group of students. I know I'm looking forward to meeting them.

Key Basic Class February Dates:

First Student Lecture is March 5th!!

Mount Si fieldtrip is March 23rd. Time to get excited

Questions? Email the [Co-Chairs](#) or visit the Basic Climbing class [website!](#)

<http://basicclass.washingtonalpineclub.org/>

Deep Snow can be Dangerous by Robertson Miller

I believe most WAC members are familiar with the dangers posed by avalanche on steep slopes. But deep snow can present life threatening danger even on flat land, especially to children. I saw this first-hand this past weekend during instructor training at the cabin. One of our instructor trainees was practicing ascend/descend when she suddenly broke through into a deep hole. One second she was standing on the surface and the next second she plunged in up to her shoulders. It took considerable effort with the help of two others to get her out. If, instead of an adult with two witnesses, this had been an unseen child the consequences could have been tragic. Parents, when



snow is deeper than your child is tall please instruct them to stay on established trails. Never let them wander off into the snow unsupervised.

Analysis: The hole was formed by snow falling on a sapling tree. The depth of the snow was about six feet. I estimate the free-standing tree was probably about seven feet tall and yet there was no indication of its presence on the surface of the snow. Snow falling from the sky collects on the tree-top. The weight of the snow bends the tree over. As snow continues to fall the seven-foot tree is bent over to six or even five feet tall and a void in the snow is formed under the bent-over tree. A sort-of submerged tree well. Eventually the entire tree is buried with no hint of the underlying void under the surface of the snow. If a child were to break through and fall in to the void the child would be completely submerged. There's no way the child would be able to get out without help. But if this occurred unwitnessed then all anyone would know is a child disappeared.

I decided to include this report in the bulletin because this occurred near the cabin, the snow this year is very deep and there are lots of children using the cabin. Parents, please supervise your children when they are outside in the deep snow, especially when the snow is deeper than the child is tall, as it is this month.

Member Activities of the past month

Annual trip to Ouray, Colorado by Chris Gibbons

Ouray has always held that allure of winter adventures for those that are privy to its existence. Past stories abound with tales of free, fresh, ice that goes on for miles down a fairytale canyon. It's a place where the cold, sharp, Colorado mountain air awakens your senses and waters your eyes. Where you can climb sheer ice until your arms fall off; all on top rope. Where the whiskey flows freely, where the hot tubs bubble for hours, and where the locals welcome you like long lost cousins each year. It represents a type of adventure that seems out of reach for many, but those that know of its existence pursue it with a fervor and are grateful to have it.

For several on the 2019 WAC trip, the Ouray adventure is a consistent one year after year. They know the challenging sections, the choice climbs, the necessary gear and anchor placements, and they are happy to teach the new folks "the ropes." They're up earlier, they have seats at breakfast while others stand, and their gear packing efficiency is close to subconscious. They know that when they get back from a long day of climbing to immediately strip and bolt straight for the hot tub because they know you can only fit so many dirty climbers in there without it becoming a little too intimate.



For others, it was their first time experiencing the wonder, landscape, and attitude of 3 days in the Colorado canyon. The intimidation of ice pouring over high cliffs becomes very real and the single digit degree mornings lets them know the comforts of Seattle are a long way away.

Coupled with the anticipation is a constant adrenaline buzzing throughout the body as they pretend to feel safe on ice. It's surreal, it's mysterious, and it's EXACTLY what they want to be doing with their time.

We spent three days on the ice, with Day 1 climbing as a group in South Park, the largest section of routes and anchors. New rules regarding group activity in the park made us quickly realize how popular this sport was becoming and taught us to NEVER be a sanctioned group, just good friends. It was an eerily empty Thursday, so our friendly bunch from Seattle had the run of South Park. It was a perfect first day of testing our gear and getting comfortable on ice. The vets coached the rookies, and all was well with the world.

Day 2 saw Pat and Ira nab some primo climbs up front near the entrance. These climbs are NEVER open due to their length, exposure, and picture-perfect view from the canyon bridge. Others opted for School Room and New Funtier as we made it a point to spread the group out on Friday. We never had to give up our primo climbs. Many in the crew got their fair share of the hard-to-get ice. We captured dramatic photographs to prove it. We ended the day with a family dinner at Bon Ton Italian yukking it up about the day's experiences.

Day 3, our Saturday, saw the return of the crowds. Groups of friends from all over, including Boulder, Utah, and other colleges poured into the park. It was a busy day, but we managed to get our climbs in with a little friendly banter with our climbing neighbors. The mandatory 3-hour anchor changes were never an issue when you were in cahoots with your neighbors. Later in the afternoon a miracle of miracles occurred when we were able to secure the primo climbs again near the entrance. The ice gods were looking down upon us with favor, because on a busy day like Saturday, you'd have better luck at the roulette table. Those that didn't get the climbs and pictures in on Friday were able to get them in Saturday as we used up our last ounces of energy on those long, epic, climbs. With tired bodies and content hearts, we opted for an early dinner at the Ouray Brewery, then a much-needed soak in the natural hot springs down the road.



For the seasoned, it was another epic trip in the books and a reinforcement of why they prioritize this trip each year. While many citizens opt for sun and beaches for their February holidays, this group opts for something different. For many of the newcomers, it was the start of a lifelong love affair with ice and with Ouray's legend. It becomes part of their personal history of who they are and who they will become. We're already looking forward to next year.

The Ouray crew: Pat O'Brien, Ira Rushwald, Wayne Begasse, Jodie Eilers, Gina Strickland, Andrew Hewler, Clement Gurrey, Kelly Pope, Jake Shoudy, Claire Martin, Chris Gibbons, Matt Kempf, Toby Young, Dave Wilson, Charles Muzio, Lisa Loper, Kevin Loper.



Important Notices

<p align="center">Incorporated 1916</p>	<p>PO Box 352 Seattle, WA 98111 www.washingtonalpineclub.org</p>										
<p align="center">Board Of Trustees 2019</p> <p>President Elden Atzimer 1st VP Pat O'Brien 2nd VP Ira Rushwald Treasurer Nathaniel Harrison Secretary Robertson Miller</p>	<p align="center">Directors</p> <p>Chelsea Sweetin Mike Daly Brandi Garcia Rebecca Shore Rachel Minucciani</p>										
<p align="center">Basic Climbing Class Co-chairs</p> <p>Pat O'Brien Angela Crampton Brandi Garcia Chris Gerber Clement Gurrey</p>	<p align="center">Intermediate Class Co-chairs</p> <p>Jennifer Abrahamson Max Leitner Paul Carduner</p>										
<p align="center">Backcountry Class Co-chairs</p> <p>Nici Bissonnette Gabe O'Leary Ted Bashor Telemark Ski: SkiWeds@gmail.com</p>	<p align="center">Property & Membership</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Cabin Chair</td> <td>Mike Mahanay</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Work Party</td> <td>Mike Mahanay</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Membership</td> <td>Dave Wilson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Publicity</td> <td>Kay Ishi</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cabin Supply</td> <td>Tami Sargent</td> </tr> </table>	Cabin Chair	Mike Mahanay	Work Party	Mike Mahanay	Membership	Dave Wilson	Publicity	Kay Ishi	Cabin Supply	Tami Sargent
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