



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Chelsea Sweetin

SPRING IS IN THE AIR! I hope everyone is enjoying the Spring ski conditions and are stacking up the days during the last month or so of the season. There still looks to be lots of snow up there to enjoy!

It's crazy to think that a year ago we were in the thick of the first lockdown. With the vaccine gaining some momentum, this Spring feels a little more light and hopeful than the last. I'm looking forward to seeing some friends and family in the coming months that I haven't seen in over a year. I am also excited for the longer days and the return to outside activities!

We've been starting to discuss the possibility of added activities and smaller classes later on in the Summer, so keep an eye out for updates in the coming months. And make sure to continue to check the [WAC Stream](#) page for any virtual events coming up. And as always if anyone has ideas for activities, events, etc please don't hesitate to reach out. Especially now it's more work than ever to coordinate, so if you have an idea let us know!



There is more information in the bulletin this month, but if you are interested and can attend, Elden and the activities committee are looking for more people to help out. There is a meeting this month to discuss process, so if you can please send Elden an email and join the party! Info on the next page.

Thank you to everyone who helped dig out the cabin this winter and ensure that it stayed functioning, based on the pictures we sure did get a lot of snow! I was so happy to hear that the cabin was rented so much over the winter and that people were able to enjoy it despite the limited capacity. While things are still uncertain as to when we will expand the capacity and usage, it is still available for rent. Just check out the website and Mike will get you all set up.

And lastly congratulations to Nathaniel and Taldi Harrison on the newest addition to their little family! Youngest WAC member out there?

Don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or want to chat.

Cheers All,

Chelsea Sweetin

Found a lovely little group of Chickens on our nightly walk a few days ago. There was a coin opp treat dispenser so passersby could give them snacks!



## Stewardship Updates

One of the underlying principles of #RecreateResponsibly is [building an inclusive outdoors](#). A large part of our meeting this week was spent discussing the recent shooting in Atlanta in the wake of a week with another two mass shootings to add to [our country's ever-growing list](#). Here are some resources to [report acts of hate](#) against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities, take a [free bystander intervention training](#) to stop AAPI and other xenophobic harassment, and [donate to the victims of violence](#) against the AAPI community.

The WA [Recreate Responsibly Coalition](#) wants to get the message out there that Spring is a dynamic season. The weather is getting nicer, there's more daylight to enjoy -- and it may be summer in the lowlands. As most of us know - winter lingers in the mountains until June or July. It's important to continue checking [NWAC](#) for the latest avalanche and mountain weather conditions as well as WTA for trail conditions updates. [WSDOT](#) for major Spring road openings, too! NWAC has a [Spring Backcountry Travel](#) Webinar coming up on April 15th.

Land managers are also bracing for crowds and well above average visitation again as we move into Spring and Summer. We're not out of the woods yet with the COVID-19 pandemic. If you can - to avoid becoming part of the crowd - visit your favorite outdoors areas at off peak times (that's before 10am, after 2pm, and on weekdays).

Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics compile a short list to help you refresh your LNT skills - Here are [5 quick ways](#) to refresh your knowledge, ensuring you're up to date on all your Leave No Trace tips and techniques—from putting out a campfire to car camping need-to-knows. Spring also means MUD - snowmelt and April showers mean many parts of the country are getting muddy. Here are some tips on how to [Leave No Trace this mud season](#).

## Activities Committee Meeting

### ACTIVITY COMMITTEE GUIDELINE DOCUMENT CREATION

April 15, 7 PM, Virtual Zoom Meeting, Every member welcome!

Please join a Zoom meeting to review and give input on the guidelines for leading and participating in WAC activity outings. Outings can range from hiking, climbing of all types, scrambling, backpacking, skiing, snowshoeing, etc. Preliminary documents have been drafted for:

1. Outings Standards.
2. Screening of prospective participants
3. Outings Leaders Quick Guide

To join send an email to [activities@washingtionalpineclub.org](mailto:activities@washingtionalpineclub.org) to receive the Zoom meeting information. Participants will be sent the drafts prior to the meeting.

Elden Altizer





# Olympic Discovery Trail

Mike Mahanay

I know most WAC members do not make it across Puget Sound that often- regardless of if they are actually from here or if they are new arrivals from the East Coast. In addition to the Olympic Mountains (and Mount Olympus) there is a plethora of unique outdoor opportunities to discover.

Starting in the Victorian seaport of Port Townsend and ending 120 miles West on the shores of the Pacific Ocean at La Push, the Olympic Discovery Trail is filled with views of snowcapped peaks, ocean vistas, fast flowing rivers and pristine lakes, and everywhere the majestic forests of the Pacific Northwest. It is perfect for walking and bicycling. The trail will take you through beautiful, scenic areas including along the Strait of Juan de Fuca and through the historic Railroad Bridge Park.

The Olympic Discovery Trail is the western terminus of the "Great American Rail Trail" This is the most ambitious biking initiative the country has ever seen. Stretching an extraordinary 3,700 miles from the nation's capital across 12 states to the Pacific Ocean, to La Push on the Pacific Ocean. It is an idea that's been ruminating for 50 years and is now quickly racing to fulfillment. The Great American Rail-Trail will connect more than 125 existing multi-use paths, greenways, trails and towpaths.

A grass root effort on the Olympic Peninsula with private and public partners is making tremendous progress on the Olympic Discovery Trail. An outing to the Olympic Peninsula is perfect in the shoulder seasons but doable year-round as the elevation is quite low. Our good friends Ryan McKnight and Alex Swenson were the first two to run the entire length of the trail.

More information is at <https://olympicdiscoverytrail.org/explore/the-odt/>

And <https://mynorthwest.com/2720296/all-over-the-map-history-scenery-olympic-discovery-trail/>





# Cabin Classroom Update

Mike Mahanay

At the Annual Meeting in October 2019 I put forth a proposal for the Club to build a "Classroom" on our property near Guye Cabin. Reception was warm, the Board agreed to doing analysis, the Treasurer said our financial condition was good. Several of us (Jack Waters, Alexandra Taber, Jeff Knutson, Ira Rushwald, and I) started looking at fundraising, requirements, and a preliminary design. Then we had the terrible covid-19 pandemic and things ground to a halt.

To get things going again-

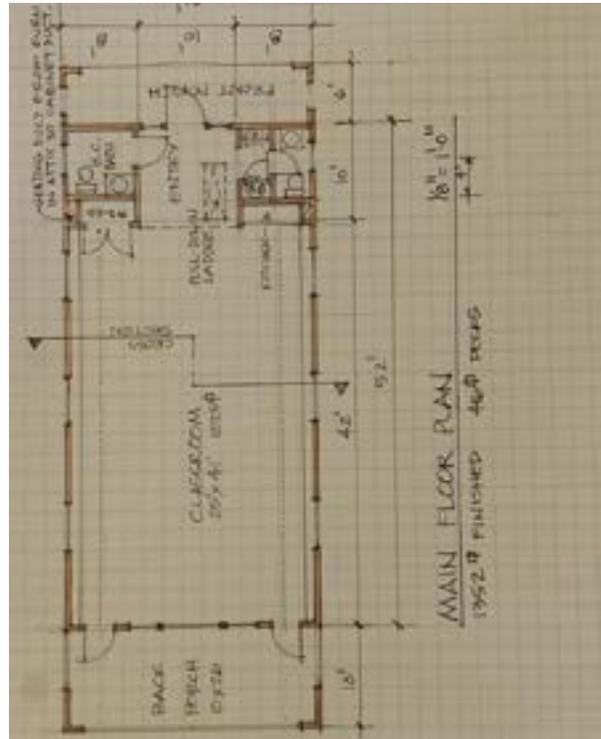
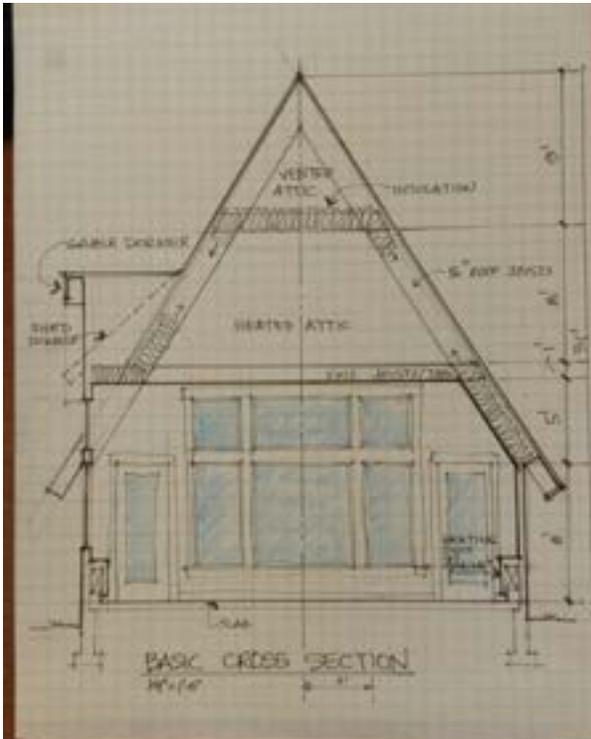
Fundraising- Several things can happen here-

- Working WAC members can contact their places of employment to request grants for Outdoor Education Facility (We have many members working for wealthy companies such as Outdoor Research, REI, Microsoft, Amazon on and on)
- Stock Donations
- Legacy Giving
- Grants from Charitable Foundations
- Member Donations (aka something akin to the Fireside Circle at WTA)

Architecture Design- Curt Gelotte has done excellent initial work on the design so folks can see what we are thinking. Pictures below.

Renewed commitment, priority, and involvement from the WAC Board

We are looking for volunteers from the club to help support and move this forward via a sub-committee, so please let us know if you would like to be involved in the planning of this club project! If you have architectural experience, fundraising or grants, permitting, etc that will all be much needed, but just a motivated and interested person is just as helpful! Please reach out to get involved!





## Re-Use of Outdoor Gear!

Mike Mahanay

A new friend, Ken, recently contacted me about donating outdoor gear to the WAC. This is not uncommon and happens several times each year. Crampons, snowshoes, sleeping bags, winter jackets, gloves, ice axes etc. I met up with Ken on the Eastside and he gave me several packs, thermorests, sleeping bags, wool sweaters etc. He believes in zero waste. I went through my gear room and found several more packs, sleeping bags etc. to add to the haul. Next, I contacted Ralph Preston to see if this stuff could be of use to his Scout troop in Tacoma. The next day I headed to Tacoma to drop all the gear off to Ralph to distribute.

Not only does this keep stuff out of the landfill and goodwill, it gets it to people we know who can use it! Many kids and scouts don't need and can't afford to go to Feathered Friends for the best gear. And all of us have unused, outdated, wrong color or wrong size stuff in our closets and gear rooms- or just stuff we no longer use that is still very serviceable!

Clean it out! Bring it up to the Cabin and get it back in the outdoor supply chain! We will make sure it gets donated to good homes and people who will be very appreciative!



# CABIN REPORT



Mike Mahanay

It is now April, and we are ever so slowly transitioning to Spring. We have had a record season with snow not seen since the last century! It has snowed over 300 inches and there is still 10' or more on the ground. Guye Cabin was almost inaccessible due to the snow. Luckily we had folks who headed the call and jumped in to help dig it out.

We had an excellent ski season with plenty of world class snow. (Some folks have said almost too much) Spring is my favorite time to ski as the snow consolidates and then softens a little during the day. There is excellent spring skiing at Alpentel & Central and backcountry skiing out at Paradise up on the Muir Snowfield as well as Mt. St. Helens and Mount Adams. Skiing the volcanos can't be beat! Other people are switching to climbing, cycling, trail running, and other outside activities.



*There is still 10 feet of snow at Guye Cabin. 130% of normal snowpack. We will see when it melts from the Cabin yard ... any guesses?*

The reality is that this was an excellent year at Guye Cabin! Because of the horrible pandemic that has been going on now for 14 months we sadly have not hosted any of the things we normally do over the winter - the Snow Dinner, Winter Backcountry Travel Class, Climbing Class Instructors Training, Emotional First Responder Class, Scout and School groups, birthday parties and all the families enjoying the Cabin. Although we are now receiving the vaccine (30% of WA have received one shot or more) for this deadly pandemic we still need to be vigilant until the okay from Dr. Fauci. Masks are still required when near other people, and we will continue the exclusive use policy of one family/vaccine group at a time in the Cabin. Outside use is okay with masks.

I want to extend a huge thanks to everyone who stayed at the Cabin over the winter and kept things clean and in good order. There are others who came by just to help with shoveling snow, monitoring the parking and other tasks. Again, thank you! You all demonstrate the true spirit of the WAC! with nine days failing to get above freezing and only one night above 32 degrees.

Come up and experience the snow at the Cabin! It is buried!



## Cabin Report

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You can stay at Guye Cabin this Spring! Guye Cabin continues to be reservation only due to the covid-19 pandemic. It has been booked every weekend (and many weekdays) since we opened back up in May 2020. The next weekend opening is May and there are many week days open. If you want to stay just check the calendar for dates and email me your dates - [Club Calendar](#). Everyone has been incredibly grateful and appreciative of the opportunity- and have enjoyed their stays immensely.

Phil Harvey and I continued to work on upgrades the stairs between the Drying Room and Kitchen. Will you be able to see the difference? Phil and I donated all the materials used- Phil's portion amounting to several hundred dollars! Thank you, Phil!

As the snow melts we will have to check for damage to the Cabin, outside stairs, bridge etc. Luckily as we rebuilt over the last few years we made sure to allow for tremendous snow loads. Thanks to everyone who helped on these projects – Dale Ott, Mark Hume, John Sargent, Jeff Knutson, Lee Parsons, Jeff Wright, and many, many others.



With the warm Spring weather and the melting snow we will begin some outdoor work parties at Guye Cabin in May. This year we will have work parties on weekdays and some on the weekends every month through August. Come on up for the day to help out, to play, or to hike the trails. We will stock up on firewood for next winter, paint the gabled ends of the Cabin, and continue trail work. If you have used the Cabin, you'll want to show up in the off season too and give some back! This is a great way to meet some new people in the WAC and invest in the Club's future. Check the [WAC Calendar](#) for the dates. Please email [Mike Mahanay](#) and let me know you are coming.

As we march toward herd immunity remember to check the [WAC Calendar](#) to see if the Cabin is available for you and your quarantine group to stay. Many people are asking about hosting the PCT hikers this year- unfortunately with all the unknowns it is still too early to say for sure. Perhaps by July 04th we will have a decision.

We are continuing to work on our gear library- kids Nordic skis and boot, snowshoes, kids' snow pants and jackets, gloves, hiking poles, etc. Also, we need yoga mats and props. Paint brushes, and tools for the shop. Please make sure anything donated is serviceable.

Cheers!

Remember if you need help with anything (WAC related, or otherwise) call or text me.

[Mike Mahanay](#)



# Olympic Coast Clean Up CANCELLED

Our Club is one of longest participants in the annual Olympic Coast Beach Cleanup! I have been organizing the cleanup at Hoh Beach since 2002.

Again this year the Earth Day cleanup is cancelled as Olympic National Park still has covid restrictions.

Tentatively we are planning for the 3rd weekend in September for a smaller version like we did last year. Hopefully we will work at Sand Point near Lake Ozette.

Remember, as you hike anywhere on our Ocean Beaches (or any trail) please bring a trash bag to pick up anything you come across.





## Club Photos

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I didn't get out much this winter due to a major home remodel project. I'm happy that I finally went to Mount Ellinor for the first time. We had to walk 1.4 miles on the road before reaching the lower trailhead, but it was a packed snow path and we only used micro-spikes and poles, with an ice axe if needed. It was a beautiful day!

From the summit of Ellinor with Mt. Washington in the foreground and the Puget Sound(Hoods Canal) below

PC: Elden Altizer



New Hallway outside Dining  
Room

By Phil Harvey

..... **2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS** .....

**TRUSTEES**

**President:** Chelsea Sweetin

**1st VP:** Pat O'Brien

**2nd VP:** Nathaniel Harrison

**Treasurer:** Elden Altizer

**Secretary:** Angela Crampton

**DIRECTORS**

Derek Lester

Mike Daly

Mike Mahanay

Rebecca Shore

Rachel Minucciani

..... **2020 / 2021 CLASS CO-CHAIRS** .....

**BASIC CLIMBING CLASS**

Pat O'Brien  
Brandi Garcia  
Clement Gurrey  
Linnet Vacha  
Kelly Pope

**INTERMEDIATE CLASS**

Jodie Eilers  
Kelly Coons  
Stu Lai

**BACKCOUNTRY CLASS**

Gabe O'Leary  
Chelsea Baum  
Michael Grazewski  
Andrew Chan

..... **PROPERTY & MEMBERSHIP** .....

**Cabin Chair:** Mike Mahanay

**Work Parties:** Mike Mahanay

..... **Board Meetings** .....

The WAC Board of Directors meets on the first Thursday of each month (excluding summer July / August). All members are welcome to join the meetings, but if unable to attend you can read the minutes of each meeting on the website [HERE](#)

During the pandemic we are meeting via ZOOM - Email the board for the link to join!



INCORPORATED 1916

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