



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Peter Horsman

### Gratitude

First, a big thank you to Chelsea Sweetin, our club's president for the past two years. I am sure Chelsea did not expect a pandemic and two social movements happening during her presidency! I have really appreciated Chelsea's positive, respectful attitude. Second, a big thank you to the outgoing board members. This was not an easy time to be a board member and I am grateful for your service.

Finally, thank you to all of you. Thank you for the trust you put in new and old board members. I have had the opportunity to speak with members from all parts of the club, and there I noticed a positive, hopeful attitude among many of us. The Delta variant of Covid-19 appears to be over its peak in Washington state, kids ages 5-11 are eligible to get vaccinated and many of us are slowly seeing some light at the end of a long tunnel.

At the same time, this continues to be a difficult time for many people. I want to acknowledge that many of us are struggling; Covid-19 is having an impact in many ways - from people losing loved ones or struggling through a difficult recovery to mental health issues such as loneliness and depression. Let's be kind to each other.

The new board had its first meeting, which started with an excellent update from the backcountry class leadership. It is exciting to see the fresh energy and ideas the new board members bring. We intend to focus on improving transparency, supporting the classes and cabin, and making the club better for everyone. Based on requests from both classes and others, our priority for next month is to have a Covid-19 policy.

### Call to action

A common motivation I have heard the past few weeks is that you are part of the WAC because you love sharing the outdoors with likeminded people. Many of us have been unable to connect with each other due to Covid-19, and we have an exciting opportunity to get our club going again!

Nothing in our club happens without the effort of volunteers. When we can, we are all in our own way helping each other and making this a great club.

Mike Mahany and others are doing a fantastic job keeping our cabin open and running well. Many of us are contributing, and more help is always needed and much appreciated! Mike also organized the annual beach clean-up. My daughter Melina and I were able to join, and it was great to meet some new people and find weird stuff on the beach...including a dead whale and an abandoned kayak with a life vest. Overall, an awesome adventure!

Elden Altizer is not only our treasurer but is also leading our activities committee. Read along for what's happening and join an outing!

The basic climbing and backcountry classes are starting up again. This is taking a lot of effort from the classes' leadership, and they really need our help! The biggest challenge for the basic class is finding a new location for the Tuesday night classes.

There are many other opportunities for volunteering, a small sample below.

Support our communication efforts by improving this bulletin. We need editors!

- Co-Lead our activities committee; getting out there is core to our club!
- Coding or design skills? Be a part of our website team!
- Build and lead our community outreach + partnerships program.
- Participate and support the diversity and inclusion initiative.
- Be a part of the team exploring our cabin expansion project with a classroom facility and leave a lasting impact for thousands of people.

Finally, I have also heard some of you express an interest in getting to know other parts of the club. What better way than to sign up for an activity with some new people? Teaching a class? Bring a friend and join a trail work party or beach clean-up. Regularly doing some work at the cabin? Reach out to class co-chairs and see if you can help teach! Not ready for this type of commitment? Grab a friend and join a brews and beta evening! Jef Faulkner, fresh member of the board, is organizing these - read along for the details.

Please share any feedback, thoughts, suggestions. It's how we get better. Have a great Thanksgiving!

# CABIN REPORT



Mike Mahanay

Winter is here! Snoqualmie Pass received 5 inches of snow on the ground the last few days and it is starting to stick. NOAA is again predicting a La Nina winter for us which means cooler and wetter for the Northern half of the US and warmer and drier for the southern half. Luckily, we are ready for the winter season. Guye Cabin is winterized and has a good supply of firewood. The classes are ramping up again. the Wed night ski skills class is open, and there are numerous snowshoe trips planned.

We continued with small work parties in October. Most were outside with firewood, or on the WAC trails. The big news is Kera Colony and Scouts from BSA Troop 312 (boy troop) and BSA Troop 319 (girl troop) - both from Edmonds Washington spent another day marking trails and putting up signs. This is toward the completion of Kera's Eagle Scout Project.

Over the course of the last year we have worked very hard to keep Guye Cabin safe and available for use. I want to thank everyone who has used the Cabin, kept it very clean and sanitized, and attended our social distanced work parties each week. It is certain telling that the WAC continues to function in a positive way even when met with unexpected challenges.

## **Cabin Use for 2022 (read carefully)**

We are changing things up a bit this winter as all of us have been vaccinated and kids are getting the poke now too. Everyone really enjoyed the exclusive use of the Airbnb style that we have used since May 2020 so we are continuing that for 2022. We will also open the Cabin for general use on Friday and Saturday nights. Day use is available Fri, Sat, Sun.

**We will continue with the Airbnb model by reservation until January 07. Then it will revert to Monday thru Thursday only for ski season.** As the host you can open it up to other families, individuals, or groups if you want. This is the same process you all are familiar with.

**Beginning January 07 Guye Cabin will be open for general use on Friday & Saturday nights.** This is when ski classes start. Guye Cabin will function as it always has during ski season. Vaccination is required, and we will limit the number of users to 20 each night. It will be the normal \$25 member and \$30 guest fee. We'll make adjustments as the winter proceeds. Since Archie has retired we will designate tasks that must be done each week to individuals that stay each week.

For the Guye Cabin calendar, click [here](#) find your dates and email Mike Mahanay for your reservation. The Summit offers kids downhill and Nordic classes, as well as many adult programs and the Wed night skills class. There is a whole parcel of WAC people instructing the various classes at the Summit. Also popular is backcountry skiing and snowshoeing. There are plenty of opportunities near Snoqualmie Pass.





## Cabin Report Continued

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### We are still looking for Donations!

Clean out that Gear closet! Do you have snowshoes that you are not using anymore? We can use them for our gear library! We can also use sleeping pads, sleeping bags, gore-tex jackets, gloves, hats etc. We keep some and the Cabin and others we give to Scout groups and other individuals that might not be able to afford REI. This is an excellent chance to get your unused gear and clothes back in the supply chain. Thanks to Matthew Briggs for the 2 pair of snowshoes donated last weekend!

### Outdoors for All

Our Club members have been engaged with Outdoors for All for many years. Outdoors for All enriches the lives of individuals with disabilities and families and helps them to get out and enjoy the great outdoors. Outdoors for All's winter programs includes snowboarding, snowshoeing, cross country, downhill and backcountry skiing. For information about volunteering <https://outdoorsforall.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

### Junior Nordic Classes

Starting January <https://summitat Snoqualmie.com/programs-and-camps/junior-nordic>

### Membership

Oh, and renew your membership for 2022, and pay your 2022 annual Cabin dues here - <https://washingtonalpineclub.org/annual-cabin-dues>

Don't hesitate to contact me if you need anything [mikemahanay@washingtonalpineclub.org](mailto:mikemahanay@washingtonalpineclub.org)





## Activities Committee

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Please note that we do not have access to the cabin in December but access to the slopes and outside is open to all members. All activities will be in compliance with the clubs COVID policy on the website.

An RSVP is appreciated at [activities@washingtionalpineclub.org](mailto:activities@washingtionalpineclub.org) Please also ask questions or provide suggestions to the email address.

- Dec 27 – Intro to Snowshoeing @ Guye Cabin 10 AM
- Dec 29 – Intro to Snowshoeing @ Guye Cabin 10 AM
- Jan 1 – Sunrise Nordic at Cabin Creek – 8 AM
- Jan 8 – Kids Snow day from 10 AM -2 PM
- Jan 8 – Vegan/Vegetarian Potluck 5:30 PM RSVP required
- Jan 15– Intro to Snowshoeing @ Guye Cabin 10 AM
- Feb 19– Kids Snow day from 10 AM -2 PM
- June 9-12 Icicle Creek Campout at Eight Mile Group Site
- We are also looking for people who are willing to volunteer to lead activities. Look for more events as they are created on the website!

### WAC invited on BOEALPS Winter Snowshoe Summits

After a year off for the Pandemic, come join us for a Winter Snowshoe Summit, or two, or as many as seven this winter. The Boealps have again invited WAC members to join the snowshoe summit outings.

**COVID-19 Precautions:** All participants need to be fully vaccinated. Do not join an outing if you have had recent COVID-19 or flu symptoms or had recent exposure to others with COVID-19. Everyone is expected to comply with local guidelines for face coverings and masks.

**Skills Required:** BOEALPS Basic Mountaineering Class (BMC) formerly Basic Climbing Class (BCC) or equivalent experience (such as the Washington Alpine Club's Basic Climbing Class). Comfortable with travel in snowy back-country terrain.

**BOEALPS Release of Liability:** You have signed the "BOEALPS Release of Liability" form at <https://boealps.wufoo.com/forms/r16owzz60dxa1sc/>

**Physical Difficulty:** Typically 3,000-4,000 feet of elevation gain plus cross-country travel on snowshoes and/or microspikes. Each outing's announcement will include the expected distance and elevation gain.

**Gear Required:** Snowshoes, microspikes (or crampons), ice axe, hiking poles, avalanche beacon/probe/shovel (we have some loaners available). Winter clothing to safely function in a wet, cold, snowy environment. We do not go to destinations that require use of ropes or harnesses.

Where: It depends, but somewhere higher than home and within a 2-hour drive.

When: Every other Sunday this Winter.

December 5, 19

January 2, 16, 30

February 12 (Saturday to avoid the Superbowl) , 27

The details for each outing will be posted as an "Event" in the Facebook group "Boealps Snowshoe Outings". You need to join the Facebook group "Boealps Snowshoe Outings" to receive the Event announcements in Facebook. The week before each trip a Facebook "Event" will be created to announce the details about the specific destination, where to meet, the planned route, and all that good stuff. To sign up for an outing you use the "Going" selection in the Facebook Event for the outing.

Any other questions about the Winter Snowshoe Summits can be addressed to Fred Vogel at [fdv75@comcast.net](mailto:fdv75@comcast.net) or Elden Altizer at [elden.altizer@outlook.com](mailto:elden.altizer@outlook.com)



## Club Photos

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2019 was our last kids snow day, and we had a great time!



Previous WAC + BOALPS snowshoe outing



Olympic Beach Cleanup on October 23rd



## Backcountry Class

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**Are you interested in transitioning from resort skiing/snowboarding to the backcountry?**

[Applications for the Backcountry Travel Class](#) are open until Nov 30! It covers avalanche awareness, companion rescue, safe winter travel techniques, and winter camping.

The class includes five evening virtual lectures and four weekends in the mountains of Washington.

Note that this class is different from the Wednesday night Ski Skills class in that we focus on Backcountry Day and Overnight touring.

Applicants should be comfortable skiing/boarding on black runs in challenging conditions and have completed AIARE I in the last 5 years.





## Brews & Beta

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After two years passing without our beloved backcountry, basic, and intermediate courses, we wanted to start reconnecting and energizing our instructor pool. As an outdoors enthusiast club, encountering our fellow WAC members is as frequent as spotting ol' Bigfoot himself. Sure, we may catch glimpses of them at a trailhead, striding through the cabin, or hiding among the racks at REI, but did we really see them? Chance encounters like this are not enough to stay connected. Therefore, we created "Brews & Beta" as a ew monthly in-town social gathering where stories can exchange, trip beta be downloaded, and pints enjoyed supporting local PNW breweries.

The first two "Brews & Beta" events held at Ravenna Brewing and Triple R Brewing events had attendance of about twenty instructors. We want to grow this gathering and encourage all members of the WAC to come out for this monthly social event. Reach out to an old classmate, a favorite student, or a friend lost to parenthood... 'I miss you, come out and I'll buy you a beer'.

December Brews & Beta will be Thursday 16th 7pm at [Bad Jimmy's Brewery Company](#). You are strongly encouraged to wear your Baddest Holiday attire! Ugly holiday sweater, Santa suit, elf uniform, or reindeer onesie!

Ho Ho Hope to see you there!





## Olympic Beach Cleanup

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By Mike Mahanay

*“The wildest, the most remote and, I think, the most picturesque beach area of our whole coastline lies under the pounding surf along the Pacific Ocean in the State of Washington . . . It is a place of haunting beauty, of deep solitude.” William O. Douglas*

Those of you that have been WAC members for a while and have been receiving the Bulletin have received 20 of these reports. Yes, this was our 20th anniversary of doing Beach Cleanups and I couldn't be more proud of everyone that has volunteered over this time. This year we had a group of 11 ( 6 veterans & 5 rookies) – a surprisingly good turnout since the news and weather had been talking about the bomb cyclone for the entire week. Not surprisingly we stayed dry, had good weather, enjoyed big surf, and a day of fun! These folks rank as one of the best teams ever.

The Olympic Coastal Strip is the only wilderness coast left in the lower 48. It looks and feels very much like it did when Captain Cook visited our area over 200 years ago. Only surf and storms provide change. The National Park Coastal Strip encompasses some 70 miles of the WA coast.

Each year since 2002 we have volunteered to clean up the Hoh River and Jefferson Cove Beaches. The Trailhead at Oil City is at the end of an 11 mile dirt road, at the Olympic National Park boundary. Most people don't know it, but there is no city, nor any oil, at Oil City. At one time it was a drilling prospect in someone's crazy dream to fleece investors. The silver lining in the name Oil City? It helps keep folks away!

The trail follows the Hoh River on its final stretch to the Pacific Ocean. It is only 1 mile to the Pacific Ocean from the Trailhead. The Hoh River starts way up on the Blue Glacier of Mount Olympus, 7,965', about 30 miles to the east. From a sub-alpine environment the river descends into temperate rainforest where precipitation ranges from 12-14 feet a year!

We found lots of plastic. Plastic is the worst of all the debris, as it continues to break down into smaller and smaller pieces, and leeches into the water and our food supply. Armed with trash bags we picked up floats, styrofoam, rubber, plastic bottles, and rope. We also found a kayak half buried in the sand, then later a paddle, and still later a life jacket. And then- omg - we found a decomposed body! It was not human however, it was a gray whale. Everything was carried back to the Trailhead for pick-up by NPS.

As a bonus afterwards we went to Ruby Beach and cleaned that up too. A huge thank you to Doerte, Jeff and Laurie, Richard, Gavin, Mark, Cathy and Lorrie, Peter and Melina for celebrating my birthday and another amazing Volunteer Day!



..... **2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS** .....

**TRUSTEES**

**President:** Peter Horsman

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

**2nd VP:** Nathaniel Harrison

**Treasurer:** Elden Altizer

**Secretary:** Dana Loutey

**DIRECTORS**

Kelly Coons

Mike Daly

Amanda Helfer

Jef Falkner

Petek Saracoglu

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

**BASIC CLIMBING CLASS**

Pat O'Brien  
Kelly Pope

**INTERMEDIATE CLASS**

TBD

**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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