



PC: Ira Rushwald

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Chelsea Sweetin

I hope that everyone has been enjoying their Summer and getting outside. We've had incredibly beautiful weather, while we've gone through some pretty ridiculous heat waves, I will definitely take the sunshine, it's good for the soul. While we thought that we were seeing the light at the end of the tunnel with the pandemic, the Delta variant has definitely put a damper on that. Unfortunately we've reverted back to reservations for the cabin and had to cancel the rest of our PCT hosting for the season.

As always the safety of our members is paramount. In light of this, we have determined that moving forward all of our students and instructors wanting to participate in the class settings will be required to show proof of full vaccination prior to joining the class.

On the bright side, classes are in motion! The basic class is starting to plan, set up leadership, and figure out how to navigate and staff after a long hibernation. We are going to need as much help as we can get so if you have any desire to help out please reach out to Pat O'Brien or Kelly Pope - also keep an eye out for the instructor survey that will be coming out in the next month or so. The backcountry class is also underway with their planning and will be sending out a survey to gauge interest from the instructor base. Please fill out these surveys if you are interested as the number of instructors we can get back in the mix will determine the size of our classes this year.

The other big announcement is that after much time and effort the club has updated our insurance policies and are covered to run our classes again. Thank you to Elden Altizer and Mike Daly for taking on this huge endeavor, we could not have done it without you both, and while I know it was tough during the process for many who were trying to get classes and clinics going, know that we as always have the well being of our members first and foremost, and we do the best we can as a group of volunteers to support our members and leadership.

For full details on the insurance policy and what it covers see the next page, Mike has put together a great overview of everything. Please reach out if you have any questions or need clarification on anything.

Lastly, I want to let everyone know that I will be stepping down from the board after this year. It has been a challenging 2-years and I feel good about some things, and that I may have handled other inadequately. However it was an incredible learning experience for me and it was an honor to serve for the two years I did. Thank you for the opportunity, and I will still be around the WAC in other ways.

-Chelsea Sweetin

WAC BOARD ELECTIONS ARE HERE!

The heart of the club is our people, our volunteers. If you are passionate about the WAC, want to make decisions on behalf of our members and work to keep this club going in the right direction, it would be great to have you on the board!

Please submit your name, desired running position, photo, and short bio and we will include it in the ballot.

Submit to: wacboard@googlegroups.com

If you want to check out the roles and responsibilities of each board position you can find it at the bottom of the page here:

<https://washingtonealpineclub.org/current/board-of-directors>

(Must be a member and logged in to view)

Submissions are due by the end of September and ballots will go out the first week of October

Results will be broadcast before the Annual Meeting in November



WAC INSURANCE!

Over the last year or so, the Board has been working through insurance coverage to protect the club in case of an accident in the classes. We have learned many things on this journey, and we want to provide a short summary for everyone to understand how the club is protected.

The club carries multiple insurance policies. They are:

- Fire and casualty for the cabin. These policies covers fire, trees falling through the roof, liability if someone has an accident and falls down the stairs, and such. This is similar to your homeowner's or renter's insurance in scope.

- Guides and Outfitter's (G&O) insurance to protect the club in the case of an accident which takes place in the context of our classes away from the cabin property. The cabin Fire and Casualty (above) does not extend coverage beyond the club property. G&O insurance is sold into the outdoor industry to cover guides and outfitters. These policies are tailored to the needs of the commercial guiding businesses and are the best option we can find for a all volunteer, non-profit organization like us.

In the past we have had one policy here. When we canceled classes in 2020, we stopped coverage. The industry has changed a bit in the past year and now we have two G&O policies, one to cover the Back Country Class and outings and activities but not 5th class rock climbing, and one to cover mountaineering with 5th class climbing. There was no unified policy available to us at this time.

- Directors and Officers' (D&O) insurance to protect the club in case of suit for decisions made by the board. This insurance protects the directors and officers from personal suit for actions they take as members of the board.

Washington state law provides protection for volunteers of nonprofit organizations (like the WAC). RCW 4.24.670 explicitly transfers liability from the volunteer to the nonprofit organization. This means that Washington law provides protection for our instructors and other volunteers. You can read more here: <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=4.24.670> As is customary, coverage does not apply to willful or criminal misconduct, gross negligence, reckless misconduct, etc. See the statute ((1)(c) and related) for the specifics. This section of the law is short and clear. If you care about these issues, you should consider taking the five minutes needed to read it.

As described in state law, the club carries the G&O insurance to protect the club for accidents away from the cabin property.

The G&O insurance comes with some requirements that we must meet as a club. This includes:

- Notification to the insurance company in case of accident
- Use of specific liability waiver for classes (beyond the club waiver)
- Use of the insurance company accident forms to document and report the accident.
- Limitations on what activities are covered.

The board is providing these requirements to the individual class co-chairs and other event organizers. We will be storing the appropriate forms and docs on the club website as we continue to work with the insurance companies and the new policies.

If you want to dig into details, please feel free to talk to a board member, or look at the meeting minutes on the website.

CABIN REPORT



Mike Mahanay

Guye Cabin Update September 2021

I really thought we would be 100% done with the pandemic by now. It is very sad that people are still getting sick and dying by something that be prevented by a simple vaccine shot.

Luckily Guye Cabin continues to be a place to escape to enjoy the vortex. News, worries, and troubles disappear and are replaced by good conversation, cribbage, jigsaw puzzles, basketball, zipline, and good food. WAC members have been up fishing, mushrooms, and hunting huckleberries. The cool river beckons. Deer, elk, and bear have been seen on the trails.

Cabin Air B & B is back

Beginning now, we will start the Air B & B again until ski season. Just check the WAC calendar for open dates and email Mike to confirm. (On October 18 we'll have to implement the utility charge again).

Perhaps during ski season we will make available the Cabin Air B & B Monday thru Thursday. Then on Friday and Saturday open Cabin usage to the vaccinated during the weekends. Everyone agrees that the Cabin Air B & B process worked extremely well and increased usage at the Cabin.

Summer Work at the Cabin

This summer did many small projects. We painted the gabled south ends and east side of Guye Cabin, did winter cleanup, firewood, yardwork, and trailwork. We also freshened up the drying room. I put up signs on the WAC trail system. Thanks to Don Oeschlager, Derrick Peters, Jeff Wright, Phil Harvey, Elden Altizer, Dale Ott, Randall, John Sanford, Sylvia Mckenzie, Alan Widmer, Derek Lester, Gillian Murphy, Gene Heisler, and Archie Brenden. We also had help from Scouts and the PCT hikers. The Cabin is ready for the winter.

Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) Hiker hosting cancelled

With the reopening of WA we hosted PCT hikers for about a month. This is a ton of work for me to organize. It is really a fun and rewarding time for all the hosts involved. Hosting the hikers provides a large source of revenue for the Club. We hosted from 8-12 a night giving everyone plenty of room to spread out in the dorms. Some tented outside. The hikers are very smart, very appreciative of the hosts and the Cabin, and vaccinated.

Unfortunately with the delta surg and indoor mask mandate we closed out of caution. Until 2021!

Thanks to the 30 people who volunteered to help host including Elden Altizer and Derek Lester from the Board, Damon, Doerte, John Brew, Robert Henry and Clarissa, Jim and Cathy, Stephanie and Scott, Chuck and Erin, Leslie, Elaine, Laura, Robin, David, and Beth Geiger.

Mike's beliefs

I know what I believe in. I value family, friends, love, community, lifelong learning, continuous self-improvement, reflection, creative expression, empathy, care of the natural world and all the creatures that inhabit it.



PCT Hikers 2021

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We had many PCT Hikers that stayed at Guye Cabin successfully reach the Canadian border.
(Once there they turned around and hiked back to Harts Pass.)

Here are 4 notable ones:

Oakley and Birdbath amazingly were able to chart a continuous path from the Mexico border to the Canadian border around all the fire closures. This meant additional miles and lots of road walking. Few were able to do this in 2021.

Wander Kiltsman completed his Triple Crown. His lab accompanied him for the finish at the Canadian border. (The Triple Crown is the Appalachia Trail, the Continental Divide Trail, and the Pacific Crest Trail)

Hiker Mike sponsored by [Warrior Expeditions](#) finished the PCT in good order at the Canadian Border. Warrior Expeditions is a veteran nonprofit outdoor therapy program that helps veterans transition from their wartime experiences through long distance outdoor expeditions. Art Farash leads the WAC effort to support these veterans. This is just one of many organizations that the WAC support through Guye Cabin.





Trail Work Opportunity

Trail Work above Summit West Wednesday Oct 6

We are partnering with the PCTA (Pacific Crest Trail Association) North Blades 350 Team to do drainage trail work above Summit West on the PCT. (What is North Blades 350? These are the volunteers that work on the last 350 miles of the PCT)

If your work gives you a volunteer day or you need a mental health day come on out. If you are not employed then you are really should sign up-

Register at <https://connect.pcta.org/.../washington-alpine-club-trail...>

All the info-

You can help improve drainage & tread on the PCT at Snoqualmie Pass. A mile south of Snoqualmie Pass on the PCT, adjacent to the brushy shoreline of Beaver Lake are some serious water and tread issues. Volunteers are needed to address chronic drainage problems and social trails that have developed in this area. We'll continue our work to clear pathways for drainage ditches, add drain dips and restore tread. This could be wet & muddy work depending on weather conditions. Large interceptor drains will be needed to protect the trail from hillside springs.

About one mile from the trail head, this is an easily accessible section of the PCT less than an hour away from Seattle.

Our Leader will be Mark Boatsman.

Contact Mike Mahanay for more info





Club Photos

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Rescue X Class Recap

We were able to briefly host a class for one of the first times in over a year due to the pandemic. Kudos to the students and instructors for battling the heatwave and getting out there. The class ran from June 26th - 27th at Kelsey Ck Park and North Sunset Slabs at Mt. Erie. A total of six students completed the class.

Thank you to the organizers for getting this one in!





..... Trip Report - Shuksan 4th of July

Now for a quick flash back to early summer in the North Cascades. With BC sending smoke our way, it was time to get above the murk and see what we could see. The “normal route” on the summit pyramid of Mt. Shuksan is the gully in the center of the south face. We thought we could be clever and avoid traffic and take the SE ridge. Of the 22 people on the mountain that day, 20 of us were clever and sat in traffic on the SE ridge. Two were less than clever, dashed up and down the gully and were back in town before sunset. So much for clever.

All in all, a pleasant day on a wonderful mountain, capped with one of the largest crops of ice worms we’ve ever seen. Robert Service would be impressed.

Danny, Jackson, and Mike

Photos by Danny Volz



..... **2021 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
Kelly Pope

INTERMEDIATE CLASS

CANCELLED

BACKCOUNTRY CLASS

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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