

Washington Alpine Club | Bulletin

February 2012 | Volume 97, Issue 2



Washington Alpine Club

P.O. Box 352
Seattle, WA 98111

www.wacweb.org

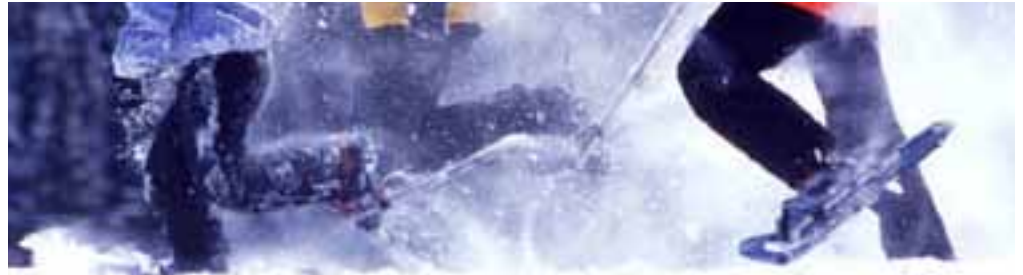
The Bulletin is 100% online

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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Snowshoeing



Do you have snowshoes taking up space, collecting dust, and not being used? Please donate them to the WAC at Guye Cabin. We use them as loaners and you can rest assured they will be put to good use!

Forest Service led trips

New to snowshoeing? Guided Forest Service snowshoe walks at Snoqualmie Pass offer a chance to experience winter's beauty while learning about snowshoeing and winter ecology. This moderately paced walk meanders through extraordinary old growth forest that opens to occasional views of surrounding snow-capped peaks. The walks are held January through March each year. They generally last 90 minutes. Group size is limited to 20 people and reservations are required. Children under the age of 10 cannot be accommodated. Snowshoes are provided for all walks. In order to offset the costs of the program, a \$10 donation per person is suggested. Please dress for winter weather; hats, gloves, sturdy, waterproof boots, and insulating layered clothing are recommended. Also offered is a longer snowshoe hike for those interested in a half-day outing in Gold Creek Basin. These walks will be led by Forest Service volunteers three days this winter and group size is limited to six participants. These ventures require a higher level of fitness and

winter preparedness; please call for more information. For more information or to make reservations call the Snoqualmie Pass Visitor Information Center at (425) 434-6111, Friday thru Monday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

On your own in the Snoqualmie Pass Area-

Amabilis Mountain: This trip starts at Exit 63 (Cabin Creek). Park on south side. Walk north across I-90 to F.S. Rd. 4826. Start snowshoeing on the right-hand side (not on!) of the groomed x-c tracks on this road. About ¼ mile along this road past the Kongsberger ski cabin, turn right onto F.S. Rd. 4822 and start climbing! Stay to the right. when going up the road, as there might be skiers coming down. Give them the right-of-way. Cross a small creek. At approximately 2 miles., you reach a fork. If you go left (clockwise), this is the shorter route to the top. At approximately 3 miles, cross a road and head up to the ridge crest. Turn right, and follow to the actual summit. If you go to the right back at the 2-mile fork, this is the longer of the two routes to get to the top--or join the two to make a loop (some navigational skills needed to complete this loop). Views of Lake Keechelus Valley and the South Cascades to the south & Three Queens Mts. to the north. Sno-Park

continued page 4 >>

WAC Information

Calendar

FEBRUARY 2012	
FEBRUARY 7	Backcountry Travel Course Begins
FEBRUARY 15	Oddfellows - Basic Climbing Class
FEBRUARY 18 - 19	Skiing the Steeps at Alpental with the Washington Alpine Club
FEBRUARY 25	Hog Loppet Ski Tour
FEBRUARY 26	WAC Fun Day
MARCH 2012	
MARCH 11	Snoqualmie Loppet Ski Tour
MARCH 17	Vegetarian Potluck Dinner
MARCH 17 & 18	Instructor Training - Basic Climbing Class

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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1st Vice President

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Dave Wilson

Secretary

Ira Rushwald

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Eli Holmes, Charles Muzio, Toby Young

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Randy Oakley

Nordic

Eli Holmes, Karel Zikan

Back Country

Susan Ashlock, Alex Ford, Denny Trimble

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President's Corner

February 2012

by Mike Mahanay

Good grief! Our snowpack doubled in one week! I hope everyone got out to enjoy all the new snow. As we do every year, this past weekend we snowshoed out to the WAC Basin to do our annual snowpack analysis. We recorded a base of over 70 inches. This is twice as much as we had this time last year. After the rain last Sunday the snow is very heavy with high water content. The weather is forecast to be a bit warm, and a little on the dry side. We should have good skiing through April at least. The WAC's friend Cliff Mass told us that we will soon be over the hump with the winter and will soon reach our peak snowpack.

Have you renewed your membership for 2012? Our awesome Membership Chair Dana Beck says there are over 200 people who have not renewed as of February first! Are you one? The renewal period is really October thru December. Membership is based on the calendar year. Not sure if you are paid up? Just go to the website and look your name up! Also, you should have received numerous emails and reminders. Please help us out and renew online via the WAC website or send your check in today. Check with your friends and family and make sure they have sent theirs in. The WAC is a wonderful organization that provides opportunities for people of all ages to experience and enjoy the outdoors. To do this we need your help each year.

The widely renowned WAC Telemark and Randonee class is going strong every Wednesday night. Everyone has a great time and enjoys the challenge of learning a new discipline or improving their skills. We love to watch all the graceful telemarkers. Wednesday night is also a favorite time for folks to come up for a night of midweek skiing at Central or Alpentel, or enjoy Nordic on the

Iron Horse or Cabin Creek trails. Vivian Darst hosts Guye Cabin every Wednesday so please take advantage of her efforts and spend the night. This is the only time the Cabin is open other than the weekends. RSVP with Vivian is required. Thanks Vivian!

Both the Backcountry Class and the Climbing Class are getting ready to start. Susan Ashlock, Alex Ford, & Denny Trimble's Backcountry Class will be at the Cabin February 11/12. The Climbing Class instructors will be up on March 17/18. The classes are a great way to make some new friends and new skills and experience. The WAC has some of the smartest, most helpful & patient instructors in all the outdoors! Helping instruct a class each year is a wonderful way to give a little back to our Club!

The famous Hog Loppet Ski Tour from Mission Ridge to Blewett Pass is Feb 25. March 17 is the vegetarian Potluck and March 11 is the fifth annual Snoqualmie Loppet Ski Tour. Both of these tours are about 35K with some hills. Contact me for more info.

Always guaranteed fun and smiles, the WAC Fun Day will be Sunday February 26 at 10 am! Mark your calendars! On the WAC trails we'll have a ski race and a snowshoe race for kids and for adults. We'll also have a ski/snowshoe treasure hunt. There will be hot chocolate, cookies and a fire at the start/finish line. There will also be an awards ceremony and raffle in the WAC Dining Hall. Make your plans now to attend this event. Want to help out? Contact Eli Holmes.

The WAC is cool because it has something for everyone. Do what you can to help out. Participate and attend some of the many activities going on this winter!



This is an excellent year at Guye Cabin. We have an ever growing awesome group of wonderful people keeping the Cabin in good order. A collective thank you goes to Karel Zikan, Michael & Magda Balise, Eli Holmes, Archie Brenden, John Sargent, Aaron King, and Vivian Darst who have taken time to keep the Cabin organized and extra clean. Please be sure to help them out by keeping the kitchen & dining room clean, doing some chores, hauling the trash and recycling home, and shoveling snow. It is very important this year to keep the path to the Cabin open and the snow off both the front and back steps. Everyone should allow 30 minutes to help out. Don't know, or unsure what to do? Ask someone! The Cabin is open from Friday evening until about 3:00 pm Sunday afternoon.

Guye Cabin is a true mountain lodge, and it is evident that the WAC has a very strong winter division. Watch the kids and be careful outdoors. (There are tree wells and cornices...) Be sure to be respectful of the other folks, and follow the Cabin rules to ensure everyone has a good time. Be responsible and educate your guests and they will have an even better time. Yes, all guests and kids need to do a chore too!

All of this is what makes the Washington Alpine Club special! Our little club started in 1893 advocating for the creation of a National Park at Mount Rainier and is getting even better now. Many folks know almost everyone in the Club! It is made up of a lot of different little parts that come together as an exceptional outdoor club. Our mission is to encourage the healthful enjoyment of the great outdoors, preserve its natural beauty, and to promote good fellowship among all lovers of nature. We do this through our communities, classes, activities, and fellowship.

Snowshoeing (continued from page 1)

groomed parking permit required.

8 miles 2,100' gain 4,554' high point

Commonwealth Basin: This trip starts out near the Exit 52 interchange. Park in the parking lot for the Summit West ski area or park along S.R. 906 east of the Visitor Center. Cross the road & walk west. along the snow bank underneath the I-90 overpass. As the road bends past the overpass, you need to walk up the snow bank to get into the Pacific Crest North parking lot area. From here, you are on your way to go up the basin. Good navigational skills are most helpful. You are in a heavy forest canopy but can follow alongside the banks of Commonwealth Creek (on the east side) and use this as your landmark. Views of Guye Peak are to the west. and Red Mt. to the north. At approximately 2.5 mi., the valley narrows enough that you will eventually have to cross Commonwealth Creek. This is a good turnaround point before crossing the creek! There can be high avalanche danger up the basin beyond the creek.

4-5 miles 1,000' gain 4,000' high point

Keechelus Ridge: Take Exit 62 eastbound, I-90. Go north over the interchange & then head back west on I-90 approximately 1-1/2 mi. to the "Price Creek W. Sno-Park" exit 61. (There is no other way to access this Sno-Park if you come from the west.) A small trail leads northwest. from the Sno-Park to F.S. Rd. 4832. Head west on this road a couple hundred feet. Climb to the north onto a small side road, F.S. Rd. 124. This road climbs steeply up the sides of Keechelus Ridge alongside Price Creek for ½ mi. before heading west away from the creek. The best "cross-country" trail is approximately 1.3 miles out of the Sno-Park. Snowshoe up the slope away from the snowmobile track, staying right when the road goes left. Parallel Price Creek as you go uphill but stay on bench

above creek. Go approximately 1 mile before crossing F.S. Rd. 4934, just below ridge crest at 4,300'. Merge with F.S. Rd. 124 to make loop. This trip is for snowshoers who like to climb! Sno-Park ungroomed parking permit required.

6.5 miles 2,100' gain 4,900' high point

Kendall Peak Lakes: Take Exit 54 off I-90. Go north underneath I-90 straight ahead to the Gold Creek Sno-Park. This route heads up F.S. Rd. 9090 straight ahead on the west side of Gold Creek Valley and up towards Kendall Peak Lakes. Good views of Rampart Ridge on the east side of Gold Creek Valley, north towards Alta Mt. & Chikamin Ridge, & south towards the ski areas, Mt. Catherine, and even Mt. Rainier from the top! At approximately 1-3/4 mi. the road takes a sharp right hairpin turn. The left spur road. gives you views of the ski areas. If you stay to the right, this proceeds up towards the lakes. The road heads east and then north., as it stays on the west side of the crest. Switchback turns at approximately 2.5 & 3.5 miles. Stay to the north & follow Coal Creek at approximately 4-1/4 mi. keeping the creek on your left (west side) to the lower Kendall Peak Lake. Try not to approach the 3rd lake, as this is extremely steep and very avalanche prone. Sno-Park ungroomed parking permit required.

7-9 miles 1,700' gain 4,400' high point

Lower Gold Creek Basin: Take Exit 54 off I-90. Go north. under overpass a few hundred yards. & turn right onto F.S. Rd. 4832 & head east approximately 1 mile. on this road that parallels the westbound lanes of I-90. Park along the shoulders of the road near the small bridge, which is over the outlet of Mardee Lake as it goes into Lake Keechelus. Snowshoe north onto F.S. Rd. 142 to enter the east side of this valley. This valley starts at approximately 1 mile in width and continues

to narrow as you proceed up the valley on the east side of Gold Creek. You will see Kendall Peak to the northwest, Rampart Ridge to the east., Alta Mt. on the northeast, & Chikamin Ridge to the north. Part of this route travels through private residential property in Ski-Tur Valley. Please respect private property and do not trespass on driveways or property. Avalanche slide paths are on either side of the valley off the Kendall Peak area on the west or Rampart Ridge area on the east. Try to stay in the middle of the valley as much as possible or follow the creek up the valley. As the valley narrows at approximately 3.5 mi. at the creek, you will find this to be a good turnaround point rather than cross the creek! Sno-Park ungroomed parking permit required.

6-7 miles 400' gain 3,000' high point

Mount Margaret: Views of Lake Keechelus and Mt. Catherine to the south and the east side of Snoqualmie Pass. Take Exit 54 & turn north, proceeding under the I-90 overpass. Go a few hundred yards and then turn east onto F.S. Rd. 4832, which parallels the westbound lanes of I-90. Proceed to where the road ends by a snow-bermed turnaround. Park on the shoulder side of the road--do not block the turnaround. Follow the road southeast for approximately 1.5 miles from the snow-bermed road end. The road follows curves around the base of Rampart Ridge. After crossing Wolfe Creek, the road climbs and switches back. At approximately 3.2 miles, the road splits. The left fork continues to climb another ½ mile to approximately 3,600' and the trailhead to the Mt. Margaret hike. Stay to the east side of the clearing as you proceed up hill. Can continue to the ridge crest then to the north. The last ½ mile is in the trees all the way to the crest/ridge just below the true summit of Mt. Margaret & you will be able to see Lake Margaret below and the Mt. Stuart

Snowshoeing (continued from page 1)

range to the northeast. Sno-Park ungroomed parking permit required.

9 miles 2,800' gain 3,600' high point

Talapus Lake: Take Exit 45 (F.S. Rd. 9030) off I-90. Go north and follow F.S. Rd. 9030 west 1 mile until the junction with F.S. Rd. 9031. You may have to park down at this junction, depending on snow level and where it has been plowed. Follow F.S. Rd. 9030 to the right approximately 2.5 miles up to the Talapus Lake trailhead. You will go through some switchbacks. You will have occasional views of Bandera Mtn, as well as Granite Mtn to the east. After about a mile on the actual trail (3.5 miles), you will come to Talapus Creek and will be following it approximately ¾ mile to the lake. Be aware of avalanche potential near the lake. If the avalanche danger is "moderate to high", stay away from lake basin area. Northwest Forest Pass required.

8.5 miles 1,600' gain 3,280' high point

Hurricane Ridge-- One-mile walks on Hurricane Ridge, led by park naturalist Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, as well as Martin Luther King Day and Presidents Day, all at 2 p.m., weather permitting. Snowshoes provided. A \$2 donation is suggested (in addition to park entrance fee of \$15 per car). Register at Hurricane Ridge visitor center one hour before walk. Organized groups must make reservations by calling 360-452-0330.

Paradise-- Snowshoe walks in the Paradise area, led by park naturalist Saturdays and Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., weather permitting. Sign up at Jackson Memorial Visitor Center at Paradise, beginning one hour before walk. Snowshoes provided. Organized groups must reserve dates by calling 360-569-2211, Ext. 3314. Park entrance fee is \$15 per car.

More Information

The snowshoe routes listed above are neither marked nor maintained. You should always carry a map, compass, & other 10 Essentials and also have good route-finding skills when venturing into the backcountry.

Always be dressed for winter weather and be prepared for winter driving conditions when traveling in snow country. Always check ahead for avalanche conditions by calling the NWAvalanche Center Hotline: (206) 526-6677 or checking online at <http://www.nwac.us/>



Hog Loppet Saturday February 25

One of the winter's top events, The Hog Loppet is a non-competitive 30k Ski Trek from the top of Mission Ridge Ski Area to Blewett Pass. It is not an event for first time skiers because there is some steep terrain and ungroomed conditions. Please read the route descriptions below. We will groom the bottom of the Hog Loppet course three times to ensure that all 600 participants receive ideal conditions. Read a skier's experience in The Norwegian American Weekly.

More info and registration

<http://www.skileavenworth.com/events/hog-loppet>

Snoqualmie Loppet

Sunday March 11 - 9:00AM - Mass Start
Fifth Annual! From Silver Fir to Cabin Creek.

Couldn't do the Hog Loppet? Here is a second chance and an easy way to experience the fun, adventure, and drama of a long distance ski tour. This is our way to introduce people to the entire Snoqualmie Pass Nordic trail system! As always, this is an informal event with no sponsors, no support, no prizes, and no responsibility! Just a group of friends out for lots of fun and a challenging ski!

Cost? Free! Cool T-shirt available for \$20 while they last.

The course is about 35 kilometers total distance, about the same as the Hog Loppet.

1. Take Silver Fir 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 12K to the Stampede Pass Road
4. Turn left past the Stampede Pass Road for a few hundred yards and then enter the Trollhaugen trail system
5. Ski one loop (your choice but go past their cabin), then exit Trollhaugen to 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. Bear slightly to the right and in a couple hundred feet join Cabin Creek Trail System
8. Ski the Viking course and Berg course to the end!

We will meet at Silver Fir at 8 am to shuttle cars to Cabin Creek. It is recommended that you start promptly at 9 am for the best snow conditions.

Guye Cabin

Winter at Guye Cabin

In December, January, February, and half of March, the Guye Cabin is 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.

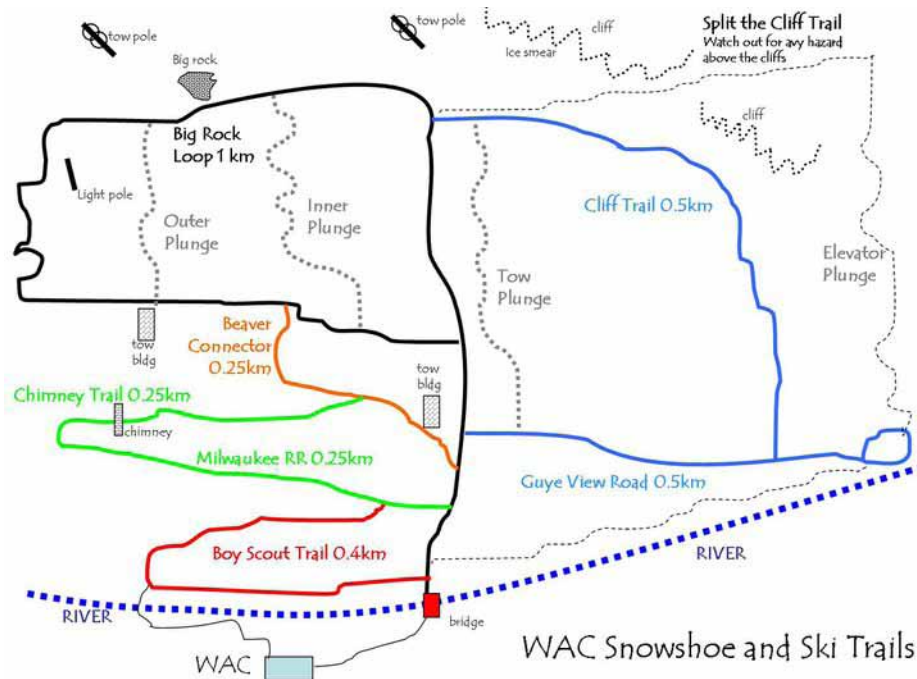
Make sure to:

1. Sign the sign in sheet and the registration
2. Place your payment in the envelope
3. Sign up to do a chore. This includes day users. Not sure what to do? **Ask.**

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.

Watch the kids!

Trails: There is a marked 5km ski/snowshoe trail system across the bridge. 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. A trail map is attached (see above). 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. Do not park on Sahalie's side on the SOUTH end. The far NORTH end on the Sahalie side is OK/good. 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 be used as a thoroughfare by kids (knives, boiling water = recipe for ER visit). **No running in the cabin.**
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)
Balises (Michael and Magda)

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 at this website. 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 at Pat O'Brien's, or at 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

Snoqualmie Loppet (cont. page 5)

There is no recommended ski gear or technique suggested, but this is not a beginner event due to terrain and distance. Estimated time is 3 to 6 hours.

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

Most importantly we are out to have fun and meet other skiers!

The Last Light from John Sargeant

The remodel of the Rec Room started shortly after a tree went through the roof on December 16th, 2006. The tree broke a fire sprinkler pipe and then water flooded the Rec Room. Since then we have replaced the ceiling tiles with bamboo, refinished the oak floors, installed a new fireplace insert, new windows and new light fixtures. The last light fixture was installed December 29th 2011 by Eric Bosell, assisted by Michael and Patrick. This completes the storm damage repairs. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped make Guye Cabin a beautiful place to relax.

Photo of Eric Bosell, assisted by Michael and Patrick



Washington Alpine Club
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Seattle, WA 98111

Address Correction Requested
Do Not Forward

FIRST CLASS

TO: