

Washington Alpine Club | Bulletin

May 2012 | Volume 97, Issue 5



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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Olympic Beach Cleanup by Mike Mahanay



Once again the Washington Alpine Club participated in the annual Olympic Beach Cleanup. This was out twelfth! We had an excellent turnout and beautiful 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 800 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 to get rich. Now it is only a place in the Hoh Rain Forest, at the mouth of the Hoh River. 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 lots of 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

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WAC Information

Calendar

MAY 2012	
MAY 11 - 13	Alpine Climbs at the Pass
MAY 12	Work Party
MAY 18 - 20	Alpine Climbs at the Pass
JUNE 2012	
JUNE 16	Work Party
JULY 2012	
JULY TBA	Work Party
AUGUST 2012	
AUGUST 11	Summer Appreciation Party
AUGUST 25 - 26	Rhapsody Bike Ride
SEPTEMBER 2012	
SEPTEMBER 22	Work Party
OCTOBER 2012	
OCTOBER 21	Annual 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 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.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Mike Mahanay | 206.931.4713

1st Vice President

Pat O'Brien | 206.527.6881

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President's Corner

May 2012 by Mike Mahanay



May is here and we are enjoying long days of sunlight, and warmer temperatures. There was over 12 feet of snow at the Cabin so who knows when it will melt this year. Many of the trails won't be snow free until late July! We have had good spring skiing at all the ski areas, and the volcanoes beckon for turns throughout 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? This year we have almost 500 members! The Club is very successful with all the activities and classes that we do. Thank you for your ongoing support of your time and dues each year. The WAC plays a vital role in the community with its classes and fellowship activities.

Our 2012 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. We have a very strong group of students this year, and we have an excellent group of instructors! Our class is unique in that we limit the class to 32 students to ensure the optimum student to teacher ratio.

For the eleventh year in a row the WAC participated in the Olympic Wilderness Beach Cleanup. There were 16 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 before. 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 in the Pacific Northwest. 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 WAC's Facebook page. 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 progressive Boards ever. Everyone is working hard for the best interests of the Club. We continue to work to reduce expenses, keep the Club overhead at a minimum, and make things easier for those who come after us. We continue to work on 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. We are also working on updating our website with new technologies to make it easier to manage our Club and for members to network. 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 May 12. We'll continue to upgrade the bathrooms, paint, electrical, and other inside tasks. The second work party will be June 16. There will be still snow on the ground so we'll be limited with what we can do outside. On the right day we'll paint the outside of the Cabin, and work on the drainage on the east side. There is also trail work to do. And yes, firewood to haul, cut, split and stack for next winter. I'm sure we will 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. If you are up to do a hike or climb stop in afterwards.

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 steadfast commitment and laser focus on conservation and education, and our wonderful Guye Cabin. Mostly it is simply the amazing spirited people in the WAC. You, our members, your family and friends, are what make our Club truly extraordinary, and fun! Thank you all!

Events

Olympic Beach Cleanup (continued from page 1)



drift logs. The beach had changed a lot since last year. All the driftwood on the Hoh end was cleared away exposing more open area and sand than we have seen in years.

With delightful sunny weather we set up camp with in a sheltered place with a magnificent 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.

Because the tide was high at mid-day we could not easily reach Jefferson Cove via the low water route around Diamond Head. Mike Michael and Magda all explored an overland route to Jefferson Cove. With some route finding, bushwacking and a compass this is a viable alternative to the low water route.

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 found one!, and others have been found at Kalaloch Beach.

Farther on to the North Hoh Head can never be rounded on the beach. Ladders, stairs and ropes take wilderness travelers to the top, and then there is an overland trail to Mosquito Creek.

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.

We 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 leaches into the water. We were on the lookout for Tsunami debris but only found one possible item. A intact but beaten Shell Oil barrel



from Asia. Was it from the tsunami or simply carelessness that launched it on its ocean journey?

Armed with trash bags we picked up floats, styrofoam, plastic bottles, rope, pieces of fishing nets, the barrel, and tangles of fishing line. We did find a few pieces of metal, but not as much as in previous years.

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. We saw several Bald Eagles, and a Gray Whale.

Everything collected on the Hoh Beach has to be hauled out to the Trailhead for pickup by volunteers from Port Angeles.

Thanks to Michael Balise, Magda Moss, Dan Miller, Steve Ailiff, Cathy Craft, Lee Parsons, Chloe Parsons, Sean Parsons, John Sargent, Tami Sargent, Chris Sargent and his friend, Betsy Bertiaux, Doerte Mahanay, and Mike Mahanay, for taking time out to participate in the cleanup, and making these two days so much fun! We missed Eli, Karel, and family this year.

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. Their keen eyesight allows them to spot fish at distances up to one mile. Eagles swoop down to seize a fish in their talons and carry it off, but can only lift about five pounds.

Mt. Whitney Climb by John Sanford

Last week I did a solo climb up Mt Whitney, the highest peak in the Continental US (14,505 ft), via the Mountaineers Route. This is a class 3 (or 4 in winter) alpine route up a 1600 ft gully and then into a mixed ice & rock notch for the final 500 ft. In the summer Mt Whitney is a crowded walk-up, but in the winter it is a challenge. To see more pictures go to:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/sanford.stm>



Events/Guye Cabin



Cabin Work Parties 2012

If you used Guye Cabin over the winter we hope you will give some back and attend a work party this summer. This year we will have a work party each month, and our Annual Summer Appreciation Party in August.

Please see the WAC website for dates and details. May 12 will be our first Work Party- inside! The rest of the summer we will be outside!

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

Don't forget Guye Cabin is the perfect place for retreats, reunions, meetings, & classes in the summer and fall. If you have never been to the Cabin in the summer you are missing out!

We'll again have a potluck cookout for lunch. Bring stuff for burgers 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. If you use Guye Cabin please plan to help out at a work party.

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

May 12

June 16

July TBA

August 11 Annual Summer Appreciation Party

September 22

Please check the WAC website! <http://www.wacweb.org/default.view>

Spire II Basic Climbing Class photos! by Heather Whitney

View more pictures at:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/112153452891864152020/SpireIIApril142012?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCKXV9NmszpCWswE&feat=directlink>



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 Gray.

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



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