

WAC WEBSITE

www.washintonalpineclub.org is the place to go to find out what is going on in the Club, trip reports, announcements, dates, etc. Please bookmark the page and go back often.

WACLISTSERVE

Want to get on the WAC list serve? Information at your fingertips! It's easy! To subscribe to the waclist you should send a message to waclist-subscribe@icomm.ca
The subject and the body of the email do not matter, all that matters is the address you send it to and the address you send it from.

BULLETIN DELIVERED TO YOUR COMPUTER

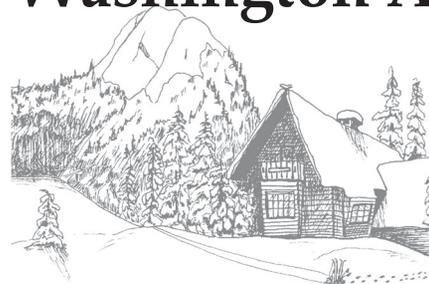
If you have not emailed me already, please respond and let me know which method you prefer. It is

about what choice works best for you! Just let me know which you prefer. So far 78 people have signed up for email only, while 18 like to enjoy getting the bulletin from their mailbox. There are over 350 WAC members with email and this method could translate into a significant \$\$\$ savings for the Club over the course of a year. It also saves Bill and Dave a lot of work.

WAC GATE

The gate was damaged last year and has been temporarily removed for repair and strengthening.

Washington Alpine Club



July 2005

Vol. 87 No. 7

BULLETIN

BOARD MEETING

July 14th Thursday 7:00 PM
Gasworks Park, north end of Lake Union. NE corner in picnic and BBQ area.

LOOKING AHEAD

July 14	Board Meeting
16	Work Party
17/23	Hobnailers at Guye Cabin
Aug 11	Board Meeting
20	Old Timers Reunion
Sept 03/05	Sargent Group Guye Cabin
08	Board Meeting
10/11	ICO at Guye Cabin
24/25	Sargent Group Guye Cabin
Oct 01/02	Rosemary's Group Guye Cabin
16	Annual Meeting
Nov 05/06	MOFA at Guye Cabin
11	Annual Banquet
Dec 10	New Snow Dinner

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Summer has been off to a somewhat slow start this year, but everyone has still been having a great time. It won't be long until we have a string of hot warm high-pressure days. The mountains are so amazingly beautiful right now in their summer glory. The

views from historic Guye Cabin are spectacular. Guye Peak, Kendall Peak, Red Mountain and Snoqualmie Mountain shimmer in the warm summer light. The trails are long melted out and Snoqualmie Pass is warm and green. Take a day, or a weekend, and get out of Seattle! Pick a place in the mountains, either familiar or brand new, and go for a visit. We are very lucky to live in such a wonderful area and have great easy access to hikes, climbs and bike rides.

I have to say that I am amazed when I see Guye Cabin. It is such a fantastic place. So many people have stepped up and volunteered a day or more to make improvements. They took an idea and made it a reality. There is a new kid's room, a remodeled ping-pong room, new lighting, new carpet, Donn Knox's sprinkler system, and Dave Mitchell's alarm system. Some folks said it couldn't be done! I'm glad no one listens! Have you seen Guye Cabin lately? Come up and take a look. Summer is a perfect time to visit our Cabin. The Cabin is a wonderful place to relax and enjoy the mountain summer! If you are lucky you might even have it to yourself. Bring your friends and family up to see it. Our good old friend Mike Brown was even up after his daughter's

WASHINGTON ALPINE CLUB
PO Box 352
Seattle, WA. 98111
Address Correction Requested
DONOTFORWARD

FIRST
CLASS

WASHINGTON ALPINE CLUB
 Organized 1916 Incorporated 1923
 MEMBER OF: Federation of Western
 Outdoor Clubs, Washington Trails Assn.
 Washington Environmental Council.
 Washington Wilderness
 Coalition.MidFORC Coalition
*The primary objective of this club is to
 encourage the healthful enjoyment of
 the great outdoors, to preserve its
 natural beauty and to promote good
 fellowship among all lovers of nature.*
PO Box 352 Seattle Wa. 98111
206-467-3042
WAC Home page:
 www.washingtonalpineclub.org

Board Of Trustees

President	Mike Mahanay	206.933.6801
1 st V P	Pat O'Brien	206.527.6881
2nd V P	Dave Mitchell	425.235.1039
Treasurer	Doerte Mahanay	206.933.6801
Secretary	Ann Herrick	206.409.1094
Ex-Officio Pres		

Junior Officers

President Elect	John Sargent	360.377.3217
Jr 1 st V P		
Jr 2nd V P	Les Sargent	360.479.7675
Jr Treasurer	Ira Rushwald	206.725.2725
Jr Secretary	Ronda Jalili	425.442.7821

Alpine Division

Climbing Class	Pat O'Brien	206.329.4523
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Winter Division

Telemarking	Pete Bustanoby	425.237.1978
Back Country Skiing	Pete Alderson	206.409.9657

Property & Membership

Cabin Chmn	Bill Hooper	206.325.2851
Work Party	Bill Hooper	206.325.2851
Member processing		
	Lynne Miller	206.789.8093
Publicity	Kay Ishi	206.528.5630
Cabin Supply	Tami Sargent	

Public Relations

Bulletin Editor	Bill Hooper	206.325.2851
FWOC	Mike Mahanay	206.933.6801
Circulation	Dave Mitchell	425.235.1039
By Laws	Dave Mitchell	425.235.1039

Special Activities

Special advisor	Bill Hooper	206.325.2851
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Do you plan to move?
 Send change of address forms to:
 Washington Alpine Club
 PO Box 352
 Seattle, WA 98111

graduation from Central. We sure enjoyed seeing him again! We miss him! If you like to paint, chop wood, or do mountain chores come on up for the July "Third Saturday" work party on July 16.

Don't forget the Old Timer Reunion coming up Sunday August 20. Not an old timer? Well, come up anyway! This is an excellent time to meet the great folks who made the WAC what it is today, and thank them for their contributions! All past and present members are welcome. Lunch will be Potluck. Bring your favorite dish, renew old friendships and make some new ones, enjoy the beauty of the high country in summer! The Cabin should be open by 10 AM if not sooner. Contact Mary Jane Steele for more information.

Have you renewed your WAC membership yet? What are you waiting for? Please do so right away. You can send your renewal to Lynne Miller, our great Membership Chair. Using the Cabin often? Include the Annual Cabin dues and support the Cabin into the 21st Century. Many folks are even including an extra gift! Thanks so much everyone!

The Climbing Class wrapped up with bad weather on their Mount Baker weekend. Luckily there will still be plenty of good weather during the summer for them to climb many peaks. Some of the graduates have already made it up Mount Rainier via the Emmons Glacier. Other folks are working to get their WAC Chief Six Peak Pin, and climb the 20+ Snoqualmie Peaks. Thanks to Pat, George, Christie, Murray, and everyone who volunteered to make the class such a great success!

This evening, I am reminded of the old skier's proverb, "Actions speak louder than words." Lynne Miller, Doerte Mahanay, Mary Jane Steele, Pat O'Brien, Les Sargent, Archie Brendan, George Snelling, and Dave Mitchell

are excellent examples of what makes the WAC such a unique special club. Despite their busy lives, all these people somehow manage to step up, lead a project, and give a little back. They do the right things and make things better for the entire Club. There is not a selfish bone in their bodies! The WAC is filled with people like these. People who give a little to make things a lot better for others! We are grateful to have these, and the other fine leaders in our club who can get things done! Please give them all a pat on the back when you see them!

Mike

WAC HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Greetings And Welcome To Our Honor Roll Of Donors For July. My favorite quote is by Albert Camus, "Real Generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present."

These Members have shown exceptional generosity toward the present state of the club by making the following donations in addition to renewing their membership. The WAC Board is immensely grateful to have such a large cadre of friends who believe in this great organization. We sincerely thank each and every one of you acknowledged on this list for your personal contribution and for investing in the future of the WAC.

The Mount Rainier Circle (\$150 and above)

John & Tami Sargent

The Mount Stuart Circle (\$100)

Roger Hillerstrom
 Mike & Doerte Mahanay

The Mount Shuksan Circle (\$50)

Karl Duff, Herbert & Evelyn Elsner

The Mount Olympus Circle (\$30)

Megan Nedzinski
 Pete & Mary Steele

The Eldorado Peak Circle (\$20)

Megan Thompson
 David Larson
 Jim Mossman
 Barbara Killerlain
 George Stone
 Lee & Rachel Parsons

The Ingalls Peak Circle (\$15)

Joanna Hingle

The Snoqualmie Peak Circle (\$10)

Donn & Nancy Knox
 Marian Alloway
 Ellen Danishek
 William Zila

The Guye Peak Circle (\$5)

Dave Mitchell

It is not too late to forward your donation to the Membership Chair or Treasurer. More updates to follow in next month's bulletin when the Honor Roll of Donors for August will be announced. Doerte Mahanay WAC Treasurer 2005

WANT TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ?

Since we are a volunteer organization, our Board is comprised of people just like you, who are willing to give a few hours a month, attend monthly Board meetings and other events, and work toward making sure our Club is happy and healthy. What does it require? Just a positive attitude, ability to work as a team, and commitment to the future. (Never done anything like this before Don't worry, we'll guide you through!) We are looking for all positions including Treasurer, President, Vice President, and Secretary. Positions officially begin November 11. Board Member Responsibilities:
 Attend board meetings each month
 Attend Annual Meeting on the 3rd Sunday in October
 Attend Annual Banquet (2nd Friday in November)

Bring member concerns and items of interest to board meetings
Participate in the decision making
Train junior officers
Seek programs to be presented at board meetings

Understand club workings, history, constitution and Bylaws
Arrange club activities
Recruit and mentor new members
Involve new members
Have a good time
Promote the Washington Alpine Club

Contact Mike Mahanay, or any Board member for more information

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Eliminate the half-year membership entirely. Change the membership year to Jan 01 to Jan 01.

Renewals would then run Oct - Dec for the next year and be over before the holidays. This would begin next year.

This change to calendar year would eliminate confusion, and end the need for folks to sign up for a half year at the last second in order to take the classes which all start soon into the new year. It also eliminates the need for new members to join and then renew in the same year. This would eliminate the double work for the Membership Chair and Treasurer.

For existing members, in May/June of 2006 we would ask that their renewal fee be 30+15 = 45 to carry them over to the end of 2007. The Cabin year of July 01 to July 01 would remain the same.

This requires a change to Schedule A in the Bylaws. This will be done at the Annual Meeting October 16 by a vote of the membership.

CABIN FURNACES

Both the Cabin furnaces are nearing the end of their useful lives. They have served us well but now we are looking to replace them with modern efficient furnaces.

Are there any Furnace experts in the WAC. Anyone with a wholesale

connection? If you can help in this project please contact Dave Mitchell right away.

FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

The fire alarm has been active for several weeks. It is a modern sophisticated system that, for now, monitors the sprinkler system. In the near future, smoke alarms, linked to the system, will be placed throughout the cabin. There is an alarm siren in the hallway, annoying enough to wake the sleepy.

The system is monitored by an alarm center in Lacey. The cost of phone bills and monitoring is about \$185/month. The system runs in the background and shouldn't need much hands on. There are instructions posted on the panel and training will be provided for cabin users.

OPEN SPACE APPLICATION

Last year the WAC began the application process to add 2 acres of our 44+ acre tax parcel that left off the original open space enrollment, years ago. It was left out because our ski hill was operating at the time. The application was turned in early this year and we recently received notice the county council has approved adding the 2 acres. That will result in a property tax savings of about \$xxx/year.

As a result of the open space application, WAC is now enrolled in a Public Benefit Rating System (PBRs), also known as a Forest Management Plan (FMP). That requires another application (but no more fees) and a walk through review of the open space property (not the portion that the cabin is on). On Wed, 7/5 I walked the property with Kristi McClelland, a King county forester. In general, she thought that the forest property was in pretty good condition and recovering well from the logging that was done about 25 years ago.

The FMP application is being prepared now and with Kristi's help it

will get the right bureaucratic wording. It should be ready to turn in soon.

She observed that there is a small area between the old #2 and #3 ski hill with a fairly dense growth of alder that could stand to be thinned a little. There may be other recommendations as the plan is prepared. There is a quid pro quo that comes with the tax reduction. The benefit WAC receives in the form of lower taxes is balanced by the WAC agreeing to take an active part in managing our forest land to the greater public good of a healthy forest.

When it's approved, there will be a small additional tax savings. It also means that every ten years the plan will be reviewed to see if any changes need to be made in the management plan.

PARKING AREA UPDATE

Mike has delivered the access easement requests prepared by Rosemary Daszkiewicz to the Board of the Gymnastics Society. We are starting conversations with them now. The survey is 100% complete! Once again, thanks to Rosemary for her legal work, and to Bill Higgins for his tireless work on the parking area.

TIMES UP! RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW

The membership year has ended! You have the renewal notice. Save us time and money and send in your renewal today-before you head out of town on vacation! Please send in your 2006 renewal to our super Membership Chair Lynne Miller! Membership is still an incredible bargain at \$30 per person! (I know of another outdoor Club that is \$61 a year!)

Want to support Guye Cabin? Send in your Cabin Fees for the year at the same time!
For the entire year Guye Cabin is only \$70.00 per person, \$100.00 for two, or \$120.00 for three or more family members (13 and older). Kids under 13 are always free! This is a great way

to not have to worry about sending in your fee every weekend to the WAC Treasurer. Plus the added benefit of knowing that YOU are helping to support Guye Cabin!

Please send in an extra donation to the WAC! It will help with the Guye Cabin restoration projects and the creation of the off street winter parking area! We need your support! Just make a visit to Guye Cabin and you will be surprised what you see!

The Washington Alpine Club
c/o Lynne Miller
3040 NW 57th Street
Seattle, WA 98107

GUYE CABIN WORK PARTY

This summers last big work party! Saturday July 16 from 9-3. Can you use a paintbrush? transplant trees? Split wood? Enjoy a day? Come on up this Sat. Rumor has it we will have turkey and veggie burgers as extras at the cookout! It's Potluck!

WANT TO GET SIGNED OFF TO OPEN AND CLOSE GUYE CABIN?

It's easy! Just volunteer at least one day in the WAC? Help instruct one of the classes, serve on the Board or as a Chair. Or, come up for a day at a Cabin work party! There is always something for everyone to do. Even kids! We'll have a sign off day at the annual meeting

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WORK PARTY

This was our second big work party of the year! With Archie's leadership we were able to replace the old garage door with a new wall complete with a big door and window! The ping-pong room now has access, light, and is a nice usable space!

Jim Mossman has been working to refinish the Family Dorm door. If you see it missing it is because he is working on it! He is removing several coats of paint, and then hand sanding the door to bring out the fine grains of the high quality hard wood. He estimates he has an additional 8 hours of work to complete the project! Total time spent will be about 24 hours on the door.

Bert Bradley installed some more new carpet! The new carpet will be easy to keep clean, long lasting, and make Guye Cabin warmer and quieter. And, the best part? It looks great! Bert has installed all the carpet in Guye Cabin. We all had a great time and got a lot of things done. It sure feels good to help out the Cabin, the Club, and make some new friends! It always amazes me that the WAC is filled with people who cherish an opportunity to work as a team and get things done.

What else do we need to do? Split and stack wood. Clean windows, clean the top of the light fixtures and ceiling fans. Caulk some windows. Clean the WAC grounds, make a dump run, transplant some tree, dig a hole for some additional support for the WAC gate and finish the outside stairs. We could use some kindling (in boxes if you have some)

Work parties are fun! It is a good chance to meet and get to know others from the WAC interested in Guye Cabin.

A huge thanks to all who have participated in work parties this year!

These people cut the talk and stepped up and donated time, money, sweat, blood, tears, and great food!

Dave Mitchell, Bill Hooper, Ernie Dietrich, Jim Mossman, Les Sargent Ed Kelting, Dave Harrington Jeff Wright, Archie Brendan Rachel Parsons, Lee Parsons Sean Parsons, Chloe Parsons Bert Bradley, Mike Mahanay Jeanne Sauvage, Mylen Huggens Karel Zikan, Katrina, Jake Chuck Seitz, Diane Seitz Daniel

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF LEAVE NO TRACE

Plan Ahead and Prepare
Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
Dispose of Waste Properly
Leave What You Find
Minimize Campfire Impacts
Respect Wildlife
Be Considerate of Other Visitors

BIRTH

Well the best laid plans of prospective parents and Obstetricians...

Baby Mariah Susann Davis chose not to wait for her due date of July 25th or her scheduled C-Section of July 19th and kicked her way into the world at 7:04 AM on July 5th at Northwest hospital.

Not to be outdone by here older brother Zane, she immediately spiked a high bilirubin (sp - I am too tired to look it up) level and scared the heck out of all of us. We have been backing her under Blue Lights to break down the Billirubin since her 3rd hour of life.

Once she had our attention and the medical team was prepared to do a complete exchange (replacement) transfusion, her levels started to go back down and everything appears to be stabilized.

Ibtissam is doing well for someone who was sawed in half and just wants her baby out of the light box and in her arms.

Zane misses his mom and dad but is BASKING in the care of Ski Patrol Goddess Jesse Hall and his grandma. I don't think he understands that he is about to have a new housemate and competition for our attention.
Alan Davis, one very tired papa

OLD TIMER'S REUNION

We are one month closer to the Old-timer's Reunion! I hope by now you have put a circle around August 20, have called some people who might not know about this annual event, and are planning to drive some former members who might not be able to drive up to the cabin.

The cabin will be open for sure by 10:00 and we'll have a potluck lunch around 1:00.

Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we'll have a grand time greeting old friends. Again, if you don't know what this event is all about, it is for everyone who remembers when we skied on our own hill. We actually had three rope tows going, gave lessons every Saturday during the winter, served homemade soup to supplement our lunch, and had a marvelous time. Hope if you remember these good times, we'll see you on Saturday, August 20. MJ Steele

TRAILS FEST

July 16th, 9 AM to 4 PM. Free!
At Rattlesnake Lake outside North Bend!

Presented by Washington Trails Association, Trails Fest is a hands-on event for all ages, providing families and other adventurers with a fun and safe environment to explore the outdoors. The outdoor celebration features activities like guided hikes, fly-fishing, kayaking and canoeing. A variety of clinics run periodically throughout the day on everything from mountain weather to ultralite hiking, and, dozens of exhibitors from gear companies to

non-profit outdoor organizations are on hand to talk with you and answer your questions

WAC IN SKI TO SEA RACE

Team WART (WAC's Awesome Relay Team) finished an outstanding third place in the mixed recreational division of the Ski to Sea race on Sunday, May 29th. All of the team members are graduates from various WAC climbing courses over the years.

Team members included:
Maria Lee (team captain) Andrea Johnson
Carolyn Cuppage Toni
"Beautiful Eyes" Bader
Andrew Toyota Brendan MacLean
George Snelling Randy Earlywine

This was the first year for most of the team to participate in the 31st annual Ski to Sea race. This year's race recorded almost 400 teams of eight people each!
The 86 mile race started near the Mt. Baker ski resort and consisted of the following events: Downhill Ski, Cross Country Ski, Running, Road Bike, Canoe, Mountain Bike and finally a Kayak to the finish line near Bellingham.

Special thanks to Mike "Super" Rouper, Mica Schonbeck and Cherry Snelling for their fearless Team WART support. Notable race performances included; Andrea's survival of the testosterone induced 400 person shotgun downhill ski start to the race, Carolyn's ability to not throw up while passing 28 other cross country skiers on a weather shortened course, Maria's long strides in the run, George and Toni's passing of 38 other canoes, Andrew's ability to chill out in the shade with his dog and girlfriend before his leg of the race started and finally Brendan's fantastic Kayak skills which anchored the team's final event and helped lift us to a 58th overall finish. The race was big time fun for everyone involved.

In classic WAC fashion - we never know when enough is enough - the day after the race saw an ascent of the North Twin Sisters via the West Ridge.

Apparently, the previous night's intake of hydraulic sandwiches was enough to keep all of our joints lubed for another athletic day.

Despite obvious weather concerns, (when has that ever stopped the WAC?) most of the team gathered at 7 AM at the locked gate of the Forest Service road. We were joined on this climb by members of our excellent support crew as well as Sir Todd Gits - who had driven up to the locked gate the previous night from some bar. The sprawled out and puffy eyed Sir Gits confirmed our suspicions that we had reached the correct gated Forest Service road. We were launched with our mountain bikes, backpacks, ice axes and helmets by 7:30 ish for the 6.5-mile uphill ride to the "real" trailhead. Gated Forest Service roads are always a bummer.

The route description seemed obvious from our guide book and Cascade Climber notes, and after a few miles the team was gleefully pedaling up the wrong Forest Service road spur with high efficiency. Two other aborted attempts placed us on the correct spur road and we were off of our bikes and on to the coveted ridge by 10 ish. Rumor has it that Randy pushed his bike several times along the way - but there is no proof.

The climb, which is known for it's incredible views, went very nicely. The whiteout conditions prevented anyone from being alarmed by the exposure and we made quick work of the "slip and die" section without the use of a rope. A good thing. Along the ridge we found good climbing and sound rock. We were also treated to a 10-minute view of Mt. Baker before being completely socked in for the rest of the day. After reaching the summit, we decided to descend via glissade on the North Slope for a few thousand feet

before somewhat miraculously regaining the west ridge trail and having a nice walk back to our Mtn. Bikes.

George Snelling claimed to have sited some remnants of DB Cooper somewhere a bit lower on the ridge - but his claims were unsubstantiated. After reaching our Mtn. Bikes and whipping down the Forest Service road, we were back at our vehicles without incident by 4 PM - West Ridge accomplished.

Team WART, Sir Todd Gits and our wonderful support groupies finished the event off at The Nooksack Restaurant in Deming (highly recommended) for some beers, good food and general rowdiness. Much to our surprise we caught a glimpse of the Bellingham Herald to learn of our race placement. Yes indeed - there we were listed on the front page for having finished in the top three of our division. Whew Who! A few in the group seemed to be leery about the pending press coverage for such a successful race team but somehow we managed to avoid the paparazzi plague.

Strangely, after a great dinner and general back slapping by everyone, George S and I sat gazing at each other with googly eyes while wearing Maria's lipstick. What? Always a fun time with my fellow WAC nut cases.

Randy Earlywine

HANFORD REACH TRIP

We all met early Saturday June 04, 2005 morning at the Vernita Bridge Rest Stop next to the Columbia River. Most of us drove in early Saturday morning. The sun rose over the hills without a cloud in the sky. The temperature was perfect!

Our leader was Mike Brown, and the participants numbered 40 something. There were 30 friends of Mike Brown from the east side. From the West side of the Cascades there were long time WAC members Gino and Kathy Amodei with their sons Andrew 15, and Will 10. Also along were their friends were

Mark and Kandy Ruter with sons Grant 15 and Nathan 13. Also on Gino's team was Dave and MaryAnne and son Joseph Crowell. Dan Jacobs camped at the put-in site. Also, we had three exchange student Russian aerospace engineers here on a visit to Boeing from Moscow. They really enjoyed the trip and took lots of pictures. And finally, from the West side was Bill Doyle (who provided three kayaks! Thanks Bill!) Doerte and Mike Mahanay, and Jorie Wackerman and friend Fred. The USGS website at http://wa.water.usgs.gov/rt-cgi/gen_stn_pg?station=12472800 showed that below Priest Rapids Dam the Columbia River was running 145,000 cubic feet per second with the snowmelt already over. We looked forward to a good ride! Keep in mind that the mighty Colorado River through the Grand Canyon might be running 7,000 to 20,000 cfs. The Columbia River is a very wide, major river so the huge flow was not really felt.

It took about an hour to run the shuttle from the Old White Bluffs Ferry Landing. The put-in was on the South side of the river across from the Vernita Bridge. Our WAC fleet consisted of a variety of canoes, and kayaks. We made sure to tie everything in our boats in case of a capsized, liberally applied sunscreen, pulled our hats on, and were off.

We put in after 10 AM and immediately met the first challenge, the swift water under the bridge. We stayed close to the south shore to watch for birds and wildlife.

The Hanford is a birder's paradise! We were amazed to see many American White Pelicans. What a big treat! We saw several groups of them. These huge birds have wingspan of 8-9.5 feet! They are white, with black primaries, and great orange-yellow bill.

Some boaters were lucky enough to see a deer, coyote, and beaver. In a big flowing river like the Columbia they

will make their lodge in the bank instead of building a lodge behind a dam. Elk also come down to the river to drink from the Hanford Reservation but we didn't see them this time.

The north side of the river is the Saddle Mountain Wildlife Refuge. Most of the monument was set aside in 1943 to serve as buffer lands for World War II plutonium production activities at the former Hanford Nuclear Reservation. We passed five reactors of various ages. Mike Brown explained the history of the reservation, and that the biggest current fear would be the Columbia River in flood that would put the reactors under water. The Monument contains the largest remnant of the shrub-steppe ecosystem that once blanketed the entire Columbia River Basin.

At one point the air and water was so calm we could hear and talk to each other a couple of hundred yards away. The sound would just reflect along the top of the water.

We were all glad to see the White Bluffs come into view where we would stop for lunch. We had to hug the bank to avoid being carried downstream by the current. The White Bluffs is an ancient geologic formation, which forms part of the eastern bank of the Hanford Reach. These amazing cliffs contain mammalian fossils, including rhinoceros, camel, and mastodon!

This year we had the privilege to have Walt Grisham along for day. Walt grew up in the town of White Bluffs before it was taken over by the US Government in 1940's, and everyone in town had to move. Walt gave some personal reflections of the area during the day.

After lunch, many in the party did a hike up to the top of the big cliff known as the White Bluffs. What an amazing view of the big Columbia upstream and downstream! The White Bluffs are made of crumbly dolomite that is eroded by the river in a big turn to the right.

After the hike it was time for a swim but only one fellow went in as the air temperature was virtually perfect. We calculated that it was in the early 80's. The humidity was 20%. The water was 54 degrees so no one was eager to jump in.

Back on the water in our boats, we stayed close to the cliffs to enjoy the hundreds of Cliff Swallows, who build little adobe apartments on the cliffs. There were plenty of bugs for them to eat, and it was fun to watch them look out of their apartments, and then fly off somewhere and back again.

We reached the Old White Bluffs Ferry Landing for our takeout about 5 PM. In the past, other, tougher WAC groups have continued on downriver, but this is the best takeout for a one day trip. There are two other takeouts below, the second being in the lake and all the way to Richland.

A wonderful, fun, educational trip with a great group! Lots of beautiful sights and a relaxing float. It was wonderful to meet so many new people on the East side. A bunch of us went to Atomic Pizza with Mike Brown for the after trip beer and pizza. Yummm! A huge thanks from all of us to Mike Brown for organizing this trip every year. Mike M

MT ADAMS, 12,276'

July 04 Annual Ski Weekend! The SW Chutes! - The year 2005 will be remembered by most as the year when there was no snow and they did not ski at all. However, to some members of the skiing community it just means that they need to be a little more resourceful. Even in this record dry year, many skiers have gotten 20 or more days in.

We worried for many weeks if there would be enough snow to ski Mount Adams on the Fourth of July. Would we have to hike to the Lunch Counter and back? Would the jet stream drop down from the Canadian Border and plunge us into clouds, fog,

and rain? Being an extremely optimistic group we decided to go no matter what!

Michael Balise, Doerte and I arrived at the Cold Springs Trailhead, 5,600' in the late afternoon. We found Beck and Linda Cox already at the regular campsite.

Our neighbors were up skiing the Southwest Chutes on Saturday and reported that the snow was very good below the False Summit. They reported windy conditions. They had started down at 3 PM from the False Summit.

The Southwest Chutes drop SW from the false summit at a 35-40 degree slope for over 4000 vertical feet. Skiers can climb either the South Rib or the chutes directly. The return to camp is via the Round the Mountain Trail.

The standard climbing route goes up the South Spur, and is also called the South Climb. The mountain was first climbed by the North Ridge in 1854. For a time there was Fire Lookout on the summit, supplied by mules. It is hard to imagine what it must have been like to spend some time there. Now, it is just a ruin, and just barely visible on dry years.

Amar Andalkar calls the South Spur non-technical summit route one of the true Cascade classics. The slope below the 11,657' False Summit (Pikers Peak) holds a consistent 25-30 degree pitch for over 2500 vertical ft, often with superb corn snow in late spring and early summer.

Mike Daly had been up the week before. We heard rumors of other Washington Alpine Club teams up on Mount Adams.

At Cold Springs Camp we had a calm, clear, moonlit night, and then left for the mountain at 7 AM long after everyone else had started. There were many parties camped everywhere along the route.

Boots or skins? Your choice! Both worked well. We had great views of Mount Hood, and Mt. Saint Helens. We

reunited at the Lunch Counter for lunch. The weather was perfect!

Beck and Mike Mahanay skinned up, while Michael Balise, Linda, and Doerte followed the stairway, the climbers straight path up the 2,600' up to the False Summit (Pikers Peak). It was slow and steady going and took us about 2.0 hours. Happy, descending climbers would wizz by in a three foot deep glissade chute. Doerte counted 45. We saw 3 or 4 groups of skiers descending the South Spur, a mixed bag of telemark and alpine. There was one snowboarder. The telemarkers looked excellent and set a high standard for us! Everyone was very happy!

At Piker's Peak everyone regrouped, adjusted equipment, added some layers, hydrated, ate some snacks and had fun. We all relaxed a bit and got ready to ski down. The snow was perfect and we had high hopes for a good run! From here we had to decide to ski the SW Chutes or the South Spur Route?

It can be very windy on Pikers Peak but not today. We had great views of Mount Hood, Mount Jefferson to the South, and a bare Mount Saint Helens to the West.

Michael made a quick trip over to the true summit, and skied back. He was the lone randonee skier in our group. The five of us unanimously decided to ski the SW Chutes!

Mike Mahanay opted to go first, but the others pointed out that he still had his skins on! The team made him feel a lot better by attributing it to high altitude stupidity. For this mistake he was regulated to skiing last!

Linda took off first, doing perfect turns in the fall line. Beck, Michael, Doerte followed in similar fashion.

The snow was excellent, just soft enough to carve graceful turns. The skiing got better and better with every turn. We skied about 4,000', each of us

making fresh tracks. Beck said, "the snow was so good we could of skied it with tennis shoes duct taped to a couple of 2 X 4's!" Well, maybe Beck could anyway! Beck is one of the few Telemarkers using Leather Boots. One would never ever know by watching him ski!

A few of the serious accolades heard on the way down the SW Chutes:

"Best run of the year" "9" "9.5" "Amazing, perfect snow!" "Where is everyone else?" "It does not get any better!" "The best run in the Pacific Northwest"

It was fun to make some fresh tracks for a few thousand feet!

We skied until there was no more snow left to ski. On foot, we continued to follow the gully down to meet the Round the Mountain Trail that took us to the South Climb Trail and back to Camp. The Round the Mountain Trail connects with the PCT.

11 Hours. Total elevation gain, 5,900', 12 miles round trip, 4,000' skied from the False Summit, 4,800' for Michael. An excellent weekend with great friends and lots of great turns!

There is \$15 climbing fee (\$10 Mon-Thurs) required above 7000 ft from June 1 to September 30. A Northwest Forest Pass required for parking at the Trailheads. The permit can be picked up in Trout Lake at the Forest Service Office. Beware, the Forest Service ranger lady is very grumpy! Also, on Saturdays at the Community Center in Trout Lake the town hosts a bazaar with homemade stuff. We loaded up on Huckleberry Cinnamon roles, cookies, honey, candles, and Strawberry jam! Don't pass it up!

