

Washington Alpine Club | Bulletin



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.

IN THIS ISSUE

WAC Information	2
President's Corner	3
Beach Cleanup	4
Climbing Class	5
WAC Community New	6
Membership	7

May 2011 | Volume 95, Issue 5

Olympic Beach Cleanup by Mike Mahanay



Once again the Washington Alpine Club participated in the annual Olympic Beach Cleanup. This is our tenth year! We had an excellent turnout and excellent weather!

The Olympic Beach Cleanup was the idea of our good friend Jan Klippert. He was hiking the Olympic Coast and noticed a variety of debris that had washed up on the beaches. The current across the Pacific Ocean carries objects from as far away as Asia! Jan went home and started making phone calls. He now has a growing annual event with over 1000 volunteers participating, as well as the National Park Service, Cities of Port Angeles, and Forks, and even the Makah Indian Nation. Sadly, Jan passed away in January 2007.

The Trailhead at Oil City is at the end of a dirt road, at the Olympic National Park boundary. Most people don't know it, but there is no city, nor any oil, at Oil City. At one time it was a drilling prospect in someone's crazy dream. Now it is only a place in the Hoh Rain Forest, at the mouth of the Hoh River. This year we even

came across one guy looking for property he had bought at Oil City. I hope he didn't pay too much! The Hoh River begins its journey high above on the Blue Glacier of Mount Olympus. Oil City is an ugly name for an extremely beautiful place. The silver lining in the name Oil City? It helps keeps folks away!

It is less than two miles to the Hoh Beach and the Pacific Ocean. As usual, we set up camp above the high water line in the shelter of the drift logs. The beach had changed a lot since last year. All the driftwood was new, and the Hoh River had formed a spit and emptied into the Pacific Ocean 100 meters north of where it did last year.

With cool, cloudy, and breezy weather we set up camp with in a sheltered place with an ocean view. We had a group kitchen area, one fire, and the tents dispersed following large group camping procedures. We practiced "Leave no Trace". Bald Eagles perched in the Sika Spruce high above, while others soared at the edge of the sky.

continued page 4 >>

WAC Information

Calendar

May 2011	
May 13-15	Alpine Climbs at Snoqualmie Pass
May 20-22	Alpine Climbs at Snoqualmie Pass
June 2011	
June 18	Work Party & Open House
July 2011	
July 9-10	STP Bike Ride
July 16	Work Party & Open House
August 2011	
August 5-6	RSVP Bike Ride
August 13	Work Party & Open House
August 13	WAC Summer Party
August 27-28	Rhapsody Bike Ride
August 27-28	Inner City Outings Train the Trainer
September 2011	
September 1	Board Meeting

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 user 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.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Mike Mahanay | 206.931.4713

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Pat O'Brien | 206.527.6881

2nd Vice President

Eli Holmes

Treasurer

Toby Young

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Pat Beurskens, Mike Daly, Susan Ashlock

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Randy Oakley

Nordic

Karel Zikan, Mark Daly, Eli Holmes

Back Country

John Commiskey, Ty Tyler, Mary Strazer

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President's Corner

May 2011

by Mike Mahanay

Yes, it is true. May is here! Winter really started in March and doesn't seem to want to end. Crystal will stay open until the snow melts in July! There are many folks still getting some runs in the backcountry now and all through the summer. Mount St. Helens, Camp Muir, Mount Baker, and Mount Adams are all fantastic trips on spring corn.

Have you ever wondered how many members are in the WAC? There are now 548 members! The Club is very successful with all the things we do. Thanks to your ongoing support of your dues and especially your time. Thank you!

Our 2011 Climbing Class will be on Snoqualmie Pass the next two weekends and will base out of Guye Cabin for climbs of The Tooth, Lundin, and other alpine summits. They are a very strong group this year, and we have an excellent group of instructors! Pat O'Brien, and our co-chairs, Joanna, Ira, and Amanda are doing a fantastic job running the class

For the tenth year in a row the WAC participated in the Olympic Wilderness Beach Cleanup. There were 14 participants this year. Working as a team with absolutely incredible sunny weather they easily made the beaches from the Hoh River all the way to Jefferson Cove and Hoh Head look like humans had never set foot on them. We expected to see Captain Cook sail by looking for the Northwest Passage like he did some 500 years ago! It is a fantastic feeling to take an opportunity to "give something back" and enjoy the amazing beauty and wilderness at the Pacific Ocean. Everyone came back with good stories and new experiences!

Thanks to everyone who helped out.

How do you get in touch with other WAC people? It's easy and there are several ways. Our excellent Washington Alpine Club web page is one. Everything you want to know about the WAC is there! You can find out what is happening in the club, find members email addresses and phone numbers, check trip reports, and see upcoming events. We also have the yahoo waclist, and Facebook. Attending the many WAC classes and events are great ways to meet people and have fun. There are many ways to network in the WAC community.

Our Club has one of the most active, collaborative, dedicated and smartest Boards ever. Everyone is working hard for the best interest of the Club. We continue to work to reduce expenses, keep the Club overhead at a minimum, and make things easier for those that come after us. We are looking into updating the Club Constitution, and evolving the Club from a 501C7 to a 501C3 status. If you can help or have comments please contact us. Many other people work very hard and put in hours to keep the WAC moving forward. Did you know that there are over 100 people that help with our classes each year? Almost that many people help out at Guye Cabin during the work parties each summer.

Our first work party of the year will be on June 18. We'll finish the last two windows, replace a couple of doors, and upgrade the bathrooms. There will be still snow on the ground so we'll be limited with what we can do outside. If you can help with the windows or doors we need you on this day. We might



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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

come up with some other fun stuff to do. Later we'll fire up the grill and have a potluck cookout of burgers and stuff. Come on out and visit the Cabin, find a project to work on, and bring some food and drink to share. Build some memories at Guye Cabin! We will have these work parties each month into October. Work Parties are great opportunities to visit the Cabin in the summer and/or stay overnight. The truth is- you don't have to work, just come up to do a hike or climb and have fun.

What is it that makes the WAC so special? I think about that often. Certainly a lot has to do with our long outdoor history, our commitment and focus on conservation and education, and our magical Guye Cabin. Mostly it is simply the amazing wonderful people in the WAC. You, our members, your family and friends, are what make our Club truly extraordinary, and fun! Thank you all!

Olympic Beach Cleanup

Olympic Beach Cleanup (continued from page 1)



Hoh Beach is interesting in that large amount of logs and driftwood accumulate on the beach each winter. They wash down the Hoh River, and are deposited on the beach by the high storm tides. Each year the beach has a different character as logs and wood are washed away or deposited. What is a sandy beach one year, might be a huge pile of logs the next.

This year the low tide was at 11:40 AM. This was perfect as our team headed North along the beach and cobbles around Diamond Head to Jefferson Cove. Diamond Head can only be passed at low tide.

We have learned from our friend the NPS Ranger that the styrofoam and plastic were the worst of all the debris, as it continues to break down into smaller and smaller pieces, and leeches into the water. Armed with trash bags we picked up floats, styrofoam, plastic bottles, lots of rope, pieces of fishing nets, two tires, and tangles of fishing line. We did find a few pieces of metal, but not as much as in previous years.

At the North end of Jefferson Cove are some wonderful tide pools at low tide. They are full of starfish! This is also the place where a ladder takes hikers off the beach to the trail that goes over the impassable Hoh Headland to Mosquito Creek. 17 miles, two creek crossings, a waterfall, and two other Headlands later hikers exit at Third Beach.

The famous Japanese Glass Floats are still found occasionally along our Ocean, but not near as many as in times past. Jan has found one! Rumor on the beach was that one was found at Kalaloch Beach this weekend.

Evening saw the team gather around the fire for some fun! The lighthouse far offshore on Destruction Island came on exactly at sunset. Destruction Island has been the scene of many shipwrecks in years past.

A leisurely morning and then a leisurely hike out on Sunday. A grand time was had by all.



Fun Bald Eagle Facts

1. The Bald Eagle is not really bald; it actually has white feathers on its head, neck, and tail. Bald is a derivation of balde, an Old English word meaning white. The eagle was named for its white feathers instead for a lack of feathers.



2. Bald Eagles may use the same nest year after year, adding more twigs and branches each time. One nest was found that had been used for 34 years and weighed over two tons!

3. The Bald Eagle can fly 20 to 40 mph in normal flight and can dive at speeds over 100 mph.

4. Bald Eagles can actually swim! They use an overhand movement of the wings that is very much like the butterfly stroke. Bald Eagles have also been known to swim to shore with a heavy fish using their strong wings as paddles.

5. Eagles feed mainly on fish, but water fowl, small mammals and carrion supplement their diet, especially when fish are in short supply. Eagles can fly up to 30 m.p.h. and can dive at speeds up to 100 m.p.h. Their keen eyesight allows them to spot fish at distances up to 1 mile. Eagles swoop down to seize a fish in their talons and carry it off, but can only lift about five pounds.

continued page 5 >>

Olympic Beach Cleanup

(continued from page 4)



Conservation

Bald Eagles are a very important part of the environment. By eating dead animal matter, they help with nature's clean-up process. Bald Eagles are also hunters, so they keep animal populations strong. They do this by killing weak, old, and slower animals, leaving only the healthiest to survive.

The Bald Eagle is our national symbol, so when it became threatened with extinction in the 1960s due to pesticide use, habitat loss, and other problems created by humans, people took notice. For years the bald eagle was listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Now the number of Bald Eagles has increased so much that in June, 1994 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed that they be downgraded from endangered status to the less urgent status of threatened in all but three of the lower 48 states. The success of the Bald Eagle is a tribute to the Endangered Species Act and is an incentive for increased awareness and conservation everywhere.

The northwest coast of North America is by far the most dense area for Bald Eagles. They flourish on the Olympic Coast because of the salmon. Dead or dying fish are an important food source for all Bald Eagles. More about Bald Eagles at <http://www.eagles.org/moreabout.html>

Climbing Class Photos



WAC Community News

Guye Cabin



Cabin Work Parties 2011

The Cabin is a great place to base for hikes, bike rides, and climbs in the Snoqualmie Peaks! Consider combining a trip outside with a day at a work party.

We'll again have a potluck cookout for lunch, bring stuff for burger or hotdogs and sides to share! We'll look for a couple of people to organize this each time. Do you see something you can help out with? We need some skilled folks to lead projects. We also need folks who can just help out, and learn some new skills.

Schedule for this year! Mark your calendars! All Saturdays!

- June 18
- July 16
- August 13
- September
- October 16

Here is the list of stuff we are working on!

Inside

- Fireplace room windows
- New outside door for the Ladies Dorm
- French Door for Fireplace room
- Bathroom upgrades (sinks)
- Various Electrical repairs
- Redo shower room

Outside in the Yard

- Firewood detail
- Trail work
- Build Benches for outside

Needed Donations (must be nice)

Book cases (any furniture carpenters out there?)



Membership



WAC Summer Party

Our Annual Summer party will be Sat August 13. Come up to Guye Cabin and enjoy the magic of a summer day in the mountains. Hike or climb and then come by to hang beginning at 3 pm and then BBQ at 6 pm with your WAC friends. Huckberries and rhubarb will be ripe and ready to eat!

Live band too!

Got an instrument? Bring it up to play!.

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

mikemahanay@gmail.com

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

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



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

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FIRST CLASS

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