

Washington Alpine Club | Bulletin

March 2011 | Volume 95, 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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Hog Loppet Trip Report by Michael Balise

The 23rd annual Hög Loppet (if we counted right). The weather forecast was really cold, and we were a little worried. But off we staggered from our friend's house (after letting in a very cold cat) to the Leavenworth charter bus stop at 6 am Saturday morning.

Soon enough we were at the base of Mission Ridge (our bus did not get stuck like last year!) Here we battled the lines for the restrooms, and tracked down a missing lift ticket. We said hello to fellow WACers Mike, Doerte, and Christy. Then we were off to the first of two chairlift rides, complete with an actual lift line.

Riding the chairlifts, we got to watch various mishaps, feeling a little smug. Lots of stopping and restarting the lift. But soon enough we contributed our share – Magda fell getting off the first lift (the only time she fell on the whole trip) and then Michael's pack fell off the second lift (he of course blamed all the stopping and starting of the lift by falling skiers).

While Michael waited for his pack at the top (he tried to snag a free downhill run to get it but the ski patrol vetoed this clever plan) Magda started off on the tour to get warm. Soon Michael's pack arrived and off he went, in the midst of a bunch of people wearing exotic capes. All sorts of people do the loppet! Anything from skate skiers, to randonee, to caped crusaders. Meanwhile Magda's hands got so cold that when Michael caught her up she was sitting in the snow crying. All-in-all not a very good start to the loppet! But



Magda's hands were soon warmed up (by a warm tummy, hotties, and some hot tea) and we continued on our way.

The loppet starts sort of up and down at the top of the ski area, and then there is a downhill ungroomed portion through woods and bowls. This part is always interesting. Michael managed to crank a few tele turns on his skate skis – the snow conditions were excellent. Many skiers just adopted the "zoom and crash" approach. Whatever works!

After the ungroomed portion the loppet follows a long road system to Blewett Pass. The organizers did an excellent job of grooming the road this year, and somehow also managed to keep out the snow machines. Yay! So soon we were skating along fairly happily, although a long uphill reduced some of us older folks (names withheld) to a slow

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WAC Information

Calendar

March 2011	
March 5	Vegetarian Potluck Dinner
March 12-13	Scout Group First Aid Class
March 13	Snoqualmie Loppet Ski Tour
March 19-20	Climbing Class Instructor Training
March 25-27	WFR Training
April 2011	
April 2-3	WFR Training
April 7	WAC Board Meeting
April 8-10	Monika Johnson Memorial
April 23	Annual Olympic Beach Cleanup
May 2011	
May 5	WAC Board Meeting
May 12-14	Alpine Climbs at Snoqualmie Pass
May 19-21	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 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 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 2011

by Mike Mahanay

Although extremely late for the party, our good friend La Niña arrived last week! We are sure glad she showed up, and life has never been better! Virtually everyone has a story about the epic snow and champagne powder conditions. Our snowpack has more than doubled from this time last month. Although it is now March, there is no sign of spring anywhere in the forecast.

Co Chairs John Commiskey, Mary Strazer, and Ty Tyler, had the Winter Backcountry Travel Class at Guye Cabin last weekend. They had excellent clear weather, and enough 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 2011 Climbing Class will also be underway very soon! It is led this year by Joanna Hingle, Ira Rushwald, and Amanda Stoneham. Thanks to the co-chairs and all the volunteer Instructors 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 5! We are looking for excellent conditions for the annual Snoqualmie Loppet on March 13. The Climbing Class will have the instructors' clinics at Guye Cabin on March 19-20. The first weekend in April is Sahalie Mardi Gras. There will be no parking available that weekend.

As the ski season winds down start making your plans to visit Guye Cabin in Spring & Summer. Many people say that Snoqualmie

Pass is even more appealing in the summer! At these times you will find the Cabin is generally quiet and relaxed. We will do some work parties starting in May. We'll do a few Cabin improvements and will focus on Trail work and firewood. The Cabin is a great place to meet new friends and renew old friendships!

April 22-23 is the 10th 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 Klippert, 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 since the second year and each year it has been even more fun than the year before! It makes everyone feel good to know they help clean up the only wilderness coastline in the lower 48. Come on out on April 22, to where the cold glacier water from Mount Olympus meets the Pacific Ocean! You can come for the day, or overnight. 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



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Vice President: Pat O'Brien

Vice President: Eli Holmes

Treasurer: Toby Young

Secretary: Ira Rushwald

At Large: John Commiskey, Charles Muzio, Pat Beurskens, Mike Daly, and Susan Ashlock

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!



Hög Loppet Trip Report (continued from page 1)

plod. But then "Aid 2" revived us with fruit, brownies, Gatorade, and a fire.

Off we zoomed on a long downhill. There was no wind, and the views were great. It seemed that most people were having a great time. Then came some up and down, and a long gradual uphill. The comment was heard: "Does this hill ever end?" But it did, and a short fast downhill led to "Aid 3". This stop was great! Hot soup, hot dogs, another fire, and various other goodies. We didn't want to leave ("Never pass up free food," although the Hög Loppet actually does have an entry fee).

Eventually we continued on the final part of the loppet. Some more good skating led up to the last saddle. While waiting here Michael snuck in a couple more tele turns... maybe he really is a closet tele skier. Then came the last downhill – it's five miles! Unfortunately this has to be shared with the snow machines. At least it is fast. We zipped to the finish, avoiding the snow machines. And then we were done! Pictures, more food (thank you organizers), and a bus back to Leavenworth. We were tired, but happy. Now we can look forward to the Snoqualmie Loppet in two weeks!



Snoqualmie Loppet Sunday March 13

Fourth Annual! From Hyak to Cabin Creek. 9 am 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! Maybe a shirt if you want one! We will arrange car shuttles to Cabin Creek.

The course is about 35 kilometers total distance, a little more than the Hög 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 & 2010 there were 30 participants.

1. New Hyak lift to the top and the upper trails at 9 am
2. Around Mount Catherine counter clockwise all the way to Hyak Lodge
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 Trollhaugen trail system
5. Exit Troll Hagen and ski toward I90 until you connect with the Stampede Pass Road
6. Walk the road, crossing I-90, and into the DOT yard (I'll have this marked with tape the day before)
7. Bear 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!
9. Meet back at Advaark Food Wagon for an Iron Horse Burrito & Juice.

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

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Snoqualmie Loppet Sunday March 13 (cont.)

We will meet at Hyak 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.

After the finish we will regroup for a tailgate party to relive the day's excitement at Advaark mobile café near the upper Hyak parking area. He has fresh Iron Horse Burritos, Tacos, Organic juices and Treats.

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

Vegetarian Potluck March 5 at 6 pm

This is the ninth year we will do the Vegetarian Potluck! Come up early and spend the day, or get some time in the snow and work up a big appetite. Everything will be specialty potluck. Please bring your very best dishes of hot dishes, main courses, salads, appetizers, vegetables, deserts. Bring plenty to feed 5-10 hungry skiers. 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.

Back Country Class Photos



to see more images go to:

<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=2584023&id=2704013>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/susanashlock/sets/72157626045785643/with/5487847246/>

MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION TEAMS:

Never charge for their services.

Are non-profit all-volunteer mountain search-and-rescue teams.

Are nationally accredited by the Mountain Rescue Association.

Provide day or night mountain search and/or rescue capability.

Members:

... Are on-call 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year

... Provide their own personal equipment

... Are prepared for 48 hours afield, year 'round

... Are trained for any Washington season, terrain, weather, or altitude.

Rely entirely upon donations and grants for funding.

Thanks to Robert Coleman and the Mountain Rescue Association



WAC Community News

Guye Cabin



Guye Cabin Work Parties beginning 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 both fireplace room windows

New balcony door in women's dorm

New french door to fireplace room

Replace sinks and faucets in bathrooms

Normal summer work:

Chainsaw rounds / Split wood

Trail work / yard work

Paint /repair outside Cabin

Guye Cabin Work Party Dates will be announced next month!

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.

Community-

Be mindful of others. Observe quiet times. Make some new friends!

WAC Planned Giving

WAC Planned Giving is encouraging Washington Alpine Club members to remember the Club in their wills, or through donations. Have you made arrangements to help see our Club into the future? The WAC is almost 100 years old, and Guye Cabin is celebrating its 76th anniversary this year. Please help to ensure that our grand Club that has given so many of us so many wonderful memories continues to provide outdoor opportunities to children and people of all ages! In the twenty-first century this is more important than ever before.

Have you renewed your membership yet?

Please renew today!

We are excited to offer online renewal via Google Checkout! Memberships are based year to year, so unless you took advantage of our multi-year payment plan your WAC membership is up for renewal! Please renew today!

Click here to find out <http://www.wacweb.org/About/join.view> How to renew

We hope that you continue to support the Washington Alpine Club and take advantage of all the opportunities that membership offers. That WAC does many good things for people of all ages, but we can only do this good work with your support. Please renew today!

Annual Dues (renewals)	Regular Members (18-64yrs)	Senior Dues	Out of State Dues
1 Year: Through Dec 2011	\$30	\$15	\$20
2 Years: Through Dec 2012	\$60	\$25	\$35
3 Years: Through Dec 2013	\$85	\$35	\$50
4 Years: Through Dec 2014	\$115	\$45	\$65
5 Years: Through Dec 2015	\$135	\$55	\$80

The annual membership is from January 1 to December 31. To renew, you can send a check to the address below or use the Google Checkout links.

When renewing, members also have the opportunity to pay annual Guye Cabin fees in lieu of single day or overnight fees. These annual cabin fees are effective for the membership year. Support Guye Cabin!

Annual Cabin Dues \$80.00 per person
\$120.00 for two people
\$150.00 for three or more family members (13 and older)

Please consider adding an additional gift to your membership renewal check. Your contribution will help us with scholarships and major upcoming cabin expenses including construction of the new parking lot. Thanks for supporting your club!

Please renew online or send your check made out to "WAC", to:

Washington Alpine Club
c/o Kristin Kaupang
7712 14th Ave SW
Seattle, WA 98106

Winter Parking Procedures

We will have about 10 spaces on our side. Once those spaces are filled we must park at the far north end of the Sahalie side of the road. Everyone needs to make sure the signs, cones, and tape are out each day. Everyone is responsible for our parking. Do not allow the public to park in our area!

We will park on our side only south of the A-frame fire hydrant.

Once those spaces are filled we must park at the far north end of the Sahalie side of the road. We must put the signs out Friday evening, and return them Sunday afternoon. All WAC cars and guests must have a decal or parking pass displayed.

Friday morning the Summit will plow, so we must have the area cleared at that time.

Please contact Mike if you have questions, concerns, etc.

mikemahanay@gmail.com

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. 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/group.php?gid=6180692402

Announcements



Washington Alpine Club
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Seattle, WA 98111

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FIRST CLASS

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