



PC: Ira Rushwald

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Chelsea Sweetin

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SPRING is in the air! Though it's raining as I write this, but that's the PNW for you. It's been a literal breath of fresh air to get outside and enjoy the sunshine and see all the blooming flowers. I've included a few pictures below from our daily neighborhood walks. And don't miss Nadia's painting this month of the tulips up in the Skagit Valley! It's also been very exciting and relieving to receive my first vaccination, feels like a little glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel.

I am also incredibly happy to announce that we had our first in-person refresher class since before the pandemic! Pat and a few of the other instructors headed down to the Mountaineers facility and dusted off some of their climbing and rescue skills. All recommended CDC guidelines were followed of course. I hope to be able to report more of this in the coming months. And keep an eye out for small outdoor gatherings and work parties at the cabin as the weather continues to improve. We are trying to ramp up club activities and get people more in person again, while still keeping everyone safe and healthy.

Though there is still plenty of snow up at the cabin as you will see in some of the photos from our cabin report. It's going to take a while for all that to melt out! If you are a backcountry skier, I hope you are getting to enjoy the spring touring, and are staying safe out there. We've gotten out a few times with the nice weather to climb, and I'm excited for more and more of that in the coming months.

Hope everyone is staying active and healthy!

Chelsea



CABIN REPORT



Mike Mahanay

It's Spring! Warmer and drier days. My assumption is that everyone is vaccinated or will be very soon. The CDC just relaxed the outdoor mask requirements and we are quickly heading back to a more normal lifestyle. Spring skiing is excellent at Paradise up on the Muir Snowfield as well as Mt. St. Helens and Mount Adams. Skiing the volcanos is something very unique to the Pacific Northwest. This is also a great time to snow camp- either in the backcountry somewhere or at Guye Cabin. For bike riding the Snoqualmie Tunnel will open soon. It is possible to ride all the way from Rattlesnake Lake to the Snoqualmie River.



On warmer days the snow has melted more than a foot a day. There will still be snow into June and even July!



Mike recovering at home with Lola. Doerte did a fantastic job taking care of me!

On a personal note I wanted to let my WAC friends know that I had open heart surgery (double bypass) on April 01. All went well and although the recovery is long I expect to be back 100% by June. For someone who has been outdoors my entire life this came as a bit of a shock but you can't argue with genetics. I want to thank all those folks who sent well wishes, positive thoughts, brought dinners over, and helped with chores. I treasure you.

As you can imagine I haven't been up to the Cabin in weeks. Thanks to Derrick Peters, Phil Harvey, and Dale Ott for keeping things in good order!

Don't forget you can stay at Guye Cabin this Spring! Guye Cabin continues to be reservation only due to the covid-19 pandemic. There are plenty of weekends and weekdays 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.

With the relaxed outdoor guidance and everyone getting vaccinated we will have outdoor lunches, meetups, & work parties at Guye Cabin this summer. (Still not sure about inside unless everyone is vaccinated) 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.

We have made great progress 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.

Don't forget if you need help with anything (WAC related, or otherwise) call or text me.

[Mike Mahanay](#)



Stewardship Updates

The WAC will be helping the Washington Climbers Coalition and the Access Fund on Friday, June 25 at Exit 38, Substation!.

This is a great and fun way to contribute to the crags and see your handiwork for years to come. If you cannot make the WAC volunteer day, the WCC will also be hosting a volunteer day for the public on Saturday, June 26.

If you are interested in either, please email stewardship@washingtionalpineclub.org. Hope to see you out there!

Activities Committee Updates

June 21st, 7 PM: Solstice Climbing at Marymoor Park – Enjoy the longest day of the year with some climbing and friends. Bring a picnic dinner! Rain cancels.

All Summer: Guye Cabin Mushroom identification. Post your photos of mushrooms you find on the cabin property to the WAC Facebook page. September is the prime month, but they'll pop up throughout the summer!

July, date TBD: Bonfire & BBQ at Guye Cabin

Look for more activities in the June Bulletin!

Club Photos



Nadia Hakki painting out in the Skagit Valley tulip fields.



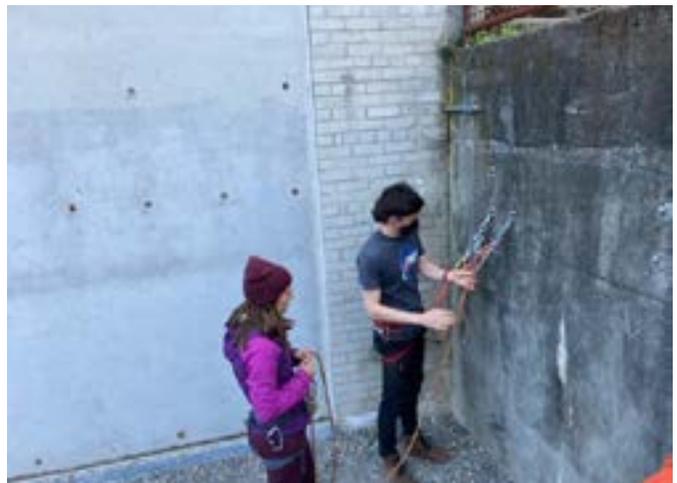
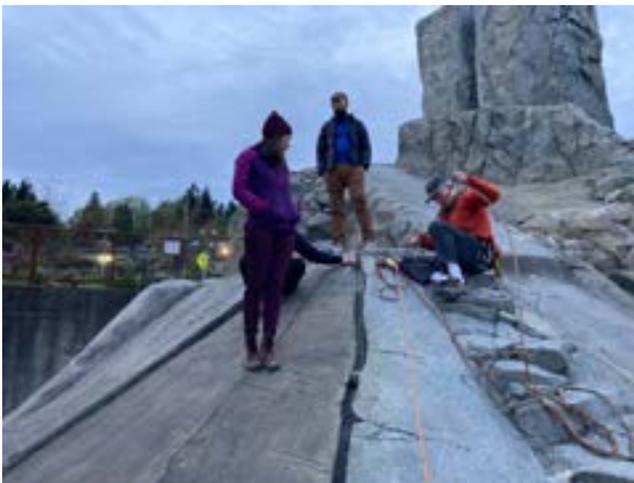


Club Photos

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We officially had our first in-person teaching event since the pandemic! This feels like a huge milestone. While the numbers were small for obvious reasons and all precautions were taken, for all those involved I know it was a much needed change of pace. The participants were climbing class instructors knocking some of the rust off, practicing thread and lower techniques along with some other rescue setups!

I hope that this is just the start of us all starting to safely get back together outside in the coming months.

Attendees: Matt Kempf, Danny Volz, Mike Daly, Pat Obrien, Kelly Coons, Chris Gerber, Maegan Lee





Pacific Northwest Trail

Have you heard of the Pacific Northwest Trail? Most people know of the 2,600 mile Pacific Crest Trail that goes from Mexico to Canada through Snoqualmie Pass but few know we have another long distance trail going through Washington.

From the Continental Divide to the Pacific Ocean, this 1,200 mile path is high for the views and long on adventure, ranking among the most scenic and rugged long-distance trails in the world. The Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNT) travels through some of the most spectacular and scenic terrain in the United States, connecting diverse landscapes and communities of the Pacific Northwest.

Beginning at the Continental Divide in Glacier National Park the trail travels over 1,200 miles through Montana, Idaho, and Washington before reaching the Pacific Ocean in Olympic National Park near Cape Alava. Along the way, the PNT crosses three national parks, seven national forests, two other national scenic trails, and against the grain of several mountain ranges, including the Continental Divide, Whitefish Divide, Purcells, Selkirks, Kettles, Cascades, and Olympics. It was designated as the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail by Congress in 2009.

Lots more information - [Pacific Northwest Trail website](#)





.....**Recycle & Re-Use of Outdoor Gear!**.....

Did you know that Guye Cabin has historically been a hotbed for recycle and reuse? Indoor and outdoor tables, chairs, kitchen items, refrigerator, carpet, tools, bbq, front and back stair treads, handrails inside, stonework outside, fireplace stones- you name it has been donated and/or used previously. Pullies on the rope tow towers, beams in the toolshed, outside benches, bamboo poles, doors- the list goes on and on. Also, we have done almost all work with volunteers from our Club! Besides being just plain smart and keeping costs to a minimum, this allows folks who have no “formal” training in repair and maintenance to gain experience and knowledge.

What do you do with your unused outdoor Gear?

With lighter weight gear and new technology changing gear all the time, what do we do with our old gear? We have used and abused our favorite gear but some of it just does not measure up. We spent the time researching it, finally purchased it, and it was not what we liked.

More and more people are trying to go green and downsize their lives to focus less on stuff and more on the experience. The up-cycling and recycling movement is growing stronger every day. Even big gear companies have joined and are now buying back used gear and reselling it or recycling it into new gear.

It seems silly to just throw it in the trash and move on. Someone else out there could use that right? So what do you do? Where do you offload a bunch of gear that will not just end up in a dumpster a few days later?

Last month I wrote about getting unused outdoor gear back where people can use it. Since then we have made good progress getting donations that we can either use within the WAC, or donate to scouts, Big Sisters/Big Brothers, other youth organizations, or kids groups who need gear, but just can't afford to purchase.

Either bring your donations to Guye Cabin, or contact me and I will come by and get it from you.

Lets get our unused gear to people who can use it!



BackPacking Gear





.....**WAC Member Assists in Rescue!**.....

Peter Horsman

I was on my way in our small motorboat “Moondance” from Seattle to Edmonds, and about 10 minutes south of Edmonds when I heard a distress call on the radio.

The call initially mentioned a sailboat without power, which I did not consider a ‘life-or-death’ emergency at the time. There was a little back and forth with the coast guard about position and so forth. I then heard the captain of the sailboat in distress say that his brother had fallen overboard and that he was not wearing a life jacket. Worse, he was unable to reach him and he communicated that his brother was attempting to swim to shore. I am the oldest of four and my brother and I are very close. I could relate to the worry I heard in his tone of voice. I looked at the position and quickly concluded that this was a dangerous situation because he was about 2 miles offshore from Kingston, off Apple Tree cove, and close to or in the shipping lane. I decided to cross the sound to see if I could help.

When I got there, the ferry Walla Walla had just launched a small boat to search. They drove in circles, and I don’t think the crew could see much due to the waves and the low position they had on the water. I could see the sailboat moving northeast.

I started a search pattern. It was hard to see anything due to the waves and the dark weather. It was getting more windy, with whitecaps starting to increase in intensity on many waves. There was a small craft warning (a storm) for that evening. Pretty soon after I started searching, I could see the police/rescue boats approaching. They started searching closer to the coast and headed north. I went closer to the ferry and was unsure about the search area. I called the coast guard to confirm the GPS coordinates/location and exact time when the man had fallen overboard. The captain of the Walla Walla then ferry reached out and suggested to continue to search between the ferry and the coast. Based on that, the wind, the current and the direction the sailboat was drifting in, I developed a better picture of where I thought he could be. I was also thinking what I would do if I were in that situation, and where I would try to swim to.

I must have searched for 30 minutes when I started to really worry. The rescue boats were now a few miles north, and I was wondering if they had different information. It was becoming hard to see anything - by now it was after 4pm. Sometimes I would mistake wood debris or birds in the water for the man. The conditions were deteriorating with seas becoming rougher and visibility quickly getting worse. I still had to cross the sound back to Edmonds and I was thinking it would be hard for anyone to survive this long in the cold water.

I then remembered the brothers’ voice. I am very close with my family, and especially with my brother who is only a year younger than I am. My brother and I have been in many adventures together - we love to climb big mountains. I decided to make another turn and that’s when I saw him!

He was waving and looked very cold. I radioed my position and tried to bring him onboard. This was hard, because he did not have the strength anymore to climb on the swim ladder. I pulled hard and succeeded - he landed roughly on the deck and was now onboard! I instructed him to take his clothes off. He was unable to do this himself, so I helped. I asked his name - which was William - and that was the only thing he could say. I gave him a blanket, my jacket - and a life jacket. I repeated my position to the coast guard. I was hoping his brother would hear my broadcast, but I was not sure because I did not hear a reply.





.....**WAC Member Assists in Rescue!**.....

I recall the coast guard asking if he needed medical assistance. I was thinking - what a question! He has been in the sound for over 30 minutes, obviously he needs help! I was planning to drag him out of the wind into the cabin and drive to Kingston. I could see several fire trucks on the shore. Pretty soon the small rescue boat of the Walla Walla came alongside. They suggested to take the man to the ferry, they had found a doctor on the ferry who answered a call for help, and they had medical equipment available. I thought this was a good idea. I lifted him on the small rescue boat, which was really hard to do because of the movement of the boats. I did not want the rescue boat to tie up to my boat because by now we were in a storm and I wanted to be in full control of my boat. It somehow worked out and they put William in a rescue sleeping bag and quickly moved to the ferry.

William was very lucky - it is amazing that he survived this long in the cold water. I am grateful that I was able to help and that it all worked out!

It was quite an adventure. I've been in contact with William and his parents and other family members and we are planning to meet each other soon. In the aftermath, I purchased self-activating lights and whistles for our life jackets, and an insulated rescue sleeping bag. If William had worn a life jacket with lights and a whistle, odds are I would have found him much sooner.

PRESS RELEASES:

[Man rescued from Puget Sound after falling from boat in near-darkness | KOMO \(komonews.com\)](#)

[Press Releases - North Kitsap Fire & Rescue \(nkfr.org\) \(scroll down\)](#)

[Man rescued after 30 minutes in Sound with no life jacket | Kitsap Daily News](#)



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

Cabin Chair: Mike Mahanay

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..... **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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