

Washington Alpine Club | Bulletin

December 2011 | Volume 95, Issue 9



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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Backcountry Travel Class 2012



Overview

The Backcountry Travel Class focuses on safe backcountry travel. The class is divided into groups of snowshoers, snowboarders using splitboards, and skiers (both alpine touring and telemark). The participants are then further divided up by ability. The class is limited to 25 students.

Skiers and snowboarders should be at least of intermediate ability. This means the ability to stop, turn, and get down blue runs comfortably. Skiers and boarders in the class will be skiing or riding in the backcountry in the Cascades in the winter, where challenging snow conditions and trees (and other obstacles) can present serious challenges for all. We'll do our best to accommodate participants of various abilities, but those who are more comfortable in challenging conditions will probably find this class more enjoyable!

Each touring section will be five students with two instructors. The first third of the course focuses entirely on basic avalanche avoidance and assessment, and involves little time sliding about. These skills are then applied on backcountry tours (day trip and one overnight). While out touring, students

will learn about snow stability analysis, route selection, avalanche rescue techniques, winter navigation and camping, how to ski varied snow conditions, and how to look good and have fun.



The cost of the course is \$125, which does not include the cost of the (required) WAC membership fee. Participants are responsible for acquiring their own equipment.

Feel free to contact the co-chairs at WAC-BC-CoChairs@yahoo.com if you have questions about the class. Website: <http://www.wacweb.org/Classes/BackcountryClass/>

WAC Information

Calendar

DECEMBER 2011	
DECEMBER 10	Annual New Snow Dinner
DECEMBER 15	Deadline for Backcountry Travel Course Sign-up
JANUARY 2012	
JANUARY 04	Marmot Ski Demo
JANUARY 11	Randonee/Telemark Class Begins
FEBRUARY 2012	
FEBRUARY 7	Backcountry Travel Course Begins
FEBRUARY 25	Hog Loppet Ski Tour
FEBRUARY 26	WAC Fun day
MARCH 2012	
MARCH 11	Snowqualmie Loppet Ski Tour
MARCH 17	Vegetarian Potluck Dinner

Is Your Contact Info Current?

You can check these things on the Washington Alpine Club website: www.wacweb.org. If your mailing 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: climbon

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

Founded 1916 Incorporated 1923

P.O. Box 352, Seattle, WA 98111

www.wacweb.org

Member Of

Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs,
Washington 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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April McCoy

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Randy Oakley

Nordic

Eli Holmes, Karel Zikan

Back Country

Susan Ashlock, Alex Ford, Denny Trimble

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Cabin Chairman . . . Bill Hooper | 206.325.2851

Work Party Bill Hooper | 206.325.2851

Membership Dana Beck | 000-000-0000

Publicity Kay Ishii | 206.336.7721

Cabin Supply Tami Sargent | 360-377-3217

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Bulletin Editor . . . Magda Balise | 360.378.6026

Conservation . . Mike Mahanay | 206.931.4713

Circulation Dave Mitchell | 425.235.1039

By Laws Dave Mitchell | 425.235.1039

President's Corner

December 2011

by Mike Mahanay

It seems like just yesterday that we were chopping wood, picking blueberries and mushrooms, and doing yard work at Guye Cabin. Just like that the snow came, and ski season is here! We are getting ready for the annual New Snow Dinner, our boards are waxed, and we are drinking hot apple cider! This winter is already off to a great start, as we have a 28 inch base at Guye Cabin. Many of us have already been up on the slopes! All the Washington ski areas are open!

The New Snow Dinner is Saturday December 10, at 6 pm! Many folks will be up for the weekend to ski, snowshoe, or just relax and have fun. Nick and Stephanie Nichols will be preparing a wonderful surprise entree! Ribs! (Okay- I let the cat out.) Yummm! Everything else will be specialty potluck. Please bring your best specialty salad, vegetable, casserole, soup, appetizer or dessert. Can't cook? Bring flowers or drinks! Cost? Only 3 bucks minimum donation per person! Bring some cans or packaged food to donate to a local food bank. You can even donate money to the food bank if that is easier. In fact, bring your check book and renew your membership and pay your Cabin fees for the year!

Are you looking for a challenge? Do you want to improve your technique? Or just want to learn a new discipline? The WAC Telemark and Randonee Class is currently taking applications on the website. Don't delay, as the class is quickly filling up. Open to skiers of all abilities. It will start January 11 and runs six consecutive Wednesday evenings, at Summit West. Thanks to Randy Oakley for organizing this every year!

Vivian Darst will open Guye Cabin each of the six Wednesday nights. Ski Wednesday, spend the night and ski again on Thursday! The only catch is you must RSVP to Vivian. If everyone is heading back she will too. Her email is viviandarst@msn.com

Susan Ashlock, Alex Ford, and Denny Trimble have been busy putting the WAC Backcountry Travel Class together. The class is open for applications now. Kids Nordic is also open for registrations. The Basic Climbing class will also open for applications soon.

Dana Beck is off to a great start as our Membership Chair. Help her out by renewing online via the safe and secure Google Checkout. It is very easy and very safe! Go to the WAC website when you read this and renew for at least another year. (There is an option to renew for up to five years at a reduced rate.) Renew here:

<http://www.wacweb.org/About/renew.view>

The 2012 Board is committed to serving you for another year. We are honored and proud to be a part of the WAC. The Washington Alpine Club has a great history going back almost a century, to 1916. For its 96 year existence the WAC has always been an eclectic collection of climbers, hikers, peak baggers, families, skiers, and lovers of the outdoors. I enjoy talking to everyone in the WAC to get that sense of the past as we look toward the future. Please feel free to call me or any of the Board or Chairs if you have something you would like to suggest or have us address. We are here for you!



President: Mike Mahanay

1st Vice President: Pat O'Brien

Treasurer: Dave Wilson

Secretary: Ira Rushwald

At Large: Susan Ashlock, Pat Beurskens, Mike Daly,
Eli Holmes, Charles Muzio, Toby Young

The great charm of this holiday season is that it is not a particular place or time or thing but a spirit of warmth, generosity, and good will that is always welcome everywhere. The WAC embodies the holiday spirit year round!



Backcountry Travel Class 2012 (continued from page 1)

Schedule

- February 7: Lecture at OR Store, 7 pm
- February 11-12: Avalanche safety, Snoqualmie Pass
- February 21: Lecture at OR Store, 7 pm
- February 25, 26: Intro to winter backcountry travel, location TBD
- February 28: Lecture at OR Store, 7 pm
- March 3-4: Overnight outing, location TBD

Admittance

You must be a member of the WAC to take this class and you can easily sign up and pay for membership at the same time you apply for the class. Please note that the cost of WAC membership (\$45) is not refundable. You will not be charged the \$125 class fee if you do not get into the class or if the course is cancelled due to lack of snow, but we cannot offer refunds on your WAC membership dues. Admittance is based on a review of applications and is not first-come-first-served. Applicants turned away from previous classes or who have volunteered as instructors in other WAC courses are given preference.

Travel Type

You can choose to telemark or AT ski, use a split snowboard, or snowshoe. Lightweight nordic equipment (such as touring skis and leather boots) is not appropriate for this class



Trip Gear List

The gear required for the course for day trips is listed at www.wacweb.org/classes/backcountryclass/bctripgearlist1.pdf. Gear required for the overnight trip is listed at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/18mknc-AWPWJB-QpOXrIQcSa11UnIriaxT5gB8QTxuKA/edit?pli=1>

A few local gear shops rent telemark and AT ski gear, as well as avalanche beacons. The WAC has a few split boards for rent, so please note on your application if you are interested in using one for the course.

Applications

Go to <http://www.wacweb.org/classes/backcountryclass/BackcountryClassApps/Signup/default.view> to apply for the class.

Applications must be submitted no later than December 15, 2011.

Instructors

Want to improve your backcountry skills while teaching and having fun? Help teach the class!

If you have at least a Level 1 Avalanche Certification and a few years experience in the backcountry, please contact the co-chairs at WAC-BC-CoChairs@yahoo.com to participate. Thanks for your help!

Second Ascent Supports

Lee Adams Memorial Fund

Tradition dictates that each year's Basic Climbing Class design a t-shirt for students and instructors. This year's students decided to go one step further and use the t-shirt as a way to give back to the WAC, by raising money for the Lee Adams Memorial Fund.

The Lee Adams Memorial Grant Program provides financial subsidies to WAC members to pursue training and education beyond what the WAC itself offers. A member who receives a grant is asked to bring his or her new skills back to the club by participating in classes or activities that allow those skills to be shared with other WAC members. Avalanche Level II and Wilderness First Aid type courses have been popular choices, but grantees have also participated in ice climbing clinics and wilderness leadership seminars. The program began a couple of years ago as the "WAC Grant," but was renamed in memory of WAC member Lee Adams after his death on Mt. Rainier.

Awards are both merit and need based in that an applicant is judged both on the merits of their past volunteer contribution to the club, and also on whether the club needs the skill set provided by the training the applicant wishes to pursue. Any single grant is currently capped at \$300.

Climbing class students approached Ballard's Second Ascent to ask if they would be willing to support the production of this year's t-shirt, so that funds raised from the sale of the shirts could be donated to the grant fund. Second Ascent's Greg Shaw responded with a very generous offer of a \$1,000 contribution,



Second Ascent Supports (cont)



irrespective of the number of shirts sold. To acknowledge Second Ascent's support, the company's logo was placed on the shirts.

Second Ascent has been a longtime supporter of the WAC, providing discounts to members and for equipment purchases by the organization. We are very grateful for the partnership and this opportunity to continue the relationship, and we extend our thanks to Second Ascent's Greg Shaw for his support.

Members interested in applying to the Lee Adams Memorial Grant Program should contact Toby Young at dr.tobster@gmail.com.



WAC Basic Climbing Class 2012



It is once again that time of year, the snow is falling, the holidays are too quickly approaching and it is time to start telling your friends to sign up for the WAC Basic Climbing Class. Brochures and flyers will be appearing in many hot spots come the week of December 5th, and applications will start rolling in soon after. Applications can be found on www.wacclass.org.

This year Erik Poley, Ira Rushwald, Gerhard Schneider, and Amanda Stoneham will be the co-chairs and fearless leaders for the 2012 class. The meetings have started and the planning is underway. We are very excited to see the student body shape up for 2012, as well as reconnecting with our knowledgeable instructors once again.

Dates to remember:

January 31st, 2012: Applications for the class are due. We will not take applications after January 31st so remind your friends to get them in early.

February 15th, 2012 (it is a Wednesday this year): Oddfellows – try out your favorite desserts on your friends and family so you will have a great recipe to share.

March 17th & 18th, 2012: Instructor training. New instructors will be on March 17th while returning instructors will be on March 18th. Come out and learn some new skills as well as hone some old ones.

Jake Zikans Finds

History! By Allen Miller, Milwaukee Railroad Historian

Nice find! Those spikes were most likely driven sometime during the first week of October, 1909. The track layers from Ellensburg arrived at the summit (Laconia) on September 29th, and then a new crew took over, laying track down the west side. They finished up at Topographer's Gulch, near the station of Ragnar, one month later, on October 29th.

The large piece on the left appears to be a tie plate that has been broken in half. The mainline, as built in 1908-09, didn't normally have tie plates, the rails being spiked directly onto the ties. However this proves that tie plates were used on the sharper curves to help hold the rails in alignment better. The smaller pieces look to be the old style square nails, which would date back further than the Milwaukee Road 1909 construction date. Perhaps they are from an old homesteader's cabin?



Guye Cabin



Winter at Guye Cabin

In December, January, February, and March, Guye Cabin is usually open Friday to Sunday. Friday opening happens in the late afternoon. If you show up on Friday, please help out by snowshoeing the trail to the cabin lower door and kitchen. Also shovel the stairs to the upper (exit) door and put out the parking signs.

Make sure to (1) check in, (2) pay, and (3) do a chore. This includes day users.

Sledding safety: There is a big drop-off on the right side into the creek. Build a berm on the lower right before sledding and direct all tracks away from the right (creek) side.

Trails: Across the bridge, we have a 5km marked trail system. The trails are flagged and color coded with wooden markers and intersection signs. Please, no post-holing on the trails. The trail will often be packed hard to the start of the Boy Scout Trail (just past the bridge), but after that you'll start punching through. Post-holing ruins the trails and creates a serious hazard (hidden holes). Please use snowshoes or skis on the trails! Snowshoes marked with green tape or paint are for WAC use and you can borrow those. A trail map is attached (look

on the back of the bulletin page 8).

All trails are fine for beginner snowshoers, but beginner skiers will probably want to stay on the Guye View, Milwaukee RR and Boy Scout Trails. Skiers wanting to get in some turns should head to the Big Rock Loop and try the Inner and Outer Plunges or do laps on the Tow Plunge.

Big cabin rules:

- 1) Park only at the south end of the WAC side and the far north end of the Sahalie side. Be polite to Sahalie folks when they park on "our" side because actually all the winter parking is on their land and they are plowing it and allowing us to use parts of it for very little money.
- 2) Quiet after 9pm, really quiet after 10pm. Especially, teens that return 10:30-11pm after the lifts close need to be reminded about keeping quiet. Also adults use the upper sleeping area (women's and men's dorm) for peace and quiet. Kids/teens need to be reminded to respect that.
- 3) No alcohol.
- 4) The kitchen is not to be used as a thoroughfare by kids (knives, boiling water = recipe for ER visit). The same goes for

running in the cabin in general.

5) No electronics that project publicly: like radios or TVs or DVD players. Also the WAC cabin culture encourages board games, card games, puzzles etc. over electronic games.

6) Enjoy the cabin and have fun this winter!

The following members are at the cabin almost every weekend during winter and can answer questions:

Archie
Zikans (Karel and Eli)
Sargents (John and Tami)
Mahanays (Mike and Doerte)

Want to buy an annual pass for the cabin? You can do that with Google Checkout right now (scroll to the bottom of the webpage): <http://www.wacweb.org/About/renew.view> You can also renew your membership for 2012 and beyond. Note: there is a list of folks that need to renew at the cabin. If you've recently renewed and your name is on the list, make a note because cabin chairs will be checking the list and reminding folks at the cabin who haven't renewed.

It's time to renew your membership!

Support the WAC and renew your membership for 2012 now!

Fall is the time to renew your membership in the WAC for another year. It is super easy to do! Just look yourself up in the members section (climbing/climbon is the user name/password) to see when your membership expires.

We recommend you just renew online via our Google checkout. Just go to this link, and scroll down to the renewal section

<http://www.wacweb.org/About/join.view>

We hope that you continue to support the Washington Alpine Club and take advantage of all the opportunities that membership offers. Please consider adding an additional gift to your membership renewal check. Your contribution will help us with scholarships and major upcoming cabin expenses. Thanks for supporting your club!

You can also pay by check- Please send your check today made out to "WAC", to:

Washington Alpine Club
c/o Dana Beck
14724 30th Ave NE
Shoreline, WA 98155

We hope that you continue to support the WAC!

E-mail:

Thank you for supporting the WAC!

Annual Dues (renewals)

	Regular	Senior	Out of State
Through Dec 2012	\$30	\$15	\$20
Through Dec 2013	\$60	\$25	\$35
Through Dec 2014	\$85	\$35	\$50
Through Dec 2015	\$115	\$45	\$65
Through Dec 2016	\$135	\$55	\$80

Instead of paying nightly (\$15) to **stay at the Guye Cabin**, you can pay the annual cabin dues which are effective Jan 1 to Dec 31. You can add the annual cabin dues to online renewal or check with a note indicating that you are including cabin dues and which WAC adult members are included (if paying dues for a family with 2 or 3 adult WAC members).

Individual Member	\$80.00
Immediate Family of two WAC Members	\$130.00
Immediate Family of three or more WAC Members	\$150.00

The new WAC technical T's are in!

They are cut very nicely and come in WAC green, sunset orange, Snow Lake blue or Snoqualmie Pass granite grey.

You can pick them up at WAC events, downtown at lunch. in West Seattle, Pat O'Brien's, Or the Annual Meeting.

S,M,L, XL,



WAC discount at Outdoor Research

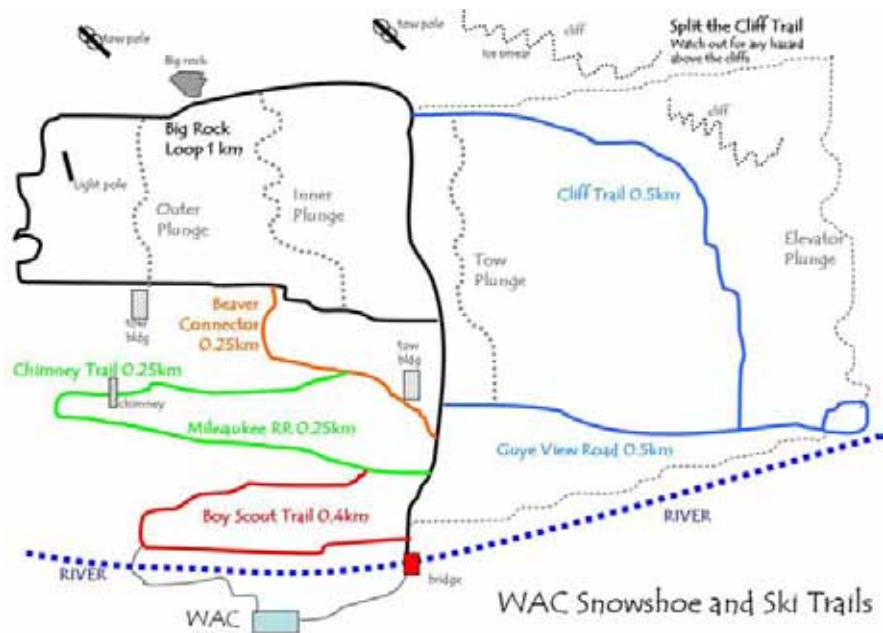
WAC members still get a discount in the store. 15% for full priced OR stuff and 10% for full priced Non-OR stuff.

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.

www.facebook.com/groups/6180692402

Washington Alpine Club



Washington Alpine Club
P.O. Box 352
Seattle, WA 98111

Address Correction Requested
Do Not Forward

FIRST CLASS

TO: