

Washington Alpine Club | Bulletin

October 2012 | Volume 97, Issue 8



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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The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail by Robert Henry



The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) has been in my “backyard” for most of my life, transforming itself in my mind from being merely there, to gently calling, and then firmly tugging at my psyche. Finally, after a 10 year hiatus from backpacking, 20 years since I had done a multi-month expedition, 2 years of sporadic planning, and hopefully, before my knees gave out, it was time to attempt a through hike of the entire trail in one season. I had skills from my youth in desert hiking, cowboy camping, and self-reliance. I had enough money to buy all new equipment, a career always in demand, and a new job with a contractually promised 5-month leave of absence. Time to go on this dream trip!

The PCT starts at the Mexican Border east of San Diego, and ends 2668 trail miles later at the Canadian Border. It passes through some of the most inspirational scenery in North America, including the high Sierra and the North Cascades, climbing to 13000’ and dropping to merely 60’. The trail is known for being mostly an “engineered” trail, so has smooth tread, reasonable grade, with water at least every 30 miles in the springtime, and some kind of resupply option at least every 150 miles. It is easier hiking

than the Appalachian Trail, but harder to resupply, and with much more scenery.

Not one to reinvent the wheel, I followed the most common and conservative strategy of hiking south to north, hopefully two weeks ahead of the snow melt, and unfortunately zero weeks ahead of the mosquito hatch. I planned my trip to get through the desert section in southern California before it got too hot, pass through the Sierra after the worst of the snow had melted, and try to finish in the North Cascades before a season ending snowfall. In mid-February it became clear that there was very little snow in the Sierra, so I started on April 17, which was 10 days earlier than tradition. I wanted to finish by September 25, which I easily did. Working with these constraints, I planned on hiking 17 mile days at the start, then 23 to 25 mile days for the bulk of the trail north of the Sierra, and resting a full day at every resupply point about once every 5 days.

Fortune shined: compared with 2011, the 2012 hiking year evolved to have hardly any major obstacles. I started in Southern

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WAC Information

Calendar

OCTOBER 2012	
October 21	Open House, Potluck Lunch, The Annual Member Meeting
October 26 - 28	Remote Wilderness First Aid Class
NOVEMBER 2012	
November 17- 18	Remote Wilderness First Aid Instructor Class
DECEMBER 2012	
December 15	New Snow Dinner & Open House
JANUARY 2013	
January TBA	Marmot Ski Demo
January TBA	Randonee/Telemark Class Begins
FEBRUARY 2013	
February TBA	Hog Loppet Ski Tour
February TBA	WAC Fun day
MARCH 2013	
March TBA	Snowqualmie Loppet Ski Tour
March TBA	Vegetarian Potluck Dinner

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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PROPERTY & MEMBERSHIP

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Work Party . . . Archie Brenden | 206-542-2335

Membership . . . Sarah Morgan | 000-000-0000

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President's Corner

October 2012 by Mike Mahanay

This September has to go down as one of the best ever! There was hardly a drop of rain, warm temperatures and sunny skies every day. Ideal weather for being on the Mountains! Fall has arrived- the days are shorter and the mornings are cooler. Now is the time to take that trip to the high country to see the larches in their stunning yellows.

The huckleberries are done, the bears and marmots are finally getting very sleepy, and the rhubarb at the Guye Cabin garden is done for another year. Pumpkins are ripe and orange and will soon be turning into jack-o-lanterns at Snoqualmie Pass. Looking up from Guye Cabin the hinterlands are alive with yellows, reds, and orange colors.

October is the time to renew your membership. Take a minute to check the website and see if you are up for renewal. Help our new membership chair Sarah Morgan and the WAC by renewing for multiple years online via the website. You'll save money and time. We are wrapping up 2012 with a very healthy 514 members. Our Club continues to improve and grow. More people each year are signing up for multi-year memberships!

The renewal process gets smoother each year.

The WAC forecasters have yet to come up with a prediction for this winter, but we do know the snows will start to come this month and the ski areas will open soon after. Don't forget to pick up your annual ski pass this month. The price will go up

at the end of October. It only takes 7 days to pay for the pass. If you or the kids ski, or are enrolled in lessons, then the pass might work for you.

The Intermediate Climbing Class wrapped up last weekend. They enjoyed perfect weather for the entire class. Thanks to Pat Beurskens and April McCoy for organizing and heading up the class! We couldn't have better co-chairs! Thanks to everyone who organized the weekends and everyone who volunteered to help out with this class.

Guye Cabin has the basement sealed on the east side. Everyone knows this leaked a bit during snowmelt and rain. It will not leak anymore. Archie Brendan headed up a team that put in 100s of hours digging, moving & sorting rock, and putting it all back together. This was a 35K project that only cost us 7K! We had more than 25 people at the September work party alone. Special thanks to Archie and everyone that helped!

You'll also notice the remodeled bathrooms, and the fresh paint outside the Cabin. Dennis Saunders, Mark Hume, and Jeff Wright worked the bathrooms, and Chris Burton and Daniel Wolman did the outside paint. I wish I could name everyone! Thanks to the more than 100 people who participated in the work parties over the summer!

The WAC is fortunate that we are a 100% volunteer organization. Folks participate because they are motivated to teach others, help out, and do the right thing.



Motivation is having the encouragement to do something. It comes from deep inside. We are lucky to be involved with this wonderful group of like minded people that love the outdoors.

Sunday October 21 is our Annual Meeting at Guye Cabin. As always we will have an array of great food, (specialty potluck) and fun. We'll have an Open House and Tree Planting beginning at 10, Potluck at 12, Group Photo at 1:45, Meeting at 2:00. If you can't come, be sure to email or snail mail your proxy vote to anyone on the Board..

The New Snow Dinner will be December 15. We are looking for someone, or a team, to organize the entrée. It can be anything you want, so please give me an email or call soon if you would like to lead this Dinner. Nick and Stephanie Nichols did a fantastic job last year with a rib dinner! They will be a tough act to follow!

Outdoor activities tend to foster independence, self-reliance and critical thinking. In this wonderful time between summer and winter please visit the highlands, come out and meet your old friends, and make some new friends, at one of the many WAC events.

The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail by Robert Henry (continued from page 1)

California just after a big storm, then later in April there was another storm, so there was lots of water in the cool desert. I had no snow in the Sierra to contend with. The worst of the blow-downs were cleared in Mammoth Lakes. I got north before wildfires closed long stretches of the trail. The weather in the North Cascades in early September was glorious. I never had to hike in the rain. As it turned out, I did not use most of the full day rests I'd planned on, although I'd try to get into towns by 10AM so I could eat 3+ meals, re-supply, clean up, and talk with the outside. After only one night in town (often not sleeping well!) and another hearty breakfast I was usually ready to hit the trail.

I was exceptionally fortunate to have strong family support. Members of my family met me at trailheads over a dozen times, with more food, fuel, clothes, delicacies and companionship. Because of this, I had a diverse diet, lots of food (up to 3 pounds/day), and a break to the occasional drudgery. By and large, the trip was easier than I'd expected.

I treated each day as a simple day hike with at least one thing to look forward to. Each section was about a five-day backpack trip built from day hikes. To avoid being overwhelmed, I deliberately never thought about the enormity of the whole, either what was ahead, or what was behind. It is only now, back home in Seattle, as I review my pictures, write up my story, and share my stories with family and old and new friends, that I am truly amazed!

Here's a picture of me at the start in CA: new clothes and short hair!



Here's a picture of me at the end of the trail. Long hair and somewhere I lost 20 pounds.



References:

<http://www.pcthandbook.com/>

<http://www.pctmap.net/>

<http://mailman.backcountry.net/mailman/listinfo/pct-l>

Intermediate Class: Rock 2 Tieton by Heather Whitney

Pictures from the 2012 Intermediate Class: Rock 2 Tieton



Rock 2 Tieton

Type the link below to view more pictures
https://plus.google.com/photos/112153452891864152020/albums/5791907545074319569?banner=pwa&authkey=CI_OubS05LmJqQE

Despite wildfires, smoke, and snakes...

Intermediate Class: Liberty

Bell by Wouter van Wageningen



Liberty Bell - Beckey Route

The Alpine climb to complete our Intermediate Class with the WAC

Type the link below to view more pictures
<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=.10151329620539305.519498.688789304&type=1&l=6077c32f64>

Wilderness First Aid Class



Enrollment is open for one more week!

A Remote Wilderness First Aid Class is offered every fall at Guye Cabin. October 26-28, Friday at 6 pm though Sunday afternoon.

This is an accelerated course and students will be expected to do significant study and pass a course pre-test prior to the course start. The class involves hands-on, interactive learning. Wear casual clothes suitable for working on the ground and outdoors (getting dirty). Bring cold and wet weather gear. A change of clothes is also recommended in case it gets wet. This course is held at Guye Cabin beginning at 6:00 PM Friday evening and continues through Sunday evening approximately 5:00 PM. Be prepared for fall unpredictable weather, as a good portion of the class will be held outdoors, come rain, snow, or shine. You'll need to bring bring food for the weekend, including breakfast, snacks, lunch, and dinner for Sat.

All the info at <http://www.wacweb.org/Classes/mofa/default.view>



Wilderness First Aid Instructor Class

Do you want to take your first aid skills to the next level?

November 17-18 we are offering a Remote Wilderness First Aid Instructor Class.

Registration is open - contact Mike Mahanay.



Guye Cabin



Cabin History

1932 - "The cabin will be known as Guye Cabin due to its proximity to Guye Peak. It is owned by the Washington Alpine Club of Seattle. A variegated group of bathers, card sharks, lounge lizards, cats, mountain climbers and skiers."

One of the best things about WAC membership is historic Guye Cabin on Snoqualmie Pass. The jewel of the Alpine Club, the Cabin serves as the focal point for many club classes, activities, and gatherings. First built in 1932, it has been expanded over the years to become a wonderful rustic mountain lodge. It has easy access to all the summit ski areas, the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area, the Pacific Crest Trail, and is a popular meeting place for members year round!

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

New Membership Chair

Please welcome our new membership chairperson - Sarah Morgan. Sarah took this year's Basic Climbing Class and has graciously volunteered to be our new membership chair as a way of giving back to the club. We'd like to thank Dana Beck for all her help as Membership Chair last year.

Think about renewing your membership!

It's time to renew your membership!

Support the WAC and renew your membership for 2013 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:

Washington Alpine Club
c/o Sarah Morgan
1623A S Weller St
Seattle, WA 98144

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

Get your WAC tee shirt!

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 at the Annual Meeting. S,M,L,XL.



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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Seattle, WA 98111

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FIRST CLASS

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