

WASHINGTON ALPINE CLUB | BULLETIN

March 2010 | Volume 93, Issue 3



WASHINGTON ALPINE CLUB

P.O. Box 352
Seattle, WA 98111

www.wacweb.org

The Bulletin is 100% online

This format allows us to offer photos, color, more timely content, and saves a lot of paper and trees. For those without email, with dial up connections, or with incompatible software we will continue to mail the Bulletin.

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photo by Susan Ashlock

Climbing Class co-chair Joanna Hingle on a February ascent of Mt. St. Helens.

June-uary and now Febr-uly.

Way back on February 2nd Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow indicating six more weeks of winter. Little did we know that meant six more weeks of warm and often sunny weather after one of the warmest Januaries on record. That caused some difficulties for the Olympic games in Vancouver and Whistler, but meant lots of great weather for getting out in the mountains.

For some photos and trip reports of February outings, see page 7.

Warmer temperatures also mean the Snoqualmie Loppet is now moved up to March 7, see Page 6.

Submit a story or photo!

Do you have a story or photo that you would like to share? Please send it in to us!

Email: wacbulletin@yahoo.com

WAC Technical T's

We still have a few WAC Technical T's left. Available sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL

Just \$20

WAC Calendar

March	
4	Board Meeting
6	Vegetarian Potluck
7	Ozbaldy 50K at Cabin Creek
7	Snoqualmie Loppet Ski Tour
20-21	Climbing Class Instructor Training at Guye Cabin
23	Climbing Class Begins
April	
1	Board Meeting
17-18	Olympic Beach Cleanup
May	
14-16	Alpine Climbs at Snoqualmie Pass
21-23	Alpine Climbs at Snoqualmie Pass

Is Your Contact Info Current?

You can check these things on the Washington Alpine Club website: www.wacweb.org. If your address or email address changes please let us know!

Moving?

Send change of address forms to:

Washington Alpine Club

PO Box 352

Seattle, WA 98111

Or email Dave Mitchell at:

dtmitch@mindspring.com

New Email Address?

To update your email address log on to www.wacweb.org. If you don't have an account, you can use the shared name and password:

User name: climbing

Password: climbbon

Join the WACList on Yahoo

If you want to get mail on the WAC email list, join the yahoo group at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/waclist/>

Post message:

waclist@yahoogroups.com

Subscribe:

waclist-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Important: You must be a current member! We have to approve you before you can join, so please put your name in the comment section.

WASHINGTON ALPINE CLUB

Incorporated 1916 Incorporated 1923

P.O. Box 352, Seattle, WA 98111

www.washingtonalpineclub.org

Member Of

Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, Washington Trails Association, Washington Environmental Council, Washington Wilderness Coalition, and MidFORC Coalition

The primary purpose 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.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

March 2010

by Mike Mahanay

The days are getting warmer and longer and the ski lessons are wrapping up. There is no doubt that winter only lasted a couple of weeks and then switched directly to Spring. Seattle is fully blooming right now, and a skunk cabbage was even seen blooming in the foothills. The official day for the vernal equinox and the beginning of spring is March 20. Don't delay if want to do spring skiing.

Co Chairs John Commiskey, Ty Tyler, Mica Schonbeck had the **Winter Backcountry Travel Class** at Guye Cabin last weekend. They had great spring weather, and plenty of firm hard packed snow in the morning! They had excellent instructors helping out and a fantastic group of students! This might have been one of the best Cabin weekends ever for the Backcountry Class!

The 2010 **Climbing Class** will also be underway very soon! It is led this year by Mike Daly, Joanna Hingle, and Jeff Watts. Thanks to the co-chairs and all the volunteers who work so hard to organize and teach these and other WAC classes!

There are several Cabin events in March beginning with the **Vegetarian Potluck** on March 06! If the snow holds out, March 7 is the annual **Snoqualmie Loppet**. The Climbing Class will have the instructor's clinics at Guye Cabin on March 20/21.

March and April are excellent times to visit the Guye Cabin. Since the lessons are over, the Cabin is generally quiet and relaxed. As the flowers begin to bloom in Seattle, and the days become longer there will be less people, more parking spaces, and still all the snow you need! The Cabin is a great place to meet new friends and renew old friendships!

April 17/18 is the 9th annual **Olympic Beach Cleanup**, our yearly service trip. The winter storms, unfortunately, bring a new delivery of flotsam and jetsam to our beaches. Started as a grass roots effort by our good friend Jan Klipfert, the coastal clean now goes all the way from the Long Beach Peninsula to Cape Flattery. The WAC portion is Hoh Beach. Come join the fun! We have participated the last eight years and each year it has been even more fun than the year



before! It makes everyone feel good to know they help cleanup the only wilderness coastline in the lower 48. Come on out on April 17, to where the cold glacier water from Mount Olympus meets the Pacific Ocean! Sign up with Mike.

What is the Washington Alpine Club? An all volunteer grass roots local community organization that supports outdoor recreation and each other. It is a huge effort to run our organization. There are almost 200 people that play key roles in teaching, organizing, and motivating students on a yearly basis. They do this for no reason other than the satisfaction it brings them to see others experience the wonders of the Pacific NW and grow in skills and confidence! A long standing tradition, the WAC began in 1893 helping to create Mount Rainier National Park, and is stronger than ever with 500 members! Most of them actually know each other. Do you know someone who would be a good fit for the WAC? Please take some time and introduce them to some of the many benefits our unique Club has to offer, and get them online to sign up! They will thank you for it!

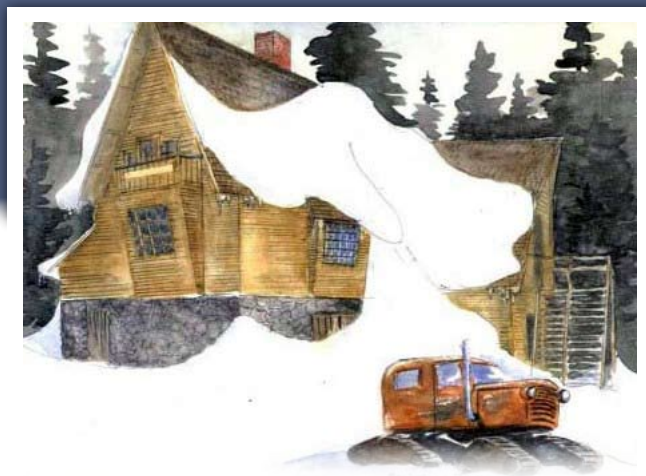
The Washington Alpine Club is on Facebook!

Facebook is yet another way to keep up with the Washington Alpine Club. Once you've joined Facebook, go to the WAC page and join the group. And invite your friends to join the group. You can connect with other WAC members, get information on upcoming events and post messages for other members.

Just click on the Facebook logo on the right to visit the WAC Page.



GUYE CABIN



Work Parties Begin in May

This year we would like to see if we can find folks to commit to working on certain projects at the cabin on specific weekends. This will allow us to have the materials and helpers etc they need to accomplish the tasks.

Here is the list we would like to do this summer. Some are must dos, and others are nice to have.

Replace remaining existing windows.

The six we did last year made a tremendous difference!

- Kitchen (2)
- Family room (4 or 5)
- Men's doom (1 or 2)
- Women's doom (2)
- Stairwell window (2 now, can we make it 1)
- Fireplace Room (2) -- can we do this?

Troubleshoot/upgrade kitchen wiring (at least on the cabinet wall) - might need to tear open the wall

New Wood stove in kitchen / New fireplace insert in Fireplace Room (Dale Ott)

New balcony door in women's dorm

New French door to Fireplace room

Refinish floor in family Dorm (John Sargent)

Bathrooms

Replace sinks and faucets
Replace toilets with low flow toilets
Shower room repair drywall and replace or remove wall paper

Hot water tanks

Replace kitchen hot water tank
Replace and move hot water tank in men's bathroom to work room (its leaking)

Normal summer work

Chainsaw rounds / Split wood
Trail work / yard work
Paint /repair outside Cabin

Guye Cabin Work Party Dates!

May 08
June 12
July 17
August 14 plus WAC Summer BBQ
September 11
October 16
October 17 Annual Meeting

Vegetarian Potluck - March 6, 6:00 p.m.

This is the eighth year we will do the Vegetarian Potluck! The past couple of years we have had almost 50 people! Come up early and spend the day, or get some time in the snow and work up a big appetite. Spend the night! Everything will be specialty potluck. Please bring your very best dishes of hot dishes, main courses, salads, appetizers, vegetables, deserts. Can't cook? Just go by PCC and pick something nice up from the deli, or bring fresh daffodils or tulips, or lots of juices and teas.



CONSERVATION

Conservation Opportunities in the NW for WAC Members

The WAC Board has approved a list of organizations to support as a Club, and as individuals.

Access Fund

www.accessfund.org/

Audubon Washington

wa.audubon.org/

Cascade Land Conservancy

www.cascadeland.org/

Conservation Northwest

www.conservationnw.org/

Earth Corps

www.earthcorps.org/

Land Trusts in Washington State

WA Land Trusts

Mountains to Sounds Greenway

www.mtsgreenway.org/

The Nature Conservancy

www.nature.org/

Washington Trails Association

www.wta.org/

Thanks to our Volunteers

We would like to thank all our volunteers for helping us for the last year (and years past). Working together we have made the WAC into something very special. We certainly appreciate the continuing support of those who have

already contributed. But we would especially welcome anyone who has not yet contributed in the past to take a volunteer job to help our devoted “regulars”. We would like to get to know you better and we could really use your help.

Volunteering with the WAC can be very rewarding and provide an additional avenue to finding interesting things to do with the club.

The Third Man Factor

The Third Man Factor is a biography of an extraordinary idea: That people at the very edge of death, often adventurers or explorers, experience a sense of an incorporeal being beside them who encourages them to make one final effort to survive.

If only a handful of people had ever experienced the Third Man, it might be dismissed as an unusual delusion shared by a few overstressed minds. But the amazing thing is this: over the

years, the experience has occurred again and again, to 9/11 survivors, mountaineers, divers, polar explorers, prisoners of war, solo sailors, aviators and astronauts. All have escaped traumatic events only to tell strikingly similar stories of having experienced the close presence of a helper or guardian.

The mysterious force has been explained as everything from hallucination to divine intervention. Recent neurological research suggests

something else. In *The Third Man Factor* John Geiger combines history, scientific analysis and great adventure stories to explain this secret to survival, a Third Man who - in the words of legendary Italian climber Reinhold Messner - “leads you out of the impossible.”

More info at NPR:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=112746464>

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

Snoqualmie Loppet - March 7, 2010

Third Annual! From Silver Fir to Cabin Creek. 9:00 a.m. Mass Start.

Couldn't do the Hog Loppet? Had so much fun you want to do it again? Here is a second chance and a easy way to experience the fun , thrills, adventure, and drama of a long distance ski tour. What a great way to introduce people to the entire Nordic trail system! This is an informal event with no sponsors, no support, no prizes, and no responsibility! Just a group of friends out for a challenging ski! We will arrange car shuttles to Cabin Creek.

The course is about 35 kilometers total distance, about the same as the Hog Loppet. You can also do any of the sections if you are not up to full Loppet. The first year in 2008 there were 6 of us, and in 2009 there were 30 participants.

1. Silver Fir lift to the top and the upper trails
2. Around Mount Catherine counter clockwise all the way to Hyak Lodge (food, bathroom)
3. Descend to the Iron Horse and the long fast 10K past the Stampede Pass Road
4. 3 telephone poles past the Stampede Pass Road enter the Trollhagen trail system
5. Exit Troll Hagen and ski toward I90 until you connect with the Stampede Pass Road
6. Walk the road, crossing I90, and into the DOT yard (I'll have this marked with tape the day before).
7. Bare slightly to the right and in a couple 100' join the Cabin Creek Trail System
8. Ski the Viking course and Berg course to the end!

There is no entry fee, however, you must have a trail pass to use the Summit Nordic Trail System and if you park your car at the Cabin Creek finish you must have a SNO-PARK permit! It is



The start of the Snoqualmie Loppet.

recommended that you start promptly at 9 am for the best snow conditions.

We will have breakfast at Guye Cabin at 7 am and then meet at Silver Fir at 8 sharp to shuttle cars to Cabin Creek. I am also willing to make a return trips if necessary. (cell 206.931.4713) There is no recommended ski gear or technique suggested. Classic or skate is fine. Faster Skiers will complete in about 3 hours. Slower skiers perhaps 5-6 hours. It depends on your gear, your technique, your wax, the weather, grooming conditions, and your physical ability.

Please bring plenty of snacks and water. There is no support in terms of food on the course other than Hyak Lodge. This is a good stop for a hot drink or piece of pizza, and a place to leave a drop bag. We are hoping to have Snoqualmie Nordic will have their Bake Sale on the Iron Horse so we can load up with treats to eat right away, or put them in our pockets to eat back at Guye Cabin sitting around the blazing stove in the kitchen reliving the day's excitement.

Keep track of your time and we'll post the results.

TRIP REPORTS



Boulder Colorado Ice and Rock

Trip report:

http://www.wacweb.org/Trips/TripReports/default.view?_mode=details&RowId=481

Photos

Aaron Haran: <http://picasaweb.google.com/aaronch76/10012831BoulderCOIce#>

Joe Sambataro: http://isc.astro.cornell.edu/~don/pictures/v/friends/joe/joe_climbing/joe_COice2010/

Ty Tyler: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/tytyler37/sets/72157623329718660/>

Mark Von Hagel: <http://picasaweb.google.com/mjvonhagel/ColoradoTrip2010#>

More Photos

Susan Ashlock Mount St Helens Saturday ski:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/susanashlock/sets/72157623407179435/>

John Sanford on Mount St Helens:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/sanford.stm/MtStHelens#>

WASHINGTON ALPINE CLUB

Nostalgia

By Lynn Buchanan

Way back in 1952 or so, I was living in Seattle and my wife and I joined the WAC. One of the projects going on then was adding onto the cabin on Snoqualmie Pass. For several weekends I towed a large air compressor to the pass behind my little CJ Jeep so we could break up the rocks and put in some footings. I went into the Air Force for a couple of years after we got the footings in, then have lived here in Yakima ever since. There were some great adventures then, but there were many things to do around Yakima so I never went back to the WAC. Unless Pete Steele is still a member, there is probably no one left who remembers those years.

I was writing up some of my 57 years of history active in Mountain Rescue during the last week

or so and recounting my first mission. It started with a WAC climb of Lundin and the death of one of the WAC members, Bill Danilson, on the rappel down the south face from the west side of the summit. The question arose, is the plaque still on the summit of Lundin?

I spent a few hours up there on several weekends drilling holes for the bronze plaque made and installed by several of us WAC members in memory of Bill and learned about a mysterious glue that one of the members got from Boeing, where he worked. It was called Epoxy, and required the mixing of two liquids, then the rapid placement of the mix into the 4 holes we had drilled before it got too hard to use.

How times have changed. After those years, I have not been back to the top of any of the peaks on Snoqualmie Pass that I climbed then. My climbing continued ever since, nothing really spectacular, but all interesting.

I drive over the pass often, but usually am in a hurry to get to Seattle or the vicinity so it is just a spot on the way. Someday maybe I will take a bit more time and see how the cabin turned out.

At any rate, since it is now almost 60 years since the plaque was installed, is it still there?

Lynn@lynnbuchanan.com



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Address Correction Requested
Do Not Forward

FIRST CLASS

TO: