

Washington Alpine Club | Bulletin



Washington Alpine Club

P.O. Box 352
Seattle, WA 98111

www.wacweb.org

The Bulletin is 100% online

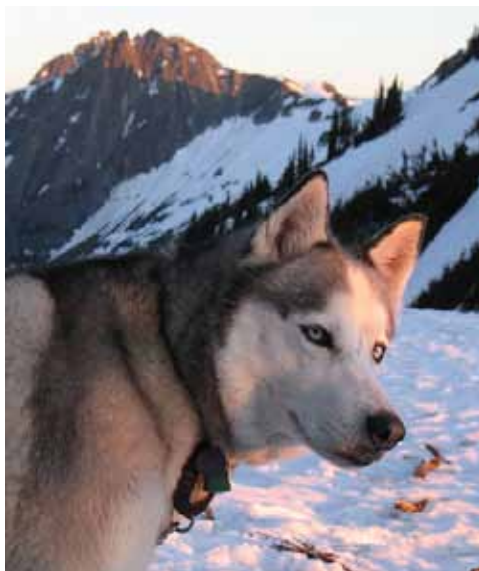
This format allows us to offer photos, color, more timely content, and saves a lot of paper and trees. For those without email, with dial up connections, or with incompatible software we will continue to mail the Bulletin.

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November 2011 | Volume 95, Issue 8

Finding Rika by Katherine Martin



Finding Rika

So today I decided to hike Teneriffe, a hike that my old work partner Maria had told me about. It's about 13.5 miles roundtrip and up an old logging road. It actually looks down on Mt. Si. I'd planned on going yesterday, but got caught up in errands, so I put it off one more day. After waking up late today to the sound of pouring rain, I was thinking about putting it off a few more days. But it's the Northwest. Perfect weather doesn't exist when I head outdoors.

I finally make it to the trailhead around one o'clock. I have this awesome habit of starting hikes late in the day and *always* have to set a turnaround time for myself. I usually see the summit for about 10 minutes, before having to turn around and haul patootie down the trail so I'm not hiking for too long in the dark. Solo hiking in the dark ain't my thing.

About four miles in (at the I'm-never-doing-this-again-phase), I realize that my new rain jacket isn't as waterproof as I'd like. It's cold and I can't focus on anything other than my aching legs.

Anyway, coming down the trail toward me is an older guy all decked out in quality rain gear, gloves, hat, trekking poles... He was a NOLS guide if I've ever seen one, but I still don't trust random people when I'm out by myself. But he's all class, and I was definitely schlepping. I say hi and so does he. "I lost my dog up here," he says. "So did Ted Bundy," I want to say, but somehow my snarky gene decided to become recessive for a moment. "I'm so sorry," I say instead, "was it today?" He tells me it was on Saturday, that her name's Rika, she's a Siberian husky, and gives me a flier with her picture and a phone number to call if I see her. We go our separate ways.

Another mile or so up the trail, I'm starting to crash. I'm full-on jealous of Mr. NOLS's gloves and rainpants. (Why I didn't put on the rain pants I was carrying with me in my backpack, I'm not sure. Hindsight is clearly 20/20.) It's about 3:30, and my turnaround time is 4:30. I've got about another mile and a half and decide to keep going. I finally get to a spot where the logging road opens up to a clearing; it's a little hard to figure out where to go, so I pull out my map (which proved to be totally not helpful) and see this super steep dirt trail to my right. I know I'm on the home stretch, and right is the only way that makes sense from what I can see. So that's where I head, up the trail with felled trees, widowmakers

WAC Information

Calendar

NOVEMBER 2011	
NOVEMBER 12/13	WRFA Class
DECEMBER 2011	
DECEMBER 10	Annual New Snow Dinner
JANUARY 2012	
JANUARY 04	Marmot Ski Demo
JANUARY 11	Randonee/Telemark Class Begins
FEBRUARY 2012	
FEBRUARY 25	Hog Loppet Ski Tour
FEBRUARY 26	WAC Fun day
MARCH 2012	
MARCH 11	Snowqualmie Loppet Ski Tour
MARCH 17	Vegetarian Potluck Dinner

The Washington Alpine Club Annual Meeting was held on October 16. Please welcome and congratulate the 2012 Directors!

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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Randy Oakley

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Eli Holmes, Karel Zikan

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President's Corner

November 2011

by Mike Mahanay

Excitement is building for a wonderful ski season with the arrival of La Nina. As of today we have not had any snow at Snoqualmie Pass other than a dusting on the peaks. There is good snow reported on the Muir Snowfield. Lots of WACers did the Enchantment traverse this month. They were greeted with two feet of new snow, amazing yellow larches, and crystal blue skies.

We recently had an excellent Annual Meeting at Guye Cabin. The turnout was our best ever in spite of the beautiful fall day in the mountains. Several people spent Saturday night, and then spent Sunday morning hiking trails, doing a chore, or having fun. Everyone enjoyed the most delicious food for lunch, while we caught up on old friends that we hadn't seen all summer, and some new ones too.

Afterwards, we easily had a quorum for the meeting. The WAC has a very high level of involvement by its members. Old and new, from all aspects of the Club were in attendance. It was a real treat to meet everyone that attended and see their enthusiasm and interest in our Club. The WAC continues to be really focused on the future and how we can improve everyone's experience while maintaining the historical uniqueness and traditions of the WAC.

Our 2011 Board and Chairs have done a fantastic job over the last year. We have a fantastic, motivated, and committed team managing the WAC and it shows. Our Club continues to improve every year. Once again most of our current Directors have agreed to stay intact for the 2011 year. Joining the Board is Dave Wilson as our new Treasurer.

The Board of Directors was voted in by the members at the Annual Meeting. Thanks to the outgoing Director - John Commiskey for their years of service!

We would like especially to thank Kristin Kaupang for her 4 years as Membership Chair. Kristin was instrumental in creating a seamless online renewal process to make it easier for everyone.

Dana Beck is our new membership chair once again. (This is the second go around for Dana!) Thanks Dana! If you have not renewed for 2012, do so today and help Dana out! We won't send out bills, so please check the website and follow the instructions to pay online or send in your check. Many people save a little money and pay for five years to make it easier on themselves. Also be sure to include your annual Cabin Fees. <http://www.wacweb.org/About/renew.view>

When you run into these folks that guide our Club as it approaches its second century be sure to give them a big "thank you"! Our club is run 100% by volunteers donating lots of time, energy, money, and effort. We can make the WAC whatever we want it to be, it just takes folks willing to step up and volunteer as an instructor, lead that first aid class, climb, outing, snowshoe, ski lesson, cabin repair, or kids' hike!

Thanks to Scott Calhoun for putting forth the effort to become our lead WAC Wilderness Remote First Aid instructor! The class will be on November 11/13 at Guye Cabin. If you have not taken WRFA before it is highly recommended for everyone. Each year we hope to get at least three more people from the class to take the instructors' course in December and help with future classes! The



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

WAC pays the cost of the instructor course.

Coming up on December 10, is our annual New Snow Dinner at Guye Cabin. Anyone want to volunteer this year? If you have an idea for an entrée and want to prepare it for 50 people just let me know! You can do anything you want. As always, vegetarian selections, salads, veggies, and deserts will be specialty potluck. Yummm! Please join us for a wonderful afternoon, evening, and night at Guye Cabin. We hope to see new members, and those of you that haven't been up for a while. With any luck we'll have some of the WAC musicians on hand for some songs. We'll also have a slide show. An evening of great food, lots of fun, meeting old friends, and making some new friends! Cost? Suggested \$5 donation per person to cover the cost of the entrée.

What can be better than a Wednesday evening skiing? Randy Oakley has put together the WAC Telemark / randonee class on Wednesday nights. Our class

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Finding Rika (continued from page 1)

all around, rocks galore. Every few hundred feet I have to stop. The rain's coming down harder and the wind kicks up like none other. About a half mile up, I can't make out the trail anymore. It's 4 o'clock.

I decide to call it. I drop my pack to swap out some gear, change rain jackets (I've learned to not test new gear without backup; at least I did something right today), grab my gaiters and an energy bar.

Cursing the rain, I turn to my left...and standing next to me is a beautiful white Siberian husky peering at me with the sweetest blue eyes. "Oh my gosh, oh my gosh, oh my gosh," I start saying out loud. I grab the flier and cellphone (that no longer works, for the record, courtesy of the rain) out of my pocket and tear open the energy bar to start feeding Rika. She's totally skittish and starts to run back into the woods. I get down on her level and call her back. Oh-so-slowly she comes back and takes some food from me. My phone has no reception. I grab a carabiner and the laces from my gaiters to make a leash, quickly realizing that there's no way she's going to go for that. For five or ten minutes we go back and forth between her running to the woods and me calling her back, bribing her with food. But it's getting colder and the rain's falling harder. I don't want to leave her but I have to head down. So slowly I start hiking

out. I look behind me, and she's watching. "Come on Rika," I yell back. She takes a few steps toward me. This could be good. She follows me down the trail to the logging road.

I finally get reception on my phone and call the number on the flier. "Navos Mental Health Hospital, how can I help you?" What are

the odds? I check the flier. Wrong number. I try again and get a phone machine, but the message mentions Rika and gives a cell number to call. My fingers are so cold I can barely dial the numbers. Finally I get someone on the phone. I ask if he hiked Teneriffe and if he lost his dog. "Yes!" "Well I've got her here with me and we're heading down!" He's almost in tears and keeps saying he can't believe that I have Rika and that he'll start driving to the trailhead. "We've got about 5 or 6 miles to go," I tell him, "you'll definitely beat us there."

So for 6 miles, Rika and I work our way down Teneriffe. A few miles down, something big and black runs across the trail and Rika takes off after it. "Crap," I'm thinking, "I'm either going to lose her or shoot a bear trying to take her." Either option isn't good, as much as I'd love a bear rug. I find her near the edge of the trail and coax her back with some food. Win. She runs into the woods a few more times over the next few miles, but always comes back.

After two hours, Rika and I make it to the trailhead. Her owner Pat is waiting for us and is absolutely elated and grateful. He hugs me and hands me a cup of hot chocolate as he tells me Rika's story. They'd been hiking on Saturday near the summit when she ran on ahead. When Pat got to the summit, Rika was nowhere to be found. "When we get separated, she usually goes back to the car," he says, "so I headed back down and she wasn't there. I slept in my car that night waiting for her and when she didn't show up the next morning, I hiked all over looking for her." He had hiked again on Monday, and it was actually a friend of his looking for Rika that I met on the trail today. "I had sent out

an email to a bunch of people, everyone knows her and loves her and felt so bad." I understand, I say, and tell him about my dog, Alta, and how I'd be lost without her. (She's twelve now and looked so tired this morning before I left for the hike

that I really didn't want to leave her. She's my buddy!)

Pat snaps a few photos of Rika and me before we swap info and part ways. Rika seems relieved and happy, and it's nice to know that she'll be at home tonight where she belongs.

So many times I wanted to turn around today. It was raining so hard, the hike was steeper than I thought, and my head just wasn't in the game. But for whatever reason, God let me go as far as I did and call it when I did, all to find a little lost dog and bring her home. Nothing, not even little things, happen by chance.

Katherine Martin

Crossing the Enchantments by Jiri Pertold



Those of you that have visited the Enchantments know the area is beautiful. Last Saturday was especially stunning with fresh snow, blue skies and larches turned bright yellow. Hurry to see it before the color show is over! The crossing was about 18 miles long with 4500 ft of elevation gain and 6500 ft of elevation drop. The trip took us 13

hours, with lots of stops for food and pictures. Camping permits (typically overbooked) are not required after 10/15.

Starting from Bellevue at 3:30 am, we parked our first car at the Snow Lake trailhead at the elevation of 1400 ft and drove our second car to the Colchuck Lake trailhead at the elevation of 3400 ft. Our group of three, Magdalena, Jiri and Alena, started walking just before 7 am in the freezing clear night full of stars, using headlamps for about half an hour. The first snow appeared just before Colchuck Lake. Large boulders, which we had to cross at the southern end of the lake, were frozen over and very slippery. It took us over an hour to walk what normally takes 15 minutes.

Snow depth increased as we were climbed above Colchuck Lake, and the walking got steadily easier. We hit sunshine at Aasgard Pass, took off hats, gloves, then jackets, and after another hour we were walking in T-shirts. Two feet of fresh snow made the mountains look pristine. There was a good trail and we traveled at about the same speed and effort as one would travel in the summer. We spotted four mountain goats at Viviane Lake. They looked like the same happy family that walked through our campsite at Perfection Lake (Rune Lake) two weeks ago.

Towards the end we were racing with the Earth's rotation (700mph at this latitude) which beat us by about one hour. We stumbled to our car at 8 pm, tired and happy. One could do the trip faster and avoid walking at night if not accompanied by two women who are keen photographers, taking pictures of every lake, every yellow larch, waterfall, chipmunk and snowfield! But what would be the point of rushing through this beauty...

The Washington Alpine Club Telemark / Randonee Series



The Washington Alpine Club Telemark / Randonee Series offers telemark and randonee ski instruction at all levels to WAC members. The six week series is held Wednesday nights at Summit West at Snoqualmie Pass.

The lesson series is designed to develop your skiing skill so you can ski with more confidence and enjoyment. Each lesson in the series builds on what was learned in the previous session. The instructor's observations and feedback on your movements will help you take your skiing to a new level. Classes are organized by ability level – often classmates develop into good ski buddies.

Class times are from: 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm on Wednesday nights. Carpools are run from the Mercer Island Park and Ride @5:30 pm and from Eastgate Park and Ride @5:30 pm.

Class dates: The 2012 program will be on Wednesday nights: Jan 11th, 18th, 25th, Feb 1st, 8th and 15th.

Gear: For telemark skiers plastic boots and modern shaped skis are highly recommended. For randonee skiers, either modern randonee gear or standard alpine equipment will work fine - the classes focus on downhill skiing skill development.

Rentals are available from several local shops. Alpine gear may be rented from the Summit.

Pricing this season is as follows:

Now through November 30th: \$139.00
December 1st through January 4th: \$154.00
After January 5th: Not available!

This season the sign up system has been streamlined and you will no longer will need to sign up twice! Just send me an email at Randy.Oakley@gmail.com and let me know you want to sign up. Once I've verified your WAC membership, I'll send you a link to the sign-up page on the Summit's website - where you may also purchase a season's pass at a discount if you like.

The program is available to Washington Alpine Club members – you must be a WAC member in good standing (dues paid up through December 2012) to attend each class.

Nordic Ski Clinics

We offer Nordic skiing workshops for all levels, taught by PSIA level III instructors Karel and Eli.

Guye Cabin

Presidents Corner

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has been around for over 20 years and is the largest telemark class in the country! It has produced many of Washington's best backcountry skiers. They are already accepting applications online so help spread the word. We hope to again have Guye Cabin open on Wednesday nights for the duration of the class, so plan on some overnights!

Thanks to the 2011 Climbing co-chairs Joanna Hingle, Amanda Stoneham, and Ira Rushwald. Joanna has finished a two year stint and is stepping down. Filling her shoes for next year are Eric Poley and Gerhard Schneider. Along with Pat O'Brien they will be organizing the 2012 edition of the WAC Basic Climbing Class. The co-chairs are beginning the early planning for the class, and we will have further schedule and application details very soon. A big thanks to Johana Hingle and Ira Rushwald for their service as co-chairs.

The Intermediate Class was led by Andrew Sullivan and April McCoy! The 2012 backcountry Class will be led by Susan Ashlock, Alex Ford, and Denny Trimble

November always brings Thanksgiving Day, a WAC favorite, our wonderful national feast day, and one of our most important holidays. On this special day, we all pause for a moment to reflect on the bounty of our lives, and also those people less fortunate than ourselves. As our Club travels into its second century we continue to work to ensure that this gift to us from the past is preserved, and to take care that it will remain intact for centuries to come, for our children's children. In many ways this has been a tough year for us. A lot has happened in the last year, but we have many reasons to be very proud of our club. We are

thankful for the natural gifts we have, and most importantly for our friends, partners, and community. I am very proud (as we all are) to be a part of the WAC community! Have a fantastic winter season!



Guye Cabin

Thanks to army of people that helped out over the summer, Guye Cabin is ready for the coming record (potential) setting winter! They installed 2 new huge energy efficient windows in the "Great Room", and new countertops and sinks in the bathrooms. We also have split and stacked a winters worth of firewood, and did extensive grounds work. The trails are improved. Some new trees were planted.

Thanks to each and every of you who helped! The Cabin is better than ever and ready for the La Nina Winter Season!

We want to call special recognition to Dale Ott for the work bucking, splitting and stacking firewood plus getting the yard back in shape. Special recognition also goes to Archie Brenden for his tireless work with new windows in the Rec Room and a host of other projects. Mark Hume led the

bathroom efforts. Also Phil Harvey, Dave Mitchell, Ilana Wolman, Ralph Preston, Jiri Pertold, Ed Kelting, , Mike Dietsch, Johnny Moeller, Eli & Karel. Many others helped out too both inside and out! We really appreciate everyone!

When you renew please purchase the Annual Cabin Fee option. You won't every have to worry about writing a check when you visit the Cabin, and most importantly you'll be helping support the kind of work and upgrades we do each summer. You can renew and pay the annual Cabin fee online! <http://www.wacweb.org/About/renew.view> Don't forget the New Snow Dinner on December 10!

Guye Cabin Recycling-

The WAC is green & The Cabin follows the same recycling program as the city of Seattle. There are three bins to sort garbage, recycling, and compostable items. Note- we need to take them home when you leave and put them in your home bins. Thanks!

Paper coffee cups and their lids are both recyclable (not just the cardboard sleeve) after being poured out. Seattle is one of the few areas in the country where both are able to be recycled. Plastic cups and bottles for drinking were a common occurrence in our garbage. Those are recyclable. Empty plastic food trays from microwave meals and to-go clamshell containers can be quickly rinsed and then recycled. Plastic 'to go' boxes can be rinsed and recycled.

Paper/cardboard 'to go' boxes, napkins, all food waste, vegetables, coffee grounds, etc should be composted

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

Nordic Ski Clinics

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A combination of classic and skate styles. We might do workshops in Jan. Feb. and March.

Kids Nordic Ski Classes

The Junior Nordic Program is a progressive program to teach children all-round skills for Nordic skiing. For ages 4 to 8, we focus on striding (classic) and downhill skills. Starting around age 8 or 9, kids learn to skate. Kids age 9 and older split their season between classic and skating styles. For kids under the age of 10, learning through games and adventure is very important.

Kids in Treasure Trails, Little Nords, and Freeheelers will play a variety of games like treasure hunts, skiing off trail through the woods, playing soccer on skis, and having snowball fights, all in the process of learning to ski well. When kids enter High Pros and are ready for directed technique coaching, they'll be solid striders and skaters. January to March.



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

Address Correction Requested
Do Not Forward

FIRST CLASS

TO: