

*Celebrating 50 years of Wilderness in the Pacific Northwest*

# Mountaineer

E X P L O R E • L E A R N • C O N S E R V E

**50 Years**  
of the Wilderness Act PAGE 20



**Meany Lodge**  
a Gateway to Adventure PAGE 15

**Gene's Quest for 100**  
peaks at Mount Rainier PAGE 26

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*The Mountaineers enriches lives and communities by helping people explore, conserve, learn about and enjoy the lands and waters of the Pacific Northwest and beyond.*



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Mountaineer magazine would like to thank **The Mountaineers Foundation** for its financial assistance. The Foundation operates as a separate organization from The Mountaineers, which has received about one-third of the Foundation's gifts to various nonprofit organizations.

**Mountaineer** uses:



## Discover The Mountaineers

If you are thinking of joining — or have joined and aren't sure where to start — why not set a date to Meet The Mountaineers? Check the Branching Out section of the magazine for times and locations of informational meetings at each of our seven branches.

**on the cover:** Liz Johnson rappels off Unicorn Peak in Mount Rainier National Park, led by climb leader, Ida Vincent. Story on page 18.

**photographer:** Ida Vincent

## A Wilderness protected future



I hope you were as inspired as I was by this issue's cover shot. The bright smile and clear summit make you want to get out there and get after it. But what you may not know about that photo is the rappel is on Unicorn Peak, a designated wilderness area in Mount Rainier National Park. The image captures the spirit of wild places and the inspiration we feel as visitors to these landscapes.

On September 3, 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Wilderness Act. This bill set aside an initial 9.1 million acres of wildlands for the use and benefit of the American people. Over the past 50 years, and as a result of America's support for wilderness, Congress has added over 100 million acres. The 1964 Wilderness Act defines "Wilderness" as areas where the earth and its communities of life are left unchanged by people, where

the primary forces of nature are in control, and where people themselves are visitors who do not remain. This act has endured and spanned generations and has established primal and primitive areas of wildness for our children and their children. As populations continue to grow and urbanize, these places become more precious for their ability to transport us, provide sanctuary and remind us of our wilderness history. Washington has over 31 Wilderness areas that comprise more than 4 million acres. 3.4 million acres of wilderness that lie within 100 miles of the Space Needle - literally in our backyard.

This summer I was able to enjoy hiking in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness area with my family and then later with some friends. As I watched my son run down the trail and stop to admire wildflowers, I was struck by the contrast of the quiet and solitude of the wilderness to our morning drive through Seattle traffic and up I-90. I felt lucky to live in a state and a nation that values and protects these wild places so that my children can experience the peace, sanctuary and inspiration of wild places.

The Mountaineers, REI and The Wilderness Society are taking the lead on bringing Explore Washington's Wilderness to Seattle on November 15th at the REI flagship store from 2-5pm. The event focuses on how to engage our next generation of conservationists by giving them information and tools about where to go, what to do there, and why to care.

Join us and help ensure that this legacy of wilderness continues.

**Martinique Grigg, Executive Director**

### Snoqualmie Property Webcast scheduled for November 12

The Snoqualmie Subcommittee of the Board of Directors of The Mountaineers has been examining various alternative uses of The Mountaineers Snoqualmie Property near Snoqualmie Pass including developing, conserving or selling. As part of that work two "town halls" open forums have been held, one in Tacoma and one in Seattle to gather input from the membership. The Subcommittee will be conducting a webcast on the evening of November 12th, beginning at 7pm Pacific via a Webex connection.

If you are interested in hearing the preliminary recommendations of the subcommittee and providing input into the final recommendations of the subcommittee, please send an email request to [tabmountaineers@hotmail.com](mailto:tabmountaineers@hotmail.com). We hope you will join us and hear the preliminary recommendations and provide your input into the important decision.



The Mountaineers is a non-profit organization, founded in 1906 and dedicated to the responsible enjoyment and protection of natural areas.

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Mountaineer Sept/Oct 2014  
corrections and comments:

Cover image: location is Cascade Pass, not  
the Pacific Crest Trail, as stated in caption.

## Stories and Lands worth Preserving

I'm partway through a course on interviewing, taught by Steve Scher at the University of Washington. Steve is a Scholar in Residence at Town Hall where he conducts interviews in front of a live audience - though you may know him better as the longtime public radio host on KUOW. I've discovered he's also a hiker and outdoor enthusiast. Take a look at the *Last Word* piece at the end of this issue for some of his thoughts on how far we've come (and still have to go) on protecting our wilderness areas.

Steve's class has made me take a closer look at how important a good interview can be. They provide a medium for a person to communicate their lives and experiences - and in doing so, they can preserve history, provide connections, and honor accomplishments from a unique and personal point of view. Stories that really can't be researched or captured any other way. This magazine is the perfect place to share them.

### There are two main themes in this issue:

The 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, and the start of the ski and snowboard season.

In his column, *Trail Talk* (p.12), guidebook author and outdoor enthusiast, Craig Romano opens up a conversation on why some trails are overcrowded, while others remain nearly untouched - and what we can do to help.

The article, *Meany Lodge: A Gateway to Adventure* (p.14), will inspire the whole family to get out and enjoy the snow this season. It

may even entice you to visit one of our well-known secrets: our unique mountain lodges.

In *Conservation Currents* (p. 20), guest writer, Jill Sanford explains the Wilderness Act from a Mountaineers perspective.

Of course, as an organization in which close to 75% of its members climb, or originally joined to climb, we can't avoid an article or two on that activity as well. You'll find one titled, *We All Begin Somewhere* (p.18), about Ida Vincent's journey from fearful student to climb leader. I was lucky enough to be on her mentored trip in which she became an official Mountaineers leader. She has since received the 2014 *Climb Leader of the Year* award. Well deserved.

And for those who have been following the column '*Our Secret Rainier*' for the past year, we have a special article on Gene Yore, to honor his recent completion of the 100 peaks and his journey along the way (p. 26).

**It's amazing** how many accomplishments are made in the outdoor community - from records broken, to first ascents, and personal achievements. So while you're out there, have a good time, take pictures and share your stories. You never know who you may inspire.



Suzanne Gerber, Publications Manager

## The ski & snowboard season is beginning!

Let The Mountaineers help you realize your backcountry ski & snowboard dreams. Continuing an almost 75 year tradition, Ski and Snowboard mountaineering (SSM) courses are being offered this season by both the Foothills and Everett Branches. The Foothills SSM course has the option of including a full level 1 avalanche certification program. The Foothills branch is also offering a glacier travel course to instruct in safe travel techniques in glaciated terrain.

Telemark and Backcountry oriented Alpine lessons are offered by the Foothills branch and The Meany hut team. The Foothills Branch lessons are once again being offered by the Summit in both Tele and Alpine during six consecutive Wednesday nights. These lessons cover a wide range of abilities from expert to beginner.

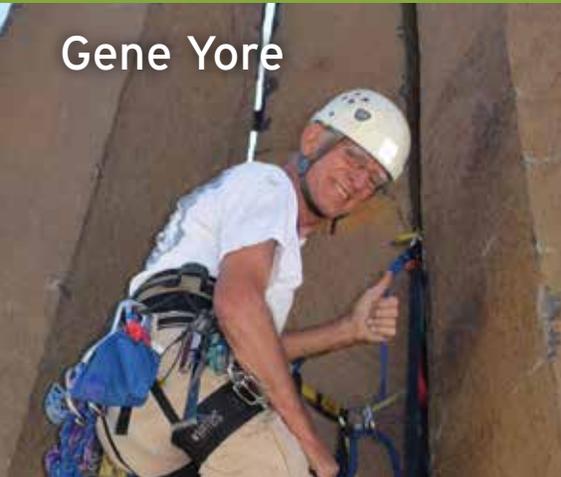
Track skiing both in the classic and skating styles will be offered. Consult the Mountaineers website for the complete listings of all classes and detailed information at: [www.mountaineers.org/learn/find-courses-clinics-seminars](http://www.mountaineers.org/learn/find-courses-clinics-seminars). Click on: skiing/snowboarding.



Milo learning to ski at Meany. Photo by Nigel Steere

# The results are in! Congratulations to the 2014 Board Elects:

Gene Yore



Brian Young



Lorna Corrigan



All nominated candidates were elected for directors on The Mountaineers board for a three-year term.

## Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation for the *Mountaineer* magazine, published by The Mountaineers (as required annually by the U.S. Postal Service)

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# The Mountaineers Winter Book Sale

Dec 10th - 12th

9 am to 7 pm

+Intermission during the Banff Mountain Film Festival

25% off All Books & Maps

35% off Book Bundles

50% off Book "Seconds"

50% off Clearance Titles

or better

25% off Logo Merchandise

Located at:

The Mountaineers Program Center:

7700 Sand Point Way NE located in Magnuson Park



[www.mountaineers.org/bookstore](http://www.mountaineers.org/bookstore)

# contributorpage

Thank you to the generous writers and photographers who donate their time, work and love to The Mountaineers.



**Joan Miller** is a Seattle writer, photographer and avid birder with a background in natural history. She has written about topics ranging from ice-age landscapes and deep-sea worms to cicadas and radon for the *Mountaineer*, *The Washington Post*, *Great Rivers*, *AAA Potomac*, *Audubon Naturalist*, and *Federal Times*, among others. She is passionate about conservation and the outdoors and knew she would move from the east coast to the Pacific Northwest once she discovered cooler summers, no humidity and incredible mountain and water views. In her day job, she helps fundraise for a wildlands organization. *Joan contributed the column, Nature's Way on page 27 in this issue.*



**Craig Romano** is an avid hiker, runner, paddler, and cyclist, and has written about these passions for over two dozen publications, including; *Seattle Met*, *Backpacker*, *Northwest Runner*, *AMC Outdoors*, *Northwest Travel*, and *Outdoors NW*. He is the content provider for *Hikeoftheweek.com*, and author of nine books and co-author of three others including the just released *Day Hiking the San Juans and Gulf Islands*; and is currently working on *Day Hiking Mount St Helens* (with Aaron Theisen and scheduled for release in 2015). He lives with his wife Heather, and two cats in Skagit County. *Craig contributed the column, Trail Talk on pages 12-13 in this issue.*

Craig's websites: [craigromano.com](http://craigromano.com), [hikeoftheweek.com](http://hikeoftheweek.com)



**Jill Sanford** is a Seattle writer who covers entertainment, adventure, outdoors, art and lifestyle pieces in the area. She is a regular contributor to *South Sound* and *425* magazines and decided to join The Mountaineers after writing a story on the organization and falling in love with it. She loves mountains, dogs and spending time on the water. If she's not writing, chances are she's out kayaking, running, doing yoga or reading a good book. *Jill contributed the column, Conservation Currents on pages 20-24 in this issue.*

[Jillcsanford.wordpress.com](http://Jillcsanford.wordpress.com)



**Ida Vincent** is a mountaineering marine biologist. She loves spending time at high elevations or below the surface of the sea. She is passionate about conservation and enjoys writing as well as photography, while most of her writing tends to be of the scientific kind she also enjoys writing about her experiences as a way of self-reflection. Ida completed the Basic Alpine Climbing Course and the Intermediate Alpine Climbing course with The Mountaineers and am now a climb leader, with great enthusiasm for sharing her love of climbing with others. She is from Sweden and moved to Seattle 4 years ago after spending 10 years in Australia. *Jill contributed the cover photo, centerfold and article, We All Begin Somewhere on pages 18-19 in this issue.*



## Can you identify the location in the foreground?

Send your answer to Suzanne by the first of December: [suzanneg@mountaineers.org](mailto:suzanneg@mountaineers.org). If you guess correctly, you'll receive a \$15 gift certificate\* good for Mountaineers purchases, and we'll publish your name in next issue's column.

\*Not redeemable for cash. Mountaineers employees or persons shown in the photograph are not eligible.

In case of a tie, one winner will be chosen at random. Each month we'll publish a new mystery landmark and identification of the previous one.

*Adventurer?* Please send in your trip photographs for possible publication as a mystery location! (see email address above)

The winner of last issue's *Summit Savvy* (AKA *I'm Where*) was Chris Pribbernow. He correctly identified Greenwood Mountain.

## Last issue's summit trip report: Greenwood Mountain

by Don Swanson, Mountaineers climber, hiker, scrambler

Not far off the NE ridge of the Phelps Creek Basin and NE of Dumbell Mountain, Greenwood Mountain stands at 8,415 ft tall. Approximately a half mile apart, both mountains are usually climbed together, as in this trip report.

**Dumbell and Greenwood Trip Report:** (August 9-10, 2014) The trail to Spider Meadows was in very good shape, with easy creek crossings. A few bugs were present once we entered the meadow.

The team continued on to the upper Phelps Creek Basin where we set up camp. Snow fields were encountered in the bottom of the Phelps Creek Basin upstream, below the summit block of Dumbell Mountain and on the traverse over to Greenwood. Scree and talus fields dominated the upper parts of Dumbell.

Ice axes were needed with optional use of crampons to cross a snow field leading to a much eroded gully, giving us access to the ridge just below Dumbell's summit.



Greenwood Mountain. Photos courtesy of Don Swanson

Helmets were worn on the upper parts of both mountains.

We descended off Dumbell's summit block and gully via the same route we came up, where an obvious notch can be seen in the ridge. Traversing the scree field (east), we crossed the ridge at the notch accessing a natural "Indiana Jones" type of ledge. With an amazing view of the valley below, we followed this narrow pathway around until

arriving at a snowfield. From this point the route over to Greenwood Mountain was very straightforward.

**Activity Type:** Scrambling

**Seasons:** April - October

**Distance (round trip):** 14 miles

**Elevation Gain:** 5,500 feet

**High Point:** 8,415 ft (8,421 for Dumbell)

# memberhighlight

ten essential questions



Patrick Mullaney. Photo courtesy of Patrick Mullaney

<b>Name</b>	Patrick Mullaney
<b>Hometown</b>	Seattle, WA
<b>Member Since</b>	1993
<b>Occupation</b>	Land Use Attorney
<b>Favorite Activities</b>	Mountaineering, backcountry skiing, scuba diving

## How did you get involved with The Mountaineers?

I was invited by friends to climb Mt. Shuksan. I had never climbed before, and I survived the experience more by luck than by skill. Although I had an ice ax in my hand, I had no idea what to do with it, and the exposure was daunting. Despite the harrowing moments, the climb was an amazing experience – surrounded by incredible beauty. After I got down, I immediately wanted to go back to the mountains, but in a confident and competent manner. Someone suggested The Mountaineers, so I signed up.

## What motivates you to volunteer with us?

As a land use lawyer, I have also enjoyed working with The Mountaineers on access and conservation issues. The Mountaineers staff and volunteers play a vital role in protecting wild areas and ensuring public access. It has been a great pleasure to assist in some of those efforts, and to see how the Club has made a lasting and positive difference in helping to preserve wild areas for future generations to enjoy.

## Favorite Mountaineers memory?

I led a basic climb of Mt. Daniels via the Lynch Glacier. Instead of the usual overnight, I told everyone to pack light, and we did the climb car-to-car in 12 hours. It was a beautiful day, and I was very happy that we climbed in such good style. Another good memory was receiving several emails from students after

a climb of Kangaroo Temple thanking me for showing them that you can be proficient but also relax and have fun.

## Who/What inspires you?

I have always admired the climber, Walter Bonatti. He once said, "A climber is not a crazy man. He is not trying to get himself killed. He knows what life is worth. He is in love with living."

## What does adventure mean to you?

Adventure means learning more about yourself and the world in the company of good friends. I have met my closest friends in The Mountaineers – they have held my life in their hands a thousand times and saved it more than once. To know people on that level, while laughing and struggling together in the outdoors, is a gift that few people experience.

## Lightning round!

Sunrise or sunset? **Sunset fading to a star-filled sky.**

Superpower? **Hopefully, aging gracefully.**

Smile or game face? **Smile. Life's too short not to laugh.**

Post-adventure meal of choice? **Pasta and red wine**

If you could be a rock star at any outdoor activity overnight, what would it be? **Rock climbing**



Explorers 2013. Photo by Caitlin O'Brian

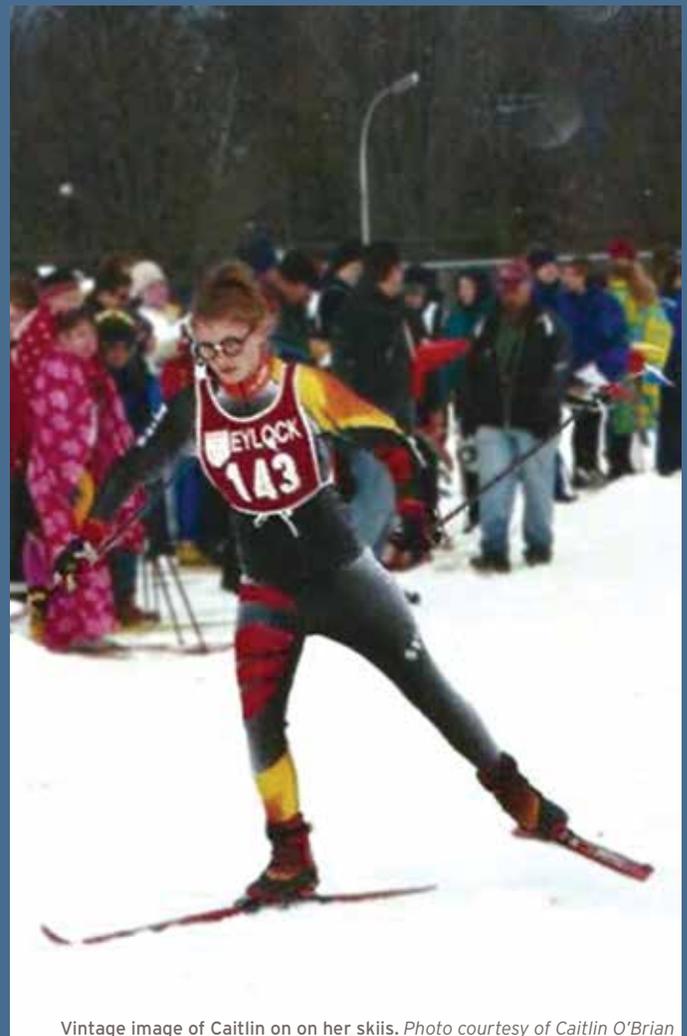
## First Skis

By Caitlin O'Brian, Youth Education Manager

When I turned 6, my parents gave me my first pair of cross country skis. I remember the skis fondly, with the polar bear sticker stuck to the top of each one. Little did my parents know that this gift would shape the majority of my elementary and high school years. Not only did I join my high school cross country ski team, my friends and I would seek out opportunities after school and weekends to adventure around town on skis. Now, I turn to my skis as a way to escape the Seattle winter.

As the Youth Education Manager for The Mountaineers, I'm tasked with introducing many of the youth we work with to the amazing outdoor opportunities in Washington, and I often look to the outdoor activities I loved as a child. This past winter, I took our Explorers (a program for kids ages 10-13) up to the Cabin Creek cross country ski area. Many of the kids were trying on skis for the first time. As we skied throughout the day, the youth found their balance, learned how to ski downhill, how to fall, and how to get back up. Upon leaving, one of our Explorers who spent most of the day falling down the hills asked, "When do I get to try skate skiing? When's the next time we are skiing? I had so much fun!"

With my job and passion for the outdoors, I'm often reminded how important it is to expose youth to a variety of outdoor activities. Not every person who skis will love it, but it's important they have a chance to find out. I look to our Explorers as our next generation of outdoor enthusiasts. I'm hopeful that we'll inspire the lifelong passion of skiing in a few of these kids – just as my parents unknowingly did when they gave me my first pair of skis. Our Explorers already have one cross country ski day on the calendar for the winter, and I'm excited to watch as their love for the sport and their thirst for adventure grow.



Vintage image of Caitlin on on her skis. Photo courtesy of Caitlin O'Brian



**Donor Profile** Ashley Siple  
**Hometown** Seattle, WA  
**Member since** 2012  
**Occupation** Data Tech, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center  
**Favorite activities** Rock and alpine climbing, hiking and bicycling

Ashley (right) gives instruction on knot tying as a volunteer instructor for The Mountaineers' crag course. Photo by Mary Hsue

## Small gifts go a long way

by Mary Hsue, Director of Development & Communications

The best part of my job is visiting with donors. It's satisfying to see a donor's reaction to the stories I share about the various ways that she has made an impact on the community with her contributions. But it's even more gratifying to hear how donors began their love affair with the outdoors and what inspired them to make their first gift to The Mountaineers.

Most of my visits have been with our most generous donors who have given large gifts or who have planned for a future gift by leaving a bequest for The Mountaineers in their will. But they aren't the only ones making a huge difference in our organization. Featured in this article is a budding philanthropist who currently gives modest gifts, but meaningful ones considering where she is in her life path.

This young philanthropist is Ashley Siple – someone who made her first gift within a year of joining The Mountaineers.

### From volunteer to member

When I asked Ashley how she became involved with The Mountaineers, she was delighted to remind me that it started with me. She said, "You reached out to me in late 2011 when you were looking for volunteers for youth programs!"

Ah yes, it all began innocently with a mass email to my climbing friends when we were in need of volunteers to belay kids at a few Mountain Workshops sessions.

Ashley's first volunteer opportunity for a Mountain Workshops session was with culturally-diverse John Muir Elementary School. It was meaningful for her because she grew up in the Rainier Valley and attended John Muir. Take a look at the photo she proudly shared of her kindergarten class, and you'll see that the school was just as diverse then as it is today.

After meeting other volunteers, education staff and learning about our various course offerings, Ashley decided to join The Mountaineers in 2012 to take the crag course. "I had a great mentor who took me on some amazing hikes and challenging alpine and rock climbs, but I was more of a follower than a leader at the time. I wanted to learn how to lead multi-pitch climbs, set up anchors, and generally how to be independent out there."

For the next two years, Ashley returned to volunteer as an instructor for the crag course. "Of course, Caitlin and Becca continued to reach out to me whenever they needed volunteers for youth programs," she said. "I plan to volunteer more for the youth programs, now that partner relationships have matured to the point of incorporating off site adventures, like snowshoeing near Snoqualmie Pass, climbing at Exit 38, and hiking at Wallace Falls."

## Giving time to help youth achieve success

When Ashley talks about what inspires her to give so much time to youth programs, she says, "It's always been the kids who feel like they can't do something or think 'I'm not built for this or made for this.'" She adds, "Tailoring your instruction so that you find a way for a kid to succeed is gratifying. When I belay a kid, I feel like I'm teaching that kid an important lesson: when you set a goal, there's always a way to achieve it."

For the kids who have a natural ability or who excel quickly, Ashley works to keep climbing fun so kids remain challenged and grow. "It's amazing to see these kids overcome an obstacle over a short period of time." She observes, "You're seeing fear but you're also seeing the exhilaration of staying in the challenge zone," and adds, "if a kid achieves a goal, you can see that she has gained a sense of satisfaction from accomplishing something that seemed impossible."

Ashley says it's similar to what she feels when she's out there, high on a rock wall or near the summit of a mountain. "The extreme focus required to keep everything that's scattered and going rapid fire in your head is intense. For me it always comes down to one moment that requires the kind of focus that quiets all other thoughts in your head." She says, "If you seek out that focus, you get higher and keep pushing. If you reach your goal, it's exhilarating but the sense of calm that accompanies that endures for the rest of the day."

## Providing access she wished she had

As far as her motivation for making her first gift to The Mountaineers, Ashley says, "Kids in the Mountain Workshops sessions are not members. Their parents are not members. They can't afford life's expenses much less dues, so they don't have access to the same things we have access to." She explains, "It's up to donors to 'pay the dues' for these kids to participate and be introduced to something like rock climbing and nature, so they can realize all the benefits of the program center, volunteers, staff and the things that come with membership - like learning

new skills, being challenged, and introduced to the outdoors in a fun way."

Thinking back to her time at John Muir Elementary, "We had field trips, but nothing as awesome as coming here to spend an afternoon rock climbing or learning about the outdoors." She says with a smile, "We had a fish tank - we had a turn feeding the fish. That was our outdoor education." As a child, Ashley's dad took her on one camping trip and they spent some time being in the woods. "We didn't really hike and I didn't know anything about the geography of Washington despite growing up here."

"By giving to The Mountaineers, I'd like to see more kids bridge that gap between spending an afternoon here and making the leap into going into wilderness," she adds, "and realize that there are ways to participate in activities even if their parents or friends are not enabling them to do that."

Growing up, Ashley had music and art as extracurricular activities. She says, "As a kid, I wasn't into team sports and didn't develop exercise habits. If I knew how fun it could be to get strong and be challenged and have a physical dimension to an extracurricular activity, I would have been more active as a child and teen. I feel like I'm catching up on lost time outside."

She closes with, "You don't realize until later what a privilege it was - having the opportunity to even begin to develop as passion for something - a sport, music or art. And how being good at one thing, resonates through your whole experience of life. Those opportunities were open to me. I'd like to see those open to others with my donations to The Mountaineers."

If you would like to give a gift to The Mountaineers to help provide more opportunities for youth to explore their potential outdoor passions, contact Mary at [maryh@mountaineers.org](mailto:maryh@mountaineers.org) or go online to [www.mountaineers.org](http://www.mountaineers.org) and look for the "donate" button.

*Thank you for supporting youth programs in September - we beat our goal and raised over \$50k for youth programs!*



John Muir Elementary School kindergarten class of 1988. Ashley on bottom, right in pink dress. Photo courtesy of Ashley Siple

## Trails Loved to Death? time to spread it around

by Craig Romano, Guidebook author

A rare moment alone at Blanca Lake. Photo by Craig Romano

### Why are trails so overcrowded these days?

Blame the Internet. Blame social media. Blame me and other guidebook writers. Blame the Washington Trails Association (WTA). Blame a growing population of outdoors recreationists seeking nearby wild places. Or just blame our favorite hiking destinations for being too damned beautiful! While all of the above might be worthy of blame for the crowding and overuse of several of our favorite hiking destinations, I'd like to spread much of the blame for the crowding at Blanca Lake, Snowgrass Flat, Lake Serene and a handful of other areas on Congress and the President, and some overzealous environmental groups.

First of all, I have always believed that there is plenty of room in our public lands to accommodate the millions of recreationists who take to them annually. While on a hike to the top of Mount San Jacinto in Southern California this May, my belief was reconfirmed. I walked miles of trail without seeing another hiker—and once I reached the 10,834-foot mountain's lofty summit, I only shared it with a dozen other hikers. Not bad considering that we were within an hour and half drive to 20 million people!

### Closer to home

Washington has seven million people and over 11 million acres of National Forest and National Park lands. Over 25% of its land base is national park and forest lands. Add the Bureau of Land Management, National Wildlife Refuges, state parks, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) lands, and state fish and wildlife lands and you have another 6 million plus acres of public land bringing the state's total of public lands to over

35%. That's a lot of public land – about 2.4 acres per resident. So, why does it seem that so many of our favorite hiking spots are being overrun?

Well, because they simply are.

Part of the problem is that, despite there being so much public land in Washington, a large percentage of it is or has been used for resources, like logging, making it less than desirable for outdoor recreation. Another reason is proximity – places closer to metropolitan areas tend to attract more folks merely because they are quick and easy to get to. Of course, some areas are just too darned pretty too that they attract legions of people no matter where they are, and have been since they were discovered. You, me and most hikers prefer to go to the really spectacular places, right? Then again, we know that there are plenty of other spectacular places close and far that are not being overrun by hikers. Why? A big part of the reason is access.

### Getting people out - but not out there

This summer a district ranger from one of our state's national forests sent a memo to the WTA to stop promoting certain destinations because they were becoming too crowded. WTA complied and contacted me about not promoting these same spots on my *Hikeoftheweek.com* website. We agreed to not make these places the hike of the week or call attention to them for the rest of the season. The irony is that we really want people to get out on the trails. More people hiking means more people caring for our public lands and wanting to protect and expand them – right? And don't we want our children (and adults) to put down their electronic gadgets and go for a walk?

It's true that places like Snow Lake, Blanca Lake, and Snowgrass Flats are being overwhelmed – and all this use is compromising their ecological integrity. It's also compromising the wilderness experiences for many hikers, too. Forget about the 12-person group maximum when there are hordes upon hordes of folks traipsing through the wilderness, right? While environmentally conscious guidebook authors and organizations like the WTA and The Mountaineers emphasize adherence to wilderness rules and regulations and preach Leave No Trace principles, lots of Internet based hiking sources do not. Which leads me to *Meetup* groups and other social media sites that, through their viral nature, can have hundreds of people trampling on a trail through a wilderness area on any given day. The rise of this phenomenon is certainly to blame for some of our overcrowding and less-than-enlightened trail users.

But I want to blame our federal government and some environmental groups for the overcrowding too. Nowhere is their role in crowding more evident than in the Goat Rocks Wilderness and the Darrington and Skykomish Ranger Districts of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. At the ever-popular Snowgrass Flat Trailhead, the district ranger has posted a sign warning of crowding and suggesting hikers to go elsewhere. There is only one problem with this suggestion – in many cases it's truly difficult to go elsewhere. Most of the other trailheads leading into the Goat Rocks Wilderness can't be reached by passenger cars – or reached at all. It doesn't do much good to suggest that folks hike other trails leading into this sprawling wilderness if they can't access them due to a deteriorating road system plagued with potholes, rocks, brush and washouts. And if they can get to some of these trailheads, they may find the trails themselves washed out, grown over and fallen into disrepair leading to difficult or impossible traveling.

It's the same thing over on the Skykomish and Darrington districts. Many trail access roads have been washed out for years. Trails leading from these undrivable roads are fading back into the wilderness. Who's to blame? Congress for sure, for not wanting to properly fund the Forest Service. They haven't wanted to in decades, leaving the Forest Service incapable of doing much in the field. Congress has gutted budgets leaving most districts void of trail crews, road maintenance crews, law enforcement officers, rangers, biologists and visitor services personnel. Since around 1990 the Forest Service has shifted away from resource extraction (which brought money into the treasury) to recreation and forest regeneration. Congress has slashed the budget and tried to bring more funding in through user fees that have never been popular – or adequate. And the president? I blame him too. All of them since President

Reagan. Not one of our last five presidents has made the Forest Service – an agency responsible for over 193 million acres of public land – a priority! Sure, President Clinton convened the Northwest Forest Conference which led to better management (a good thing), but it was also under his watch that the shift to privatizing campgrounds and collecting user fees in lieu of adequate funding began (not such good thing).

I blame overzealous environmental groups too. These groups want to keep many of our Forest Service roads closed to restore ecosystems, while at the same time bemoaning the trampling of ecosystems because there are too many people recreating in them. Yes, many of our old forest roads need to be decommissioned and the lands surrounding them restored. But how misguided some of these organizations are for advocating for the decommissioning of major Forest Service Roads leading to beloved campgrounds and trails

We need *more* access, not less if we are to accommodate a growing population – and if we are to disperse them so that their impact is light and their outdoor experience is optimal.

### Paths less traveled by

I do my best to promote less known places in my writings. WTA does too. But if folks can't get to those places, they will continue to crowd the places they can get to. Sure, some folks aren't interested in other options and will continue to go to the same places over and over again. Perhaps then we need to regulate use at some of these areas, like we do in the Enchantments and Mount Margaret Backcountry. But let's make sure we have lots of other hiking options available first – lest we have a very unhappy hiking constituency that may not support more wilderness and park designations. And let's hold *Meetup* groups and other Internet based hiking promoters accountable, too. Know the rules, respect them, and disperse some of your use.

We really need to hold ourselves accountable for not being more active in protecting our interests. There are things we can do to help. We can demand that Congress and the President start treating our public lands like the national treasures that they truly are. We can support organizations that represent our outdoor recreation interests and blend sound conservation practices with adequate trail and public land access. And we can seek out alternative trails every now and then, and realize that Blanca Lake, Lake Serene, and Snowgrass Flat aren't the only pretty places worth hiking to.

There are thousands of other places to venture. Let's be the explorers that we are and find them! We just need to make sure we can get to them first.



Beautiful Snowgrass Flats. Photo by Craig Romano

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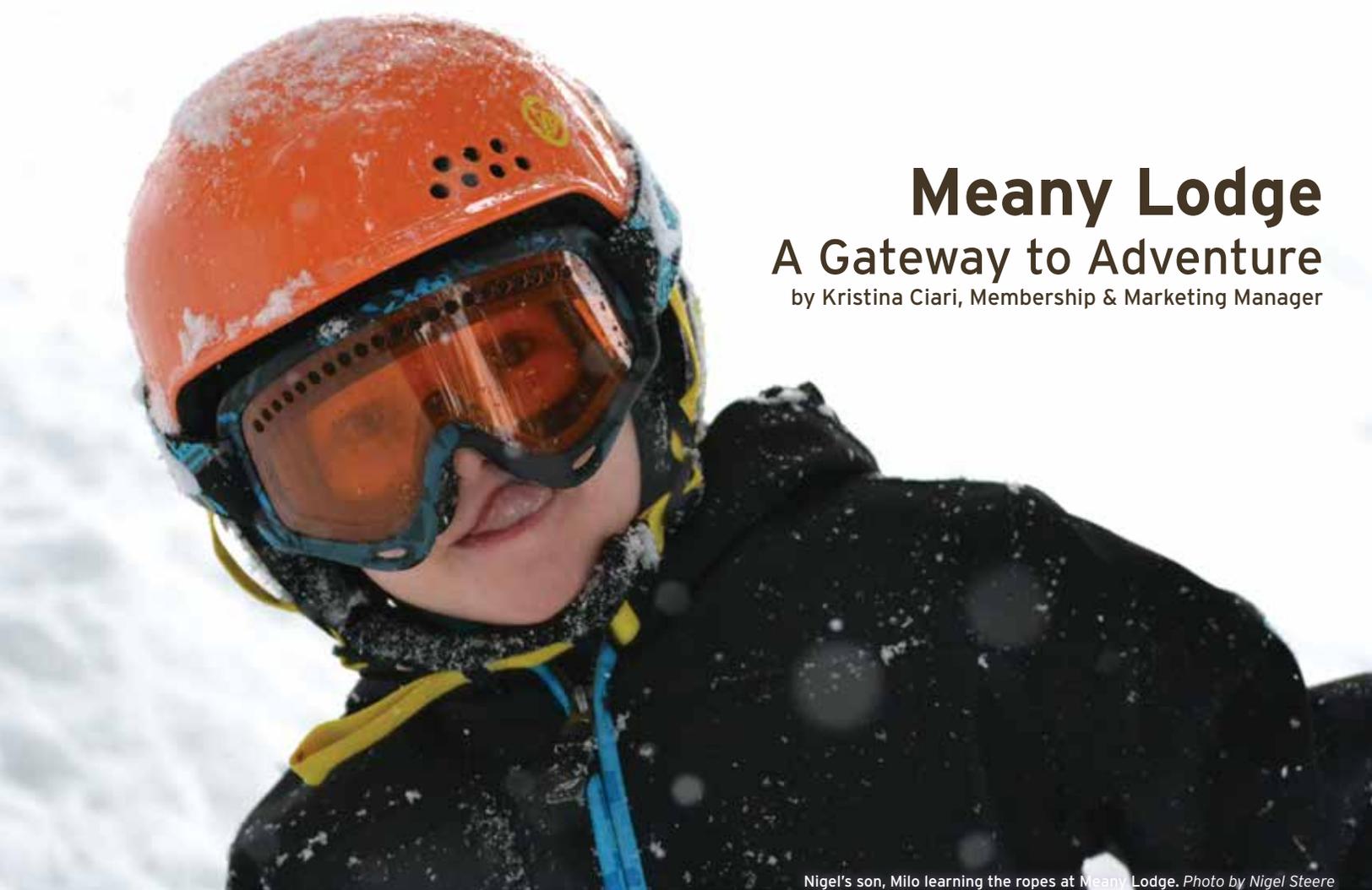
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# Meany Lodge

## A Gateway to Adventure

by Kristina Ciari, Membership & Marketing Manager

Nigel's son, Milo learning the ropes at Meany Lodge. Photo by Nigel Steere

The word 'adventure' is used a lot today - overused really. But when you think back on the highlights of your life, surely the memories that stand out are those containing a certain level of adventure.

For me, one weekend in particular stands out as exceptional. I was in my mid-twenties and had rented a cabin on Lake Wenatchee with ten friends. We were all about the same age and shared the same interests - running and rock climbing. It was Oktoberfest weekend, so while a few folks ran in the Leavenworth Half, the rest of us climbed in Icicle Creek, and we all met back at the house for a few evenings of celebration.

Nothing particularly special took place - although we did take turns climbing the rock fireplace to "mantle the mantle" - but what made this particular weekend unique was just how "all-in" everyone was for the entire experience. We arrived together, ate together, danced together, and fell asleep under the same roof together, only to wake up and do it all over again the next day. It was like summer camp - for one short weekend we were all transported to a magical place where we felt safe being silly and inventing fun. The entire thing became one grand adventure.

When the time came for us to go home Sunday morning, we stood together on the back porch and counted down until the exact second when we had to vacate the house. That's when you know you have a good thing going - no one wants it to end.

Time spent at Meany Lodge is very much the same. The whole endeavor is an all-consuming experience. It's a place frozen in time where people go to slow down and take in a deep breath.

For this article on the history of Meany Lodge and what it means to spend time there, I sat down with Nigel Steere, a legacy Meanyite and the current Category Manager for Helmets and Goggles at K2 Sports, to talk about his family legacy at Meany, and why he's so inspired to transport his family there today.

### History Of Meany Lodge

Meany Lodge is The Mountaineers oldest winter sports resort, located 60 miles east of Seattle near Stampede Pass. In the winter, Meany is home to 32 downhill runs accessible by a rope tow ascending 450 vertical feet at a blistering 17mph (don't worry, there's a slower rope tow for those of us who are "novice tow riders").

Completed in 1928, former club Secretary Mrs. Stuart P. Walsh wrote of the ski lodge dedication in the *Mountaineer Annual* in this way: "Eight years ago the building of a shelter cabin for ski enthusiasts was unthinkable. So unknown was the sport in the Northwest that the few men and women indulging in it were regarded as veritable superhumans by their sure but clumsy-footed brethren."

Among those early "superhumans" were Bruce and Dawn Steere, Nigel's paternal grandparents. While they did not build the original structure, they were an early presence in the lodge, and participated in many work parties for the lodge's add-ons in the late 30's. Photos of Bruce & Dawn can still be found in the lodge today.

Sadly, Bruce passed away when Nigel's father was only 9 years old. While Nigel never got to meet his grandfather, he heard

stories about The Mountaineers and Meany Lodge from his own father Monte, and uncle Tex, who grew up skiing primarily at The Mountaineers' Snoqualmie Lodge. Apparently Tex and Monte were quite the pair. They were among the very first skiers to do backflips on skis, forever cementing The Mountaineers' important role in the evolution of skiing.

Nigel himself learned to ride at Sahale Lodge and only visited Meany once growing up, but the stories of Meany's rope tow were legendary and he remembers his father talking about it often. "To anyone the rope tow makes a pretty big impression," Nigel said, of his first visit to Meany. "It's fast. It's steep. It's just a kick."

### A Family Getaway

Life took Nigel away from the Pacific Northwest for a while, but he always intended to return and carry on the tradition started by his grandparents. Together with his wife Sarah, Nigel briefly lived in Colorado and Jackson Hole before moving back to Seattle to work for K2. Six-months after his daughter Hudson was born, Nigel declared that the family was going to Meany for his 31st birthday. They've been hooked ever since.

They welcomed son Milo in 2008, and now their family of four travels to Meany many winter weekends. Nigel loves everything about the entire experience - especially the opportunity for family time. "When you're on the hill - it's a very small hill - you're all skiing together if you want to or not," he says. "You're not dropping your kids off at a ski bus or at the hill with their instructor. You're there together. You're eating, cleaning, sleeping, doing everything together, and that's pretty unique. "

A lot of work goes into running and maintaining the lodge, and Nigel is really blown away by the commitment the Meany regulars put into making it happen. While Meany Lodge has weekend hosts and provides food, everyone pitches in. "The cleaning, sweeping, setup for meals, washing dishes - it's all good character building," he says. "The kids take pride in it. They know the rope tow won't open until everything is clean and the older kids lead by example. It takes them out of their normal element and gives them a strong sense of ownership."

The appeal of a weekend at Meany goes beyond character building - tangible benefits exist as well. With a family, waiting in line to get on a lift, finding seats in a crowded cafeteria, and all of those inconveniences associated with bigger ski resorts are left behind once you park your car and climb on the 1950's vintage snow-cat to kick off your voyage to Meany. With Meany, you know you're going away for a full weekend and all you need to bring is ski gear and a sleeping bag. Leave the coolers of food and worries at home.

"When people come up there for the first time it's usually a bit of an eye opener," Nigel says. "It's off the grid. Your only access to the lodge is skiing-in yourself or being towed in on the Snow-Cat." While this may sound like a bit of a constraint, it's quite the contrary. Throughout our conversation Nigel frequently mentioned the freedom offered at Meany. "Whatever you want to do in the snow - you can do. There's a lot of ability to just be creative. Whether it's snowshoeing or hiking or touring or skiing the rope tow or building a snow cave. You can do it all and you have time for it."



The Nigel Family Crew at Meany Lodge. Photo courtesy of Nigel Steere

## A Gateway To Adventure

A few times Nigel quoted the lodge as being *A Gateway to Adventure*. "It's a starting point for whatever you want to do. It's a healthy environment for families where you're all in it together. There aren't too many places where your kids can go skiing and you can snowshoe up the hill more or less alongside them," he says.

The lodge attracts a diverse group, from families with young kids, to college kids who recognize the novelty of the lodge and rope tow experience, to long-time Mountaineers showing everyone the way.

Nigel considers himself lucky that both of his kids have taken well to the snow and to skiing, and he's capitalizing on the time they have together now while the kids both love it. Even when the weather is wet and soggy. In fact, he doesn't much mind the

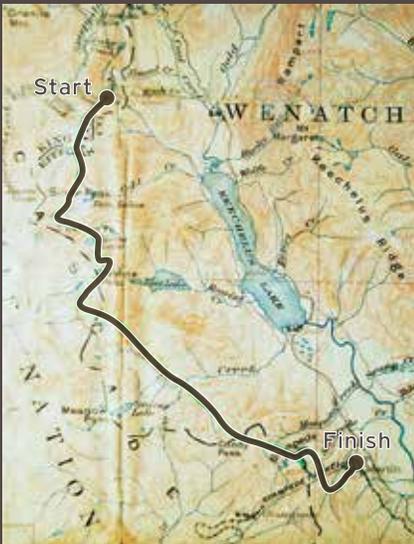
rain. "Even if it's raining there's lots of stuff to do. *Get your Goretex on, it's going to be an adventure!*"

**His favorite part about Meany?** Introducing new people to it. "The experiences you have up there are so out of the ordinary - you don't just get on a chairlift and sit down, the whole process is an adventure. From getting on the Snow-Cat to taking the it out at the end of the weekend, it's stuff the ordinary ski person has never experienced," he says.

Last year Nigel invited friends for Carnival Weekend at Meany, and their minds were completely blown. "We did so many things this weekend that we have never even seen or done before," they said of their visit. Nigel's response? He simply smiled and said, "Welcome to Meany."

Now if that isn't adventure, I don't know what is.

## The resurrection of the Patrol Race



### The Patrol Race

Historic map of the 18-mile backcountry ski race from Snoqualmie Pass to Stampede Pass. Running again Feb, 28, 2015. Signup Dec. 1.

Nigel recently got into backcountry splitboarding, mostly through work, and immediately made an impact on our community. Inspired by photos of his grandparents and the historic Patrol Race at Meany, he worked to revive the race last year after a 73-year hiatus.

"I was flipping through an old album and came to this page showing a photo collage of the race and the route," he said. "I was just getting into backcountry touring, and decided then and there 'Oh, I'm going to do that next winter. Definitely. Guaranteed.'" And he did.

Nigel was further inspired after attending The Mountaineers sold-out American Alps Traverse slideshow in August 2013. There, he really saw the huge audience for backcountry snow sports. "I was blown away to see 400 people packing this room in August to see some slideshow from these two guys in the North Cascades -

it's crazy that there's this much interest in Backcountry Skiing!"

At that event he was introduced to Lowell Skoog, Mountaineers Historian and original mastermind behind the American Alps Traverse. Nigel just thought the race was this super cool historical event that he wanted to do, but didn't realize there was such rich history behind it. After meeting and talking with Lowell, he worked with the crew at Meany to organize a legitimate race.

For the first year, they allowed 12 teams and did very little advertising. The rosters filled quickly and Nigel found himself with a waiting list. Nigel and other Meanyites are planning another Patrol race this season, on Feb 28, and are hoping to include a few more teams. Registration will open Dec 1. Save the date and start training if you want to see your name in The Mountaineers' history books!

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# We All Begin Somewhere

by Ida Vincent, Mountaineers climb leader

It still doesn't seem real that just three years ago, I was standing at the base of the indoor climbing wall at The Mountaineers Seattle Program Center, trembling with fear. This wall was only a couple meters tall, but it was my very first rock climb. I had my brand spanking new mountaineering boots on, and I thought to myself there is no way I can get up there in these boots. As luck would have it, the two guys I had been paired up with (now fellow climbing buddies) were very kind and gave me the tightest of belays, in fact I think they may have hauled me up that wall.

Next was the outdoor wall, which is much taller and more like a real rock climb. I remember making it up the top, coming over the lip, and the second I got on the ledge I anchored in with my personal anchor as if my life depended on it. That first year, during my basic alpine climbing course, my mind set was that I would get through that silly rock climbing malarkey, do my one real alpine rock climb to graduate and then never rock climb again. I was doing this course to do glacier climbs. I love steep icy snow, my crampons biting in like Styrofoam, kicking steps, ice-axe in hand. All that makes my heart sing with joy. Rock however, terrified me.

I signed up early for my rock climb – Yellow Jacket Tower – thinking I would just quickly get it out of the way.

Once on the summit I breathed a sigh of relief. The scary stuff was over, now it was just the fun rappel down. I had completed my one rock climb required for graduation. I could now focus on glacier climbs, climbing mountains covered in ice and snow. But as the summer went on, I heard about some great rock climbs and was seduced by the photos from these peaks. My favorite thing about alpine climbing is the stunning scenery and the beautiful remote places it takes me. OK, I thought, maybe I will do one more rock climb. Which turned into three and then to four and all of a sudden it wasn't all that scary anymore. I grew more confident, and by the end of summer, I had come to enjoy these alpine rock climbs. I was however, not ready to take the next step and lead on rock, this is a completely different ball game – all of a sudden, you're on the sharp end and a fall could have severe consequences. I agonized as my friends signed up for the intermediate climbing course, wanting to join them yet not feeling ready to lead on rock. In the end, I handed in my application, thinking I would take my time. Perhaps the first year I wouldn't lead, I would just learn a lot.

I was still undecided as I stood at the base of Saber at Castle Rock. I looked up on the rock and it occurred to me that I had never climbed a 5.6 outside ever before, and now I was to lead climb it. My friend who was helping out instructing and that I



had been paired up with looked at me and said “Ida, I know you can do this. I have seen you climb. You are good”. OK, I thought – I can do this. I started up the wall, placing gear as I squeezed my way up the crack, clipping in to a dodgy looking old piton in lack of any other protection, I thought I can do this. just pretend you are at your rock climbing gym – you climb harder things than this there. I scanned the rock for placements and all of a sudden my surroundings faded away, I was focusing on finding a spot for my gear to make my slow ascent up the rock. I could feel my leg start to shake. *Oh god not Elvis leg. Not now.* But rather than panic, my mind put all its focus on placing gear, and soon enough I was at a bolt, I could anchor in and bring my

follower up. The pride I felt after that first day of leading was immense. I had channeled all my fear into problem solving – a puzzle of rock now neatly in place.

And I’ve learned to do it many times since. Last summer, I spent most of my spare days as a rope lead for basic rock climbs, or swinging leads on intermediate routes. This year I graduated the intermediate course, lead a student instructional group (SIG) and became a climb leader. With every climb, fear get’s pushed a little further away. This is not to say I am fearless in the least. I still mentally prepare before each climb, and sometimes on a hard move, every fiber in my body tightens and I can feel my leg wanting to go into Elvis mode. I just never let it.



Ida on the summit of Mt Athabasca in Alberta Canada. Photo courtesy of Ida Vincent.



# 50 Years of Wilderness

## the past and future of our protected lands

by Jill Sanford, Seattle outdoor adventure writer

As Mountaineers, we have accessed and experienced some of the most remote areas of this region. Close your eyes and think about where you were on your favorite or most recent trip outdoors. Chances are this trip brought you to some sort of protected land, quite possibly to a federally designated "Wilderness" area, such as the Olympic Wilderness, the San Juan Wilderness, Mount Rainier National Park, Glacier Peak Wilderness, Boulder River Wilderness and more.

The Wilderness Act turned 50 years old this year. On September 3, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the act that defined these areas as places "where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." The act immediately protected about 9 million acres of our country's most beautiful and pristine landscapes from human development. Over last 50 years, another 100 million acres have been designated as federal Wilderness areas. This is the highest level of protection an area of land can receive in the US, preventing against motorized recreation, logging, mining, drilling, road building, off road vehicle use and industrial structures within the designated area.

Like many Mountaineers, I can't imagine living without our beautiful Cascades and Olympics. They greet me from my office window and on my daily drive. On the weekends, I escape to these mountains and I feel like they are welcoming me home. It's easy to take the laws that protect them for granted because they are such a huge part of life in the Northwest, necessary for so many of us for both recreation and relaxation.

Ask any Mountaineer what wilderness means to him or her, and you will usually get an introspective and thoughtful response. Mickey Eisenberg, a local guidebook author, volunteer instructor, avid naturalist and Mountaineer since the 1970s, says, "In my mind the wilderness has always represented a way of reconnecting us and reminding us of what this mystery of life is all about. That reconnection is where many people find rejuvenation and connection, where they center and calm themselves, or reach a Zen like experience. All of those are terms that different people might use but they are all getting at something similar. It's connecting us with nature to remind us of our nature."

### Preserving Wilderness Preserves Life

Aside from the dual benefits of a place to play and a place to reconnect, the Wilderness areas in this region are also the untold heroes of preserving life as we know it around and on the Puget Sound. Mindy Roberts is another Mountaineer who loves outdoor recreation as a personal recharge, and as the organization's Safety Officer as well as a climbing instructor for the Tacoma branch she has a fair amount of experience enjoying Wilderness areas. She is also an Environmental Engineer for the Department of Ecology, and her professional work leads to an even greater respect for these protected lands.

"Over 90% of the water that reaches Puget Sound is from wilderness areas and other forested and alpine areas around the Puget Sound," Mindy explains. "It is incredibly important to protect these lands in their natural state." She monitors the



Hikers explore Ptarmigan Ridge, on Mount Baker. Photo by Tim Nair

water that flows into the Puget Sound and her findings are drastic. “The water coming out of streams in Wilderness areas and forested lands is much cleaner than the waters coming out of even lightly residential or agricultural lands, which are contaminated with heavy metals like zinc and lead. We also see it in terms of nutrient contamination that drives algae growth in Puget Sound.”

Washington State has 31 federally protected Wilderness Areas, and we are lucky. They allow areas that aren’t protected to be cleaner and safer for us to live in. Mindy also uses these areas to more clearly understand what the human impact has been on non-protected places and to gage how our ever increasing population will continue to impact the environment. “In other parts of the country they don’t have the luxury,” she says, because the relatively large amount of Wilderness Areas in this state “provide enormous benefits in terms of buffering our human impact.”

A lot of the challenges we face in the Puget Sound region would be a lot more intense if we didn’t have these federal lands set aside for wilderness enjoyment. While Mindy’s background is in science, she also emphasizes the role of policy and government in preserving our Wilderness areas. “We take it for granted that these places have always been there and will always be there in the future. They are only there now because people took the time to advocate for them through a political process, which is very tricky these days. Continuing that advocacy even just to take care of the places that are already there is incredibly important.”

## Advocacy, Policy and the Next 50

The Mountaineers hopes to have a system of getting our members involved in advocacy in a few months according to Conservation and Responsible Recreation Manager, Katherine Hollis. Thanks to her efforts and the foresight and leadership of Executive Director Martinique Grigg, The Mountaineers has a strong relationship with advocacy and policy groups like The Wilderness Society. The two organizations work symbolically to further protect our beautiful area and ensure that future generations feel the same investment in Wilderness areas.

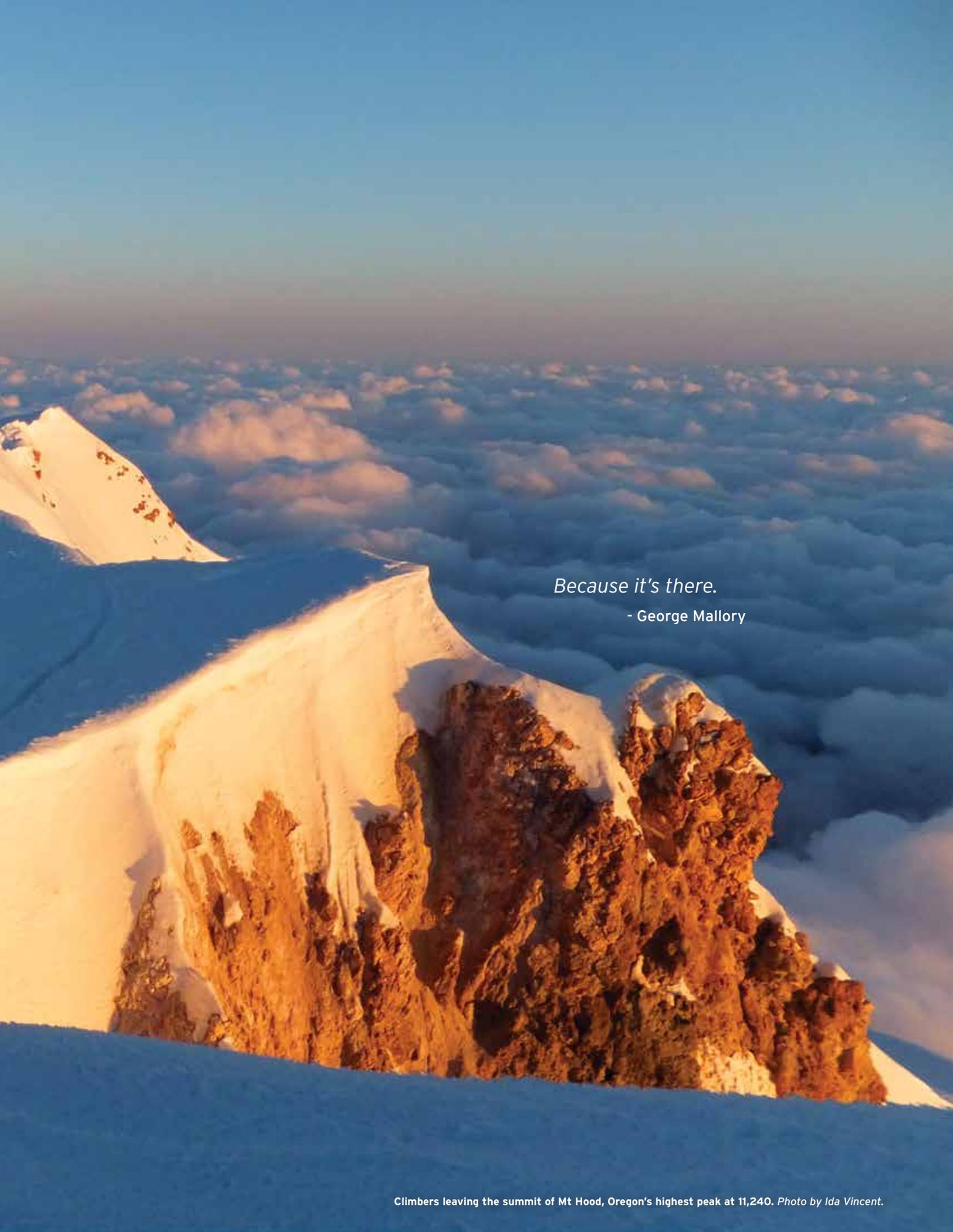
The Wilderness Society is a D.C. based organization, but the Governing Council Chair, Doug Walker is a Seattle local and an active member of The Mountaineers.

“The Wilderness Society and The Mountaineers have a very good cooperative relationship,” he explains. The Wilderness Society is an expert on federal policy and it also advocates for the maintenance and condition of wilderness areas. As Mountaineers, we have The Wilderness Society to thank not only for the existence of Wilderness areas, but the level of access we are granted. “Collaborating leads to better policy,” Doug explains. For example, The Mountaineers are required to hold certain permits to be able to offer classes on different types of federally designated land. The Wilderness Society works to make it easier for groups like The Mountaineers to access those permits.

And why is The Wilderness Society so invested in our programs?

continued on page 24 >>





*Because it's there.*

- George Mallory

Because in order to succeed, to create lasting policy and to continue to protect Wilderness areas and other federal lands, they need a strong and diverse constituency of voters who are personally invested in the outdoors. As Doug puts it, "The advantage for The Wilderness Society in working with The Mountaineers is that it is a strong and large local organization that lends a real sort of democratic voice in support for these kinds of policies."

There are over 9,000 active Mountaineers members and that number is growing every year. "The Wilderness society is really focused on building the constituency for federal lands and Wildernesses in particular," says Doug. The best way to do that is to get people outdoors and get them invested in the future of our Wilderness areas, a mission that fits like a glove to a hand with the Mountaineer's own goals.

Over 110 million acres of land nationwide have been protected under this act over the last 50 years. But the question on everyone's mind is, what about the next 50? While there could be multiple contributing factors to the future of this act, there is fact that we just can't deny. The American political climate is a lot more diverse today than it was in 1964, but you wouldn't know it from the primary demographic of outdoor recreation.

"96% of visitors to our national lands are Caucasian," Doug reveals. "Wilderness is lacking relevancy to a lot of emerging audiences and that contributes to diminished passion for our issues. And so we want to grow the constituency so we have greater awareness and relevant engagement with a larger public. We want to see wilderness and our organization reached by larger audiences."

Again, that is where organizations like The Mountaineers come in. Youth outreach and the Mountain Workshops program seek to bring a love for the outdoors and a passion for conservation to a new, diverse demographic that will continue to expand and

inspire. At the core of the Mountaineer's is a mission to teach skills and stewardship to those who have never been exposed to outdoor recreation. We are heading in the right direction, yet there is still a great deal of work to be done over the next 50 years to ensure that environmental conservation is not just a static idea of the past.

But as any Mountaineer can tell you, it is not common to take a walk in the woods and leave without a stronger relationship to the environment than we had when we first arrived. It is that universal feeling of rejuvenation and interconnectedness that Mickey describes and that we can all recognize. Involvement leads to investment, especially in an organization like ours where it is common to see someone join a class with little to no knowledge about their activity and end up just a few years later as a volunteer instructor or committee head.

The fight for conservation needs individuals like those who belong to The Mountaineers and it needs The Mountaineers to continue to teach and lead these people as they become invested in the future of outdoor recreation.

"I'd like to believe, and I do believe, that the more people who are aware of the fragility of our wilderness areas and the need to protect, preserve and expand it, the more able we will be able to preserve it for future generations," Mickey says. This simple belief that is shared by so many of us Mountaineers, to facilitate more people from more diverse backgrounds becoming invested in Wilderness, just might be the catalyst that will determine the next 50 years. ▲▲

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act with The Mountaineers and learn what you can do to get involved on November 15, 2014, from 2-5pm at the Seattle REI. The event will feature a keynote speaker, breakout sessions, and socializing. To learn more and RSVP: [bit.ly/wawilderness](http://bit.ly/wawilderness)



Joe (second to left) and crew at the PCT Canadian border.

## Congratulations Joe!

By Suzanne Gerber and Steve LeBrun

On August 10th of this year, Mountaineer Joe "String Bean" McConaughy reached the Canadian border and completed a historic effort, thru-hiking the full 2,640 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) from the Mexican border to the Canadian border in just 53 days, six hours and 37 minutes. He did it as a trail run, rather than the traditional hike, averaging 4 miles per hour.

But he didn't do it alone. Joe had a crew who met with him at pre-scheduled check-points. With his team, Joe broke the "assisted hike" PCT speed record, set just one year earlier, by an astonishing six days and two hours.

Joe's thru-hike was done to raise money for CancerCare, a national cancer support organization, and was done in memory of his cousin Colin, who died in 2012 at the age of two of a rare neuroblastoma brain cancer. This was both the motivation and the drive of Joe's run. Whenever Joe was having a bad day, he would think to himself, "I'm just experiencing physical pain. Imagine the pain of losing a son." And he kept on going.

To learn more, or make a donation, visit [www.runforcolin.com](http://www.runforcolin.com).

# Life Rises from Ash at Mount St. Helens

By Joan Miller

*Schinia mating on lupin. Photo by John Bishop*

Even after 34 years, the process of plant recolonization is still going on at Mount St. Helens. To go from moonscape to forested landscape is a long process, and scientist John Bishop finds it “wondrous.” John, an ecologist and professor at Washington State University’s School of Biological Sciences, Vancouver, has been conducting research at the national monument for 25 years, starting as a grad student. He says his initial focus was evolutionary genetics. What better place to study than a landscape that was almost biblical: it was ripe for any kind of evolution.

The 1980 blast sterilized parts of the landscape, destroying forests and wiping out plant and animal life. But Bishop says some plants and animals survived underground or under snow. Ash, avalanches and pyroclastic flow obliterated everything in their paths. But life does find a way, and the first pioneers spotted rising from the ash were lupines, John explains. But not the common lupine that can be seen all over the mountains in summer. The pioneer lupine was *Lupinus lepidus* var. *lobbii*, a dwarf lupine. This hardy little purple flower is only 4-6 inches high and likes to grow in pumice and hot dry areas such as slopes of volcanoes. Lupines have special powers: they can fix nitrogen, which is vital in an environment where there is none. But they also have special adaptations for obtaining other elements, and can self-pollinate, which was handy in a place with no pollinators.

How the first lupines got started in the blast zone is a bit of a mystery, but John explains that there was an initial “pulse” of phosphorus released by the pumice, and scientists also think that enough insects were blown in over time to build up nutrients that may have supported lupine seeds that were also blown in. In any case, lupine colonies expanded, along with the insect population. There developed a classic ecological situation where the various resources were the controlling factors in the ecosystem. As one population would rise, another

species would bring it down. John discovered that the lupines, a keystone species at the monument, were being attacked by insects, and this interaction became a center of his research.

“We’re studying a place where everything has to colonize from the outside; nothing was left after the blast,” he says. “Each species that comes in has a period when no enemies are there, and they can flourish. When enemies arrive, the plants or insects they feed on are reduced in number.”

Most of his research is on the “Pumice Plain,” the area between Spirit Lake and the crater on the north side. It was buried deeply by an avalanche, then by pyroclastic flow. “There was virtually nothing available for plants and animals to use. It takes real specialized species to succeed,” he says.

Today, Mount St. Helens is a biodiversity hotspot, says John. Many tree species have only just begun to show up on the pumice plain, including conifers. But along with the return of native species has come an influx of invasives that were not there before the blast. John says especially along roadways, where car tires help transport seeds, you can find strongholds of nonnatives.

Building on his plant studies, Bishop sees a natural bridge to studying the effects of climate change at Mount St. Helens. “We’re looking at colonization of new surfaces, so our results could apply to other places. For example, where glaciers have retreated or as species migrate to higher altitude or latitude,” he explains.

“There is always something new to see out there. I never tire of it.” Spoken like a true scientist.

John Bishop will speak about the reemergence of plant life at Mount St. Helens on November 20 at 7pm at The Mountaineers Seattle Program Center.

# Gene's Quest for 100 peaks at Mount Rainier

by Suzanne Gerber, Publications Manager

Of all the Wilderness areas in Washington State, Mount Rainier is by far the most iconic. It was the fifth national park established in the United States – back in 1899. Millions flock there every year to hike, ski, snowshoe, climb or simply take photos. Those who love the outdoors love any excuse to spend more time in this beautiful park.

Gene Yore and Mickey Eisenberg have provided that excuse, with their e-book, *Guide to 100 Peaks at Mt. Rainier National Park*. The two have paired up and identified the 100 tallest peaks that surround the mountain, not counting the “big one.” Of these peaks, only 10 are climbs. 75 are scrambles and the 15 remaining are hikes – a list that awards it's own medallion.

In 2012, at the age of 72, Gene set out on his quest to climb all 100 of these. At that point, he had only done seven – but was determined to catch up to his friend Mickey, who completed his list in August of 2012.

“There's something special about this list,” Gene explains. “It's more accessible/achievable than many of the others.” And that's true. Compared to the Bulger list, for example, which names the (unofficial) 100 highest peaks in Washington State, the 100 peaks at Mount Rainier is very attainable. Almost all of them can be done in a day. But that's not to say it's an easy list. It may not include Rainier itself, but it does include Little Tahoma at the height of 11,138 ft. Then there are maintained paths and lookouts that balance the list. Perhaps this is what makes the list so special. You can decide what type of peak you're in the mood for on any given day. Until you get close to the end of the list that is, and want to finish it.

When Gene was just five peaks away from completion, he used his SPOT messenger to call 911. It was during his return from Double Peak – a 6,203 ft strenuous scramble on the east side of Rainier. After breaking his fibula and spending the night in a bivy, Gene sent out the signal. He waited until the morning because, as a former member of Seattle Mountain Rescue, he knew a late night emergency call would put his colleagues at risk in the dark. It was a seamless rescue with a full recovery – but that wasn't Gene's luckiest break during this quest. About six months prior, he suffered a cardiac arrest. Fortunately, it occurred at home and, by swift action of his wife, he was able to get emergency care almost immediately. Once recovered, his determination to finish the list was stronger than ever.

As any near-death incident may, it strengthened his relationship with his friends and family – and especially his climbing partner, Mickey. Their companionship, encouragement and mutual sense of adventure kept Gene motivated from peak to peak. And Gene's will to keep going, after his heart nearly gave out on him, left Mickey in complete admiration. “Gene sure has a lot of determination. The broken leg proves it. But his cardiac arrest elevates the quest into the heroic,” said Mickey. “It was courage in the face of something none of us can even contemplate.”

Gene's side of the story is a bit more modest, though he tells it with pride. He focuses on others who are getting out and enjoying these 100 peaks. Gene named one friend who hadn't climbed in over 30 years, before deciding to take on this 'attainable' list and has now climbed over half of them. He knows 20 or 30 more who joined *peakbaggers.com* just to track their progress on it. “The best thing,” he says about the 100 Peaks at Mount Rainier, “is how much it's inspired people to get out.”

## 100 Peaks at Mount Rainier National Park

### Front Runners List

(pulled from [peakbagger.com](http://peakbagger.com) on 10/18/14)

#### COMPLETED ALL 100

Mickey Eisenberg  
Scott Rice  
Dan Lauren  
Curt Baxstrom  
Gene Yore

#### CLIMBED 75+

Fred Beavon  
Lynn Graf  
Tim Hagan  
Richard Burt  
Chuck Powrie

#### CLIMBED 50+

Tom Girard  
Julie Myer  
Dean Taylor  
Jeanne Eisenberg  
Andy Boos  
Ken Jones  
Don Schaechtel  
Henry Romer  
Jay Crafton  
Denise Hageman  
Glenn Eades  
Ann Schaechtel  
John Stolk  
Grace Parker

#### CLIMBED 25+

John Morrow  
Chad Painter  
Sheryl Lamberton  
Lisa Berntsen  
Jeff Patterson  
Gretchen Lentz  
Jeff Panza  
Dave Schultz  
Bryan Kraai  
Andrew Strand  
Sue Madill  
Susan Shih  
Karl Themer  
Joe Petersen  
Eric Johnson  
Royce Poetter  
Eric Eames  
Ed Dominguez  
Marion Bauman  
Scott Schissel  
Paul Michelson  
Bob Schwab  
Victor Chinn  
Nadine Lauren  
Tab Wilkins

*note: medallions are awarded for the completion of 25, 50 and 100 peaks (plus one for the 15 hikes on the list)*



Photo taken after Gene Yore climbed his 100th peak at MRNP. Dewey Peak is shown in the background. Photo was taken on the saddle between Dewey Peak and Seymour Peak. Left to right: Mary Hsue, Jim Logerfo, Henry Romer, Peter Clitherow, Jack McLaughlin, Jay Crafton, Denise Crafton, Sheryl Lamberton, Joe Yore, Gene Yore, Don Yore, Colleen McClure, Steve McClure, Mickey Eisenberg. Photo by Karl Themer

*Guide to 100 Peaks at Mount Rainier National Park, by Mickey Eisenberg and Gene Yore is available on iTunes and as an electronic book (for tablets and phones). It is also available as an iBook through the Apple bookstore. The new, second edition was published in the summer of 2014. All royalties are donated to The Mountaineers.*

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Reinhold Messner crossing Antarctica on foot, on the way to McMurdo Station, 1989. Photo courtesy of Reinhold Messner Archives

## From the editor's desk creating the new *Reinhold Messner: My Life at the Limit*

by Mary Metz, Senior Editor, Mountaineers Books

Mountaineers Books has published quite a number of Messner titles over the years, ranging from big color extravaganzas like *All Fourteen 8,000ers* to straightforward narratives including the classic *The Crystal Horizon*. Reinhold Messner has written more than sixty books in German, and Mountaineers has published about a dozen of them in English—more than any other English-language publisher anywhere.

But sometimes things move slowly and oddly in the world of publishing. I'd been aware of the existence of Reinhold Messner's *Mein Leben am Limit* for some years but acquiring rights and hiring translators isn't cheap, and we hadn't been able to make the numbers work for this interview-format book. Then, out of

the blue, we received an email from a stranger who wanted us to publish what was essentially a Messner photo album; our correspondent was so enthused about Messner that he was willing to assist with the costs. Unfortunately the book wasn't something we felt fit with our publishing aims. Happily, in a series of emails between the would-be donor, some of us at Mountaineers Books, and Mr. Messner himself, it turned out that the book that Messner really wanted to see in English was the very book I'd long been wishing we could afford. Suddenly, the stars aligned and only two years after those initial email exchanges, thousands of copies of *Reinhold Messner: My Life at the Limit* are in the warehouse.

Our enthusiasm for the book, combined with Messner's impending 70th birthday, inspired the publisher of the original German title to commission a new round of interviews and a new chapter so that our edition brings Messner's life and views up to 2014.

I hope you enjoy this fascinating and intimate look into the life and ideas of the world's greatest alpinist.

The following excerpt is from *Reinhold Messner: My Life at the Limit*. The book follows an interview format guided by the questions of Berlin- and London-based journalist Thomas Huetlin, a longtime correspondent of Messner: "H" stands for Huetlin, and "M" indicates Messner's response.

*H: Isn't there a rule that you should never let anyone go back down on their own?*

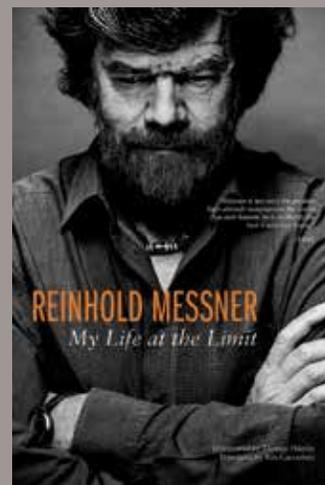
M: What do you mean by a rule? Who makes the rules? Looking at it another way, you could say that all of the great successes have mostly been achieved against the rules. There is also a "rule" that says you shouldn't solo routes. So what? If you've got a climbing partner and a rope and can belay each other, then great. But I can still do things differently if I want to.

Climbing mountains is not a sport, it's not a game, and it's definitely not a religion. I go into a dangerous area, a life-threatening world, and I take responsibility for myself and my partners. And they do the same. We all try our best to survive. But it's dangerous, and there are some situations when it's not possible to survive. If you don't understand this, or you don't accept it, you shouldn't climb at the limit. No one is forcing you to, after all. You should do it of your own free will—accepting responsibility

for yourself in the sure knowledge that you are exposing yourself to risk—or not at all.

*H: But surely the greatest individual mistake that you can be accused of making is letting one of your climbing partners go back down alone?*

M: The mistake, if there was one, was climbing Manaslu in the first place. There are no rules. If circumstances permit, you can let someone go back down on their own. If that wasn't the case, I would never set off with a partner.



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being a member of **The Mountaineers** gives you  
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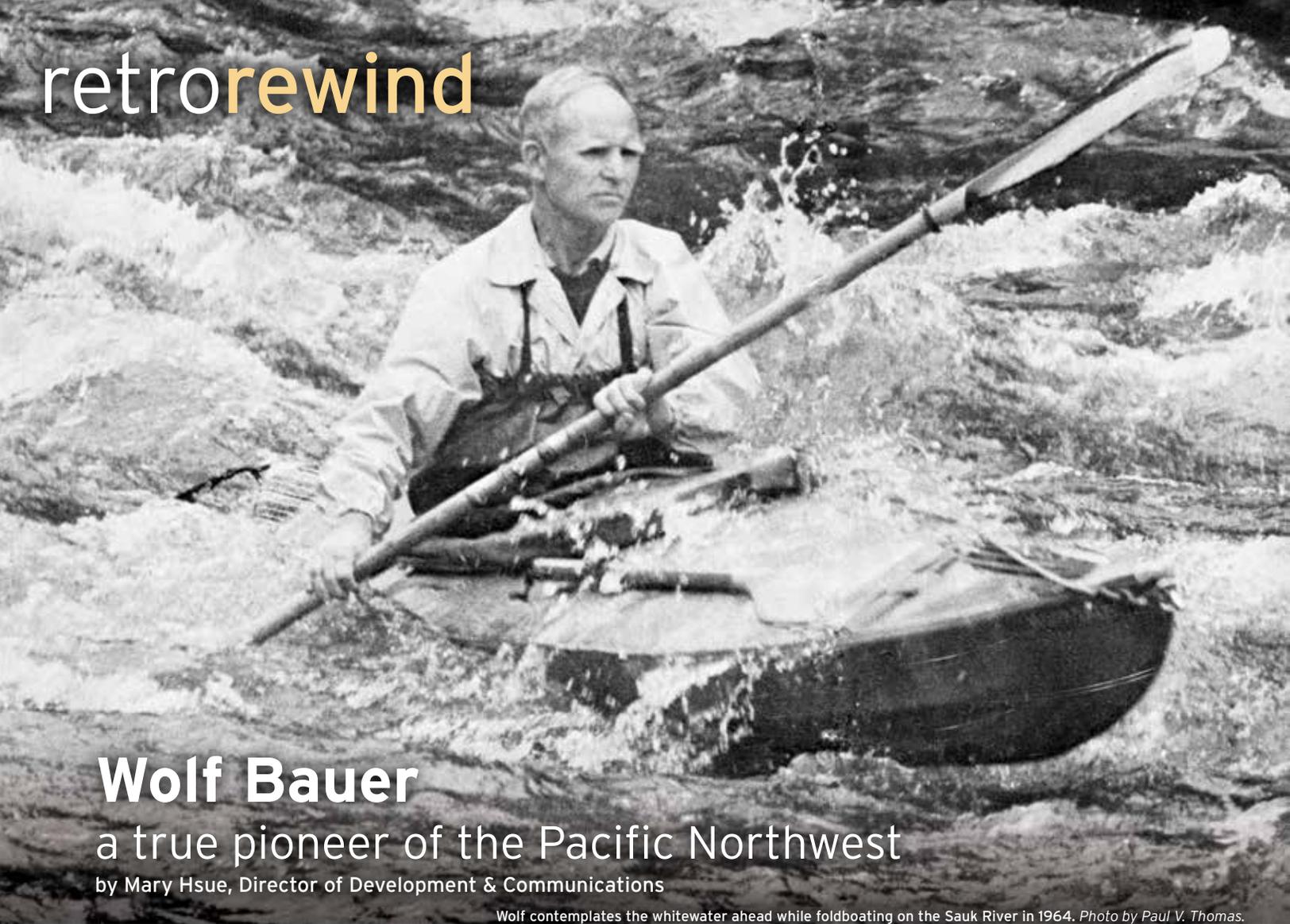
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## Wolf Bauer a true pioneer of the Pacific Northwest

by Mary Hsue, Director of Development & Communications

Wolf contemplates the whitewater ahead while foldboating on the Sauk River in 1964. Photo by Paul V. Thomas.

Upon joining The Mountaineers staff, Executive Director, Martinique Grigg handed me a book titled *The Mountaineers: A History*, published in 1998 by Mountaineers Books. She thought it would give me a good perspective on the impact and evolution of this hundred year old organization. A fascinating read and one I could not put down, the book provided that and so much more. Well before reading the last page of the book, I had developed a sense of pride for The Mountaineers and a deep appreciation for early members who played a huge role in the development of the outdoor industry, the establishment of national parks and wilderness areas, creating one of the first climbing courses in the nation, and founding the nation's first Mountain Rescue Council. The book has become required reading for all staff members.

One name mentioned more than any in the book is Wolf Bauer. Bauer, who turned 102 this year, has been a pioneer all his life. In addition to helping start the climbing course and making a number of impressive first ascents, including the first ascent of the Ptarmigan Ridge on the north face of Mt. Rainier, Bauer was a champion skier, and in 1948 founded the Seattle Mountain Rescue Council. He not only created the first kayak club in the Northwest, his designs and innovations led to the development of the modern fiberglass kayak. His love of outdoor recreation fueled a desire to protect the natural landscape and led to his creation of the Washington Environmental Council.

In 2014, The Mountaineers recreated one of our organization's grand traditions by holding, for the first time since 1941, the Patrol Race, an 18.5-mile backcountry ski race along the crest of the Cascades. From 1930 to 1941, three-man patrol teams competed in the race between The Mountaineers Snoqualmie Pass Lodge and Meany Ski Hut near Stampede Pass, a contest that The Seattle Times on December 10, 1944, called "one of the year's great competitive events."

The Mountaineers' first Patrol Race of 1936 was only open to Mountaineers members. The racing teams had 18 miles of perfect powder snow, and the winning team of Wolf Bauer, Chet Higman, and Bill Miller set a new record time of 4 hours, 37 minutes, 23 seconds, which was destined to stand for many years to come. The 2014 Patrol Race was coordinated by Nigel Steere, whose grandparents were involved with The Mountaineers' Meany Ski Hut in the early 1930s. The winning team consisted of Cody Lourie, Jed Yeiser, and Luke Shy, who finished in 7 hours, 9 minutes, beating the second-place team by 20 minutes.

"Meany Lodge welcomed them with cheers, awards, hearty dinner, and a warm night's sleep after race temperatures and winds in the teens," according to the official report of the race. Mountaineers officials sent the race results to Wolf Bauer, who was eager to learn whether his 78-year-old race record of 4 hours, 37 minutes had been broken: it had not.



Seattle Mountain Rescue Council helicopter training in 1949 at Snoqualmie Pass with the U.S. Coast Guard. Standing from left: Chuck Welsh, Dee Molenaar, Coast Guard pilot "K" Molenaar, Max Eckenberg, Ome Daiber, Coast Guard crewman John Thompson, and Lou Whittaker. Kneeling from left: Wolf Bauer, unidentified rescuer, Jim Whittaker and the unnamed Coast Guard pilot. *Photo courtesy of The Spring Trust For Trails.*

## An Unmatched Influence on Outdoor Recreation

As you can imagine, there are far more stories about Wolf than these two pages can hold. So I chose a story from *The Mountaineers: A History*, that climbing course students and recent grads will enjoy - Bauer and handful of his students making the first ascent of Mount Goode.

"In 1936, Wolf Bauer led his first climbing course graduates on a venture he felt would test their skills. The group chose 9,200-foot Mount Goode, a fortress of a mountain at the head of Lake Chelan and one of the most sought-after first ascents in the Cascades. Herman Ulrichs had written of his attempt on Goode in the 1935 American Alpine Journal. Several parties of experienced club members representing the best in the Northwest had been thwarted by a particularly tricky chimney near the summit.

Among the graduates who accompanied Bauer were O. Phillip Dickert, Jack Hossack, Joe Halwax, and George MacGowan. All would go on to become familiar names in Northwest climbing.

Nothing looked very promising for this climb at the outset. The weather was wet and bleak. And on the ferry ride up Lake Chelan to the village of Stehekin, they discovered a pile of climbing equipment aboard and learned that it belonged to two Canadian climbers who were also attempting the first ascent of Goode, via the northeast side. But Bauer had the foresight to call ahead, and the local hostelry manager was waiting for them at Stehekin with a truck. They were whisked the sixteen miles up the Stehekin River to the trailhead as soon as the boat docked, giving them a head start.

Bauer was first to reach the narrow chimney just below the summit that had stopped so many climbers before him. MacGowan wrote of the climb in the 1936 annual: "The rear wall of the chimney sloped back at an angle of 50 to 75 degrees, and was covered with ice and snow. The side walls were also verglassed, making friction climbing impossible. Wolf worked his way up, driving

pitons wherever possible, having considerable trouble making them hold in the ice-filled cracks... In due course the entire party arrived at the top of the chimney, which was about 150 up high and ended in an overhang.

"The right wall was vertical for 100 feet, and the left six or seven, slanting back to a ledge 30 feet higher. With some difficulty, Wolf stemmed up between the walls, here about five feet apart, crossed and scrambled to the ledge above, where he drove a piton, to belay the remainder of the party to his side. Here we thought our difficulties were over, as the ledge led to the left in a most promising manner, but on exploring we found it ran onto the face of the cliff and we were forced to return to our original position on the ledge.

30 feet higher, a break in the ridge looked like a probable solution to our difficulty, and while dubiously realizing that the first man would have very little protection, Wolf spied a crack in the granite ten feet above. The second flip of the rope caught, and ascending with prusik knots, he found himself on a narrow sloping slab with no close holds. With considerable effort he was able to drive a piton far enough to his right to protect himself until he worked over to where a finger traverse was possible.

"A few anxious moments and he was on the ridge announcing that the way was clear to the summit."

At that point, Bauer and Hossack couldn't resist a practical joke. They scrambled to the top and built a small cairn, then announced to the others that the boys from Canada had beaten them to the summit. The others were forlorn until they went looking for the summit register that would surely have been left behind and the joke was revealed. The Canadian climbers never made it.



On the summit of Mount Goode. Left to right: Phil Dickert, Joe Halwax, George MacGowan, and Wolf Bauer. *Photo by Jack Hossack*

# Ready for Adventure?

The magazine *Go Guide* offers **just a sampling** of the thousands of Mountaineers trips, outings and events each year. Please go online to [www.mountaineers.org](http://www.mountaineers.org) to gain a fully-detailed view of all up-to-the-minute listings. Many of our activities - especially day hikes and urban adventures - are open to the general public who sign up as guests, as an introduction to Mountaineers activities.

*note: Events and trips require registration unless otherwise noted. You will also need a current waiver on file with The Mountaineers to participate.*

## Activity and course listing updates:

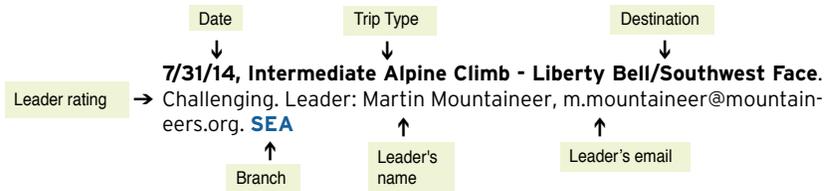
We continue to make updates to integrate online with print. To make it easier to find and sign up for activities online, we are using the same category names here, as on our website. If you find an activity or course you would like to sign up for, just go to our website and click on the *Explore* or *Learn* tab. You can then filter your search by category (for example, *Day Hiking*). We've updated our privacy guidelines and will no longer be listing the volunteer leaders' phone numbers or meeting time and destination in this public format unless requested.

To stay updated on our most recent website and technology progress, check out our blog online at [www.mountaineers.org/blog](http://www.mountaineers.org/blog) and look for website update reports.

### How do you use the Go Guide and what is important to you?

If you have any suggestions, questions or feedback on the Go Guide, please send an email to Suzanne Gerber, publications manager at [suzanneg@mountaineers.org](mailto:suzanneg@mountaineers.org).

## ACTIVITY LISTING KEY



## COURSE LISTING KEY



### Mountaineers Ten Essential System *required on all Mountaineers trips:*

1. Navigation
2. Sun protection
3. Insulation
4. Illumination
5. First aid supplies
6. Fire starter
7. Repair kit and tools
8. Nutrition (extra food)
9. Hydration (extra water)
10. Emergency shelter

### Potential abbreviations:

- |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| CG—Campground             | E, W, N, S—East . . . |
| USGS—US Geological Survey | GT—Green Trails       |
| Hwy—Highway               | I—Interstate          |
| ITC—Issaquah Trail Cntr   | Jct—Junction          |
| MRNP—Mt. Rainier          | NP—National Park      |
| NWFP—NW Forest Pass (fee) | mi—miles              |
| FS—Forest Service         | P&R—Park and Ride     |
| Rd—Road                   | RS—Ranger Station     |
| RT—Round Trip             | SP—State Park         |
| SR—State Route            | TH—Trailhead          |

**SIGN UP** for the trip or event of your choice online, and remember that you may register for an event or course in any branch, regardless of the one you belong to.

Branch listing key: **BEL** = Bellingham, **EVT** = Everett, **FH** = Foothills, **KIT** = Kitsap, **OLY** = Olympia, **SEA** = Seattle, **TAC** = Tacoma.

# activities

The list below includes activities posted online by October 1. See [www.mountaineers.org](http://www.mountaineers.org) for up-to-date listings.

## backpacking

**11/3/14 - 11/8/14, Backpack - Table Rock / Squaw Peak.** Challenging. Foothills Backpacking Committee. Leader: Ken Willis, kjwillis325@yahoo.com. **FH**

## climbing

**12/10/14 - 12/15/14, Crag Rock Climb - Joshua Tree.** Seattle Climbing Committee. Leader: Sandra Corso, sandracorso@yahoo.com. **SEA**

## dancing

**11/4 - 12/30, (no dance 11/11) - Tue - Folkdance - Kirkland** No Registration Required. Meet at Peter Kirk Community Center (downtown Kirkland) at 7:30pm. See website for details: [www.mountaineers.org/seattle/folkdance/](http://www.mountaineers.org/seattle/folkdance/) Leader: Johnny Jeans, (425) 746-2328, jjmntjoys@yahoo.com **SEA**

**11/22, 12/27 Tacoma Dancing.** No Registration Required. Sons of Norway Normanna Hall, 1106 S. 15th St., Tacoma. Dance lesson starts at 7pm, Dancing at 8pm. Cost \$10. Leader: Karen Goettling, karengoettling@gmail.com **TAC**

## day hiking

**11/1/14, Chiwawa Sno-Park.** Moderate. Everett Hiking Committee. Leader: Ken Willis, kjwillis325@yahoo.com. **EVT**

**11/4/14, Fox Island.** Easy. Seattle Midweek Hiking Committee. Leader: Diane Johnson, dncindi5@aol.com. **SEA**

**11/6/14, Lime Kiln Trail.** Easy. Seattle Midweek Hiking Committee. Leader: Edmund Lewin. **SEA**

**11/15/14, Indian and Moonlight Trails, Burien.** Easy. Seattle Hiking Committee. Leader: Chris Ensor, ctrails@comcast.net. **SEA**

**11/16/14, Day Hike - Lime Kiln Trail.** Easy. Seattle Singles Activities Committee. Leader:

Bob Pankl, pankl@earthlink.net. **SEA**

**11/23/14, Rattlesnake Grand Traverse.** Challenging. Foothills Hiking Committee. Leader: Lawrence Landauer, lawrenceglennlandauer@yahoo.com. **FH**

**11/27/14, Rattlesnake Grand Traverse.** Moderate. Foothills Hiking Committee. Leader: Nicole Hansen, nicole.hansen@comcast.net. **FH**

**12/10/14, Lake Fenwick, Kent via the Rabbit Loop.** Moderate. Seattle Midweek Hiking Committee. Leader: Chris Ensor, ctrails@comcast.net. **SEA**

## scrambling

**11/1/14, Alpine Scramble - DeRoux Peak.** Moderate. Seattle Alpine Scrambling Committee. Leader: John Gilbert, johngilbertwentclimbing@hotmail.com. **SEA**

## sea kayaking

**11/1/14 - Irondale to Chimicum Creek.** Moderate. Kitsap Sea Kayaking Committee. Leader: Charlie Michel, michel199@btopenworld.com. **KIT**

**11/2/14 - Peninsula High School Pool - For Beginners (Getting Started Series).** Tacoma Sea Kayaking Committee. Leader: Gary Peniston, ghpgph@earthlink.net. **TAC**

**11/15/14 - Protection Island - Moderate.** Seattle Sea Kayaking Committee. Leader: Don Rice, drice@olympen.com. **SEA**

**11/23/14 - Peninsula High School Pool - For Beginners (Getting Started Series).** Tacoma Sea Kayaking Committee. Leader: Gary Peniston, ghpgph@earthlink.net. **TAC**

## ski & snowboard

**12/14/14 - Backcountry Ski/Snowboard - Heather Ridge N Side Backcountry - Moderate.** Foothills Backcountry Skiing Committee. Leader: Randy Oakley, randy.oakley@gmail.com. **FH**

**12/28/14 - Backcountry Ski/Snowboard - Crystal Mountain Backcountry - Moderate.** Foothills Backcountry Skiing Committee. Leader: Randy Oakley, randy.oakley@gmail.com. **FH**

## urban adventure

**11/1 - 12/27, Saturdays - Green Lake Walk Singles - Meet at 11am at the Urban Bakery, 7850 E Green Lake Dr N. No registration required. Leader: Bob Feldman, 206-528-1467, bobzf@yahoo.com **SEA****

**11/5/14 - 12/31/14, Wednesdays - Evening Outdoor Inline Skate - Singles - 7 P.M.** Skate the Alki Beach paved trail with beautiful views of downtown across Elliott Bay. Take the Harbor Ave. exit off the West Seattle Bridge and go about 1 mi. north to meet on the sidewalk just north of Salty's Restaurant. Have fun and keep in shape year round! If it rains we'll do an interesting loop walk. Restaurant stop after. No registration required. Leader: Mark Olsoe, 206-937-7454, markolsoe@comcast.net. **SEA**

**11-7 to 12-26, Each Fri - Eastside Outdoor Tennis Intermediate Doubles - Singles - Meet at Robinswood Tennis Center at 7:15 PM. Activity Fee: \$10.00. Leader: Fay Weaver, 206-930-7762, seattlefay@hotmail.com **SEA****

**11/14/14 & 12/12/14, Fri - Games Night and Snacks.** 7 P.M. at the Phinney Neighborhood Center, 6532 Phinney Ave. N., #3. Bring a snack or beverage (with cups) to share & a game if you want. No registration required. Leader: Eldon Ball, eldonball@juno.com, 206-366-8405. **SEA**

**12/19/15, Fri - Sing-a-Long** Limit 30. Meet at Karen & John's Home at 7 PM. Singles, couples, partners: all are welcome to join us for a pot luck and sing along in Shoreline. BYOB and a pot luck item to share. Song books are provided. Feel free to bring an instrument if you play one. Fragrance free please. Sign up with Karen Schaper, 206-368-7547, kaschaper7@hotmail.com. **SEA**

Go to [www.mountaineers.org](http://www.mountaineers.org) for all trip and course listings.

## 2014 - 2015 Naturalists Lecture Series Seattle Program Center, 7pm

**Nov 20, 2014 (Thurs) - John Bishop,** A study of how life returns: the re-emergence of plants in the Mt. St. Helens blast zone.

**Jan 15, 2015 (Thurs) - Donn Charnley,** Plate tectonics and the formation of the North Cascades.

**Feb 11, 2015 (Wed) - Patti Happe,** The return of the fisher to the Olympic National Park: how a 10-year multi-agency project is returning this carnivore to its home ground

**Mar 12, 2015 (Thurs) - Kathleen Foley,** Gone for 40 years: Western Bluebirds return to the San Juan Islands. How bird lovers are helping reintroduce the once-common bluebird to the Garry oak ecosystem



# courses

The list below includes courses posted online by October 1. See [www.mountaineers.org](http://www.mountaineers.org) for up-to-date listings.

## avalanche safety

**12/13/14, Avalanche Awareness / Companion Rescue - 2015.** A start to avalanche education. Members: \$60, Non-members: \$80. Contact: Gerry Haugen, gerrylindaskil@msn.com **FH**

## climbing

**11/1/14 - 12/31/19, Intermediate Alpine Climbing Course - Seattle - 2015.** Intermediate Climbing Course - Seattle. Members only: \$300. Contact: Stan Hummel, shummel@nwlink.com **SEA**

**1/1/15 - 12/31/15, Basic Climbing Course - Olympia - 2015.** Basic Climbing Course - Olympia. Members: \$250, Non-members: \$375. Contact: Michael Riley, rileymj1e6@gmail.com **OLY**

**1/1/15 - 10/15/15, Basic Mountaineering Course - Bellingham - 2015.** Basic Climbing Course - Bellingham. Members: \$550, Non-members: \$700. Contact: Minda Paul, mindapaul@hotmail.com Bellingham

**1/1/15 - 12/31/19, Intermediate Climbing - Tacoma - 2015.** Learn how to lead trad and take your basic alpine climbing skills to the next level. Members: \$375, Non-members: \$425. Contact: Troy Mason, troy@troyrmason.com **TAC**

**1/7/15 - 10/30/15, Basic Alpine Climbing Course - Seattle - 2015.** Basic Alpine Climbing Course - Seattle. Members: \$550, Non-members: \$700. Contact: Cebe Wallace, cebe.wallace@gmail.com **SEA**

**1/7/15 - 10/30/15, Basic Alpine Climbing Course - Seattle - 2015.** Basic Alpine Climbing Course - Seattle. Members: \$550, Non-members: \$700. Contact: Karl Themer, europacan@yahoo.co.uk **SEA**

**1/7/15 - 10/30/15, Basic Alpine Climbing Course - Seattle - 2015.** Basic Alpine Climbing Course - Seattle. Members: \$550, Non-members: \$700. Contact: Mark Scheffer, mark\_scheffer@yahoo.com **SEA**

**1/12/15 - 2/2/15, Introduction to Leading Bolted Routes - Seattle - 2015.** Introduction to Leading Bolted Routes - Seattle. Members: \$125, Non-members: \$200. Contact: Rory Hollins, roryh@psbc.org **SEA**

**1/20/15 - 10/15/15, Basic Climbing Course - Everett - 2015.** Basic Climbing Course - Everett. Members: \$495, Non-members: \$495. Contact: Adam Clark, aclark20@gmail.com **EVT**

**1/24/15 - 1/25/15, Introduction to Winter/Mixed Climbing - Everett.** Introduction to Winter/Mixed Climbing. Members: \$0, Non-members: \$0. Contact: Paul Gehlsen, paul.r.gehlsen@boeing.com **EVT**

**2/11/15 - 10/24/15, Basic Climbing Course - Tacoma - 2015.** Basic Climbing Course - Tacoma. Members: \$475, Non-members: \$575. Contact: Curtis Stahlecker, curtis.stahlecker@tacomamountaineers.org **TAC**

## day hiking

**11/5/14 - 11/9/14, Wilderness Survival Skills Training with Field Trip - Tacoma - 2014.** Wilderness Survival Skills. Contact: Amy Mann, agmann@comcast.net **TAC**

**11/13/14, Beginning Hiking Seminar - Seattle - 2014.** Beginning Hiking Seminar. Contact: Michael Arriaga, evtmountaineer@yahoo.com **SEA**

## navigation

**2/27/15, Natural Navigation, Map & Compass - Tacoma - 2015.** Natural Navigation, Map & Compass. Contact: Amy Mann, agmann@comcast.net **TAC**

## outdoor leadership

**11/22/14, Outdoor Leadership Seminar - Seattle - 2014.** Members: \$45, Non-members: \$75. Contact: Chris McFarland, thisischrist@yahoo.com **SEA**

## scrambling

**2/1/15 - 10/31/15, Alpine Scrambling Course - Seattle - 2015.** Alpine Scrambling Course - Seattle. Members: \$250, Non-members: \$350. Contact: John Gilbert, johngilbertwentclimbing@hotmail.com **SEA**

## sea kayaking

**11/9/14 - 11/23/14, Roll Class Clinic - Tacoma - 2014.** Kayak roll class, 3 days. Members: \$100, Non-members: \$120. Contact: Gary Peniston, ghpghp@earthlink.net **TAC**

## ski & snowboard

**11/11/14 - 3/29/15, Ski & Snowboard Mountaineering.** Ski and Snowboard Mountaineering - Foothills Winter. Members: \$350, Non-members: \$400. Contact: Jerry White, ssm@foothillswinter.org **FH**

**11/11/14 - 3/29/15, Ski and Snowboard Mountaineering without AIARE.** Ski and Snowboard Mountaineering Course for students who have completed AIARE I-I. Members: \$150, Non-members: \$200. Contact: Jerry White, ssm@foothillswinter.org **FH**

**1/3/15 - 3/1/15, Downhill Ski Lesson Series -A- Outdoor Centers - 2015.** Downhill Ski Lesson Series for all ages and all abilities. Members: \$85, Non-members: \$95. Contact: Patti Polinsky, meanysports@me.com

**1/10/15 - 1/11/15, Cross Country Ski Camp - Outdoor Centers - 2015.** Cross Country Ski or Skate Weekend Clinic. Members: \$65, Non-members: \$75. Contact: Patti Polinsky, meanysports@me.com

**1/10/15 - 1/10/15, Nordic Ski Skills Session - Outdoor Centers - 2015.** Nordic Ski Skills Session. Members: \$25, Non-members: \$30. Contact: Patti Polinsky, meanysports@me.com

**1/10/15 - 2/22/15, Downhill Ski Lesson Series B - Outdoor Centers - 2015.** Downhill Ski Lesson Series for all ages and all abilities. Members: \$85, Non-members: \$95. Contact: Patti Polinsky, meanysports@me.com

**2/7/15 - 2/8/15, Cross Country Ski Camp - Outdoor Centers - 2015.** Cross Country Ski or Skate Weekend Clinic. Members: \$65, Non-members: \$75. Contact: Patti Polinsky, meanysports@me.com

**2/7/15 - 2/8/15, Cross Country Skate Camp - Outdoor Centers - 2015.** Learn how to skate ski. Members: \$70, Non-members: \$80. Contact: Patti Polinsky, meanysports@me.com

## snowshoeing

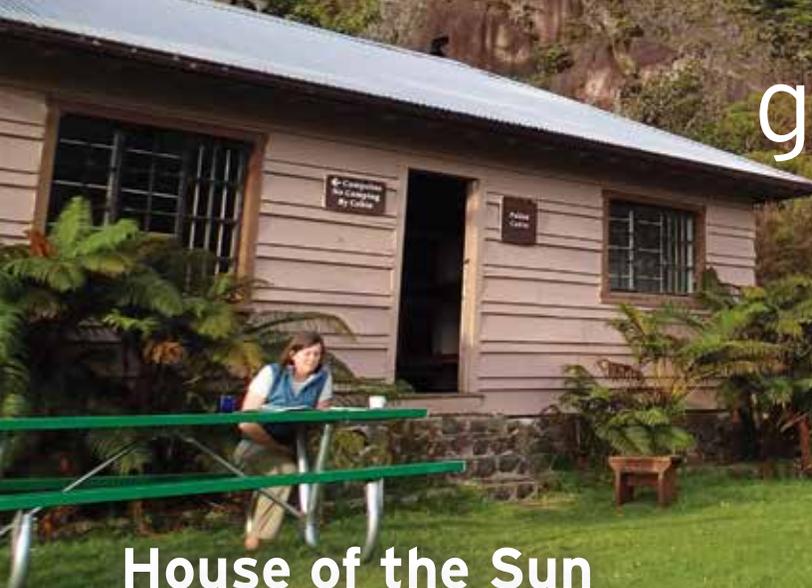
**11/1/14 - 5/31/15, Basic Snowshoeing Course - Seattle - 2015.** Basic Snowshoeing Course - Seattle. Members: \$60, Non-members: \$80. Contact: Larry Metzger, snowdog.48@hotmail.com **SEA**

**11/1/14 - 5/31/15, Backcountry Snowshoe Skills Course - Seattle - 2015.** Backcountry Snowshoe Skills Course - Seattle. Members: \$65, Non-members: \$0. Contact: Larry Metzger, snowdog.48@hotmail.com **SEA**

**1/8/15 - 1/25/15, Basic Snowshoeing Course - Foothills - 2015.** Introduction to Snowshoeing - Foothills. Members: \$60, Non-members: \$80. Contact: Steve LeBrun, stevelebrun@comcast.net **FH**

**2/5/15 - 4/30/15, Backcountry Snowshoeing Skills - Tacoma - 2015.** Backcountry Snowshoeing -Tacoma. Members: \$75, Non-members: \$85. Contact: Charles Celmer, remlec@yahoo.com **TAC**

This list only includes courses posted online by October 1. For the most up-to-date courses, go to [www.mountaineers.org](http://www.mountaineers.org) and click on the Learn tab.



## House of the Sun

By Royce Poetter, Global Adventures trip leader

Paliku Cabin, Haleakala National Park, Maui. Photo by Royce Poetter

**Journey to Haleakala, the "house of the sun," where ancient Hawaiian myths describe how their demigod, Maui, lassoed the sun!**

Begin your first morning in Hawaii by witnessing the sun rising at the summit of Maui's dormant volcano, Haleakala! Rising over 10,000 feet above sea level, Haleakala is one of Maui's most awe-inspiring sites. Awaken early and have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness the breaking of a new day at the top of this majestic mountain.

Hiking into Maui's dormant volcano is the best way to see stunning views of cinder cones, wild hiking trails, Hawaiian legends and rare endangered species. The terrain inside the wilderness area of the volcano, ranges from ebony-black lava flows to burnt-red cinder cones.

Inside the crater there are some 27 miles of hiking trails. For the next three days enjoy wilderness cabins maintained by the National Parks Service. They have wood stoves, running water compost outhouses and 12 padded bunks.

On the last day in the crater, descend 6000 feet through a number of ecosystems to the verdant and diverse 'Ohe'o Gulch. An idyllic valley cut deeply over countless millennia by an equally idyllic rainforest stream. The stream is punctuated regularly along its course by cascading waterfalls and plunge pools until it empties into the deep-blue Hawaiian ocean along the rugged Kipahulu coastline. For the next two days we will camp at the Kipahula camp ground with easy access to pools very well suited for swimming and cliff-jumping - which is what makes this remote site among the most popular in all of Maui.

### Current Global Adventures Trip Listings:

#### Backcountry Ski British Columbia's Ymir Lodge

February 14-21, 2015

Advanced backcountry skiers will love the Kootenay Range terrain, powder snow, and skiing, eh? New Ymir Lodge has private bedrooms, linen/duvets, indoor toilets, sauna, wood fireplace heat, and beautiful post and beam 10-foot ceilings on the main floor. We will self-guide and self-cater exclusively for The Mountaineers. Helicopter in and out.

**Price:** \$1,100; catering option. Register online by *September 1*.

**Leader:** Craig Miller, craigfmiller@comcast.net

#### XC ski or Snowshoe Maine

Feb. 15-21, 2015

Spend winter break in Maine XC skiing, snowshoeing, ice-skating, dog-sledding, enjoying wood-fired saunas, log-cabins with wood stoves and rocking chairs. Travel with a day pack on groomed trails. You are likely to see moose, deer, red fox or signs of these animals left in the snow. Gear is shuttled.

**Price:** \$855 **Leader:** Patti Polinsky, MeanySports@me.com or 206-525-7464

#### Ski or Walk Austria & France

March 5-22, 2015

For a European potpourri of experiences, tour walled cities of Munich, Regensburg, a UNESCO World Heritage site and Geneva. Lunch in Lucerne. Ski/walk in Sölden, Austria (36 lifts, including glacier skiing) stay at a ski-in, ski-out pension. Ski/walk in Les Carroz, France for a second week (68 lifts, the Grand Massif links 6 resorts).

**Price:** \$3,060. **Leader:** Patti Polinsky, meanysports@mac.com or 206-525-7464

#### Backpack Hawaii's Haleakala National Park

March 11-18, 2015

Renew your spirit amid stark volcanic landscapes and sub-tropical rain forest with an unforgettable hike through the backcountry of Maui. Haleakala adventures include a celestial phenomenal sunrise, the ethereal silverswords, endangered Nene geese, and swimming in 'Ohe'o Gulch's freshwater pools.

**Price:** \$775. **Leader:** Royce Poetter, royce.poetter@hp.com

#### Trek Turkey's Lycian Way

April 23-May 8, 2015 (see website for possible extensions)

Trek 115 miles of southwest Turkey's striking mountains and coast, among ancient tombs and ruins of Lycia. Stay in village homes, small hotels or supported camps and enjoy village food and hospitality.

**Price:** \$2,800 (main), \$1,800 & \$1,100 (pre and post extensions). **Leader:** Cheryl Talbert, cascadehiker@earthlink.net

#### Backpack Alaska's

##### Chilkoot Trail

August 9-15, 2015

Relive the Klondike Gold Rush by visiting historic Skagway, backpacking over Chilkoot Pass, and returning to Skagway via the White Pass & Yukon Route train.

**Price:** \$850. **Leader:** Lisa Berntsen, lisaberntsen@hotmail.com.

#### Trek France's GR5

Aug 15-30, 2015

**Slide Show:** Friday January 16 at 7pm in The Mountaineers' Seattle Program Center.

Trek France's Grand Randonnée 5 (GR5), the classic trail across the Alps, from Lake Geneva to Chamonix. This outing combines spectacular Alpine scenery, European culture, and very strenuous hiking. You carry only a daypack and sleep in beds.

**Price:** \$3,000. Application/deposit by February 1. **Leader:** Craig Miller, craigfmiller@comcast.net

#### Trek Nepal's Upper Dolpo

Oct. 7 - Nov. 6, 2015

**Slide Show:** Friday January 23 at 7pm in The Mountaineers' Seattle Program Center.

Traverse across remote spectacular Himalayan Mountains, through ancient Tibetan Buddhist culture, in search of blue sheep and snow leopards. This is one of the world's great treks, in a restricted area, done by only a few lucky people. The trek is strenuous because of the altitude. Porters haul your overnight camping gear; you carry only a light daypack.

**Price:** \$6,000. Application and deposit by March 1. **Leader:** Craig Miller, craigfmiller@comcast.net

Go to [www.mountaineers.org](http://www.mountaineers.org) for more details on trip listings.

## Welcome to our Lodges and Outdoor Centers



Meany Lodge. Photo by Nigel Steere

### Open year-round for members and guests

Please register by noon of the Thursday prior to the weekend you plan to visit, so the cooks can be fully prepared.

#### Baker Lodge

The Mountaineers Mt. Baker Lodge is nestled in the spectacular beauty of the North Cascades and just a short walk from the upper access to eight ski lifts of the Mt. Baker Ski Area ([www.mtbaker.us](http://www.mtbaker.us)). Within a short distance from the lodge there are a number of snowshoe routes and cross-country ski trails ([www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org/overview.php](http://www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org/overview.php)). Visit the Baker Lodge website ([www.mountaineers.org/about/locations-reservations/baker-lodge](http://www.mountaineers.org/about/locations-reservations/baker-lodge)) for our current schedule, rates and other information about the lodge and call Bill Woodcock, 206-457-5452 or Dale Kisker, 206-365-9508 if you have any questions.

The lodge usually is open by 7 or 8 p.m. on Fridays. Call the hosts listed on the schedule if you have questions about the lodge or opening time. If you arrive after 10:30 p.m. be prepared with a flashlight or headlamp. Each

person should bring a sleeping bag, pillow, lunches (unless provided), personal gear, and a flashlight and/or headlamp. Unless otherwise indicated the lodge provides Saturday & Sunday breakfasts and Saturday dinner. Baker Lodge welcomes the public, all ages and abilities. Families with children 5 years or younger should call the host prior to registering to learn about accommodations, hazards, diapers, etc

**Thanksgiving Weekend Nov: 28-30.** The lodge may open as early as the 26th contingent on favorable weather, adequate signup and the availability of hosts. Check the Baker website for current information on the opening date and when the first meal will be served. This is usually a laid-back, low-key weekend of relaxation, conversing, reading, hiking or possibly skiing. Music is always welcome. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided.

**Year-end Holiday Opening, Dec 26-Jan 4:** Bring your family and join us for multiple days of wonderful winter outdoor recreation. The first meal served will be dinner on Friday, Dec 26 and the last meal will be breakfast on Sunday, Jan 4. On-line sign up may be divided into two separate events so if you are staying multiple days you will need to sign up for each night you are staying on one or both events. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided.

**Schedule, Rates & Reservations:** Baker Lodge is open all weekends from Thanksgiving through early April provided there is adequate snow and sign-up. See the Baker Lodge website for rates and click on "Upcoming Events" for our current schedule of openings. Groups may be listed on the schedule for specific weekends. However, unless it's listed as exclusive the lodge is open to non-group members and we welcome the public. Register online through Brown Paper Tickets ([www.brownpapertickets.com/profile/10559](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/profile/10559)) or call the club (206) 521-6001. When registering through Brown Paper Tickets you must register for each night you will be staying at the lodge. For most weekend events, reservations close at noon on Thursday before the weekend. Cancellations must be made by the reservation closing date/time to obtain a refund.

**Groups at Baker:** The Mt. Baker Committee encourages groups, such as scouts, school/youth, or family and friends gatherings, to consider using the lodge whether or not they are members. The area offers many options for outdoor activities, and is especially appropriate for experiential classes in outdoor related skills and activities. Contact Arlene Woodcock (206-457-5452) ([happyhen2000@gmail.com](mailto:happyhen2000@gmail.com)) for group reservations.

**Get involved:** Do you enjoy hosting people at parties, special events or in your home? Do you enjoy being a part of a team that puts meals together for others? If so, Baker Lodge may be your next opportunity. The Baker Lodge Committee is looking for energetic individuals/couples/families to assist with general operations throughout the year. You can become hosts for Baker Lodge with just two weekends of training. Specific duties range from opening and closing the lodge, assisting with and/or supervising meal preparations, and coordinating lodge activities--the possibilities are limited only by your imagination. We are interested in exploring new ideas for maximizing this „beautiful little gem of a lodge“ that sits in the shadow of Mt. Baker with a fantastic view of Mt. Shuksan. Couples or friends can team up with other couples or singles to serve as hosts. Families could come together and welcome other families for a family weekend, etc. Hosts stay for free!

**Driving directions:** Drive N. on I-5 to Bellingham, take Exit 255, the Mt. Baker Highway, and go E. on SR-542 about 54.6 mi. to the ski area. At the Firs Chalet, turn right onto the one-way loop road that leads 0.3 mi. to the lodge parking lot on the right side of the road. Park in the lot and walk the trail (driveway) on your right to the lodge. The lodge is in the trees and difficult to see from the road. Driving time is approximately 1+ hours from Bellingham and 3 hours from Seattle.

## Kitsap Cabin

Kitsap Cabin, built mostly by Mountaineers women in 1918, is the social hub of the Kitsap Forest Theater, the Kitsap property and Kitsap Branch. It is the spring and summer home base for The Mountaineers Players as they rehearse and perform at the beautiful Kitsap Forest Theater. It is also the home base of the Kitsap Forest Adventure Camp and The Mountaineers Kitsap Branch. The Kitsap yurt was installed on the property several years ago and is a perfect meeting and gathering space.

Kitsap Cabin and yurt are surrounded by the Rhododendron Preserve, a 460-acre private reserve operated by The Mountaineers Foundation. The preserve is one of the largest remaining parcels of Puget Sound Lowland old growth forest in the Puget Sound Basin, and acts as a buffer protecting the Kitsap Forest Theater and salmon spawning creeks from encroaching development.

## Rent the Kitsap Forest Theater, Kitsap Cabin and/or the Kitsap Yurt

Are you looking for a unique venue for your event or celebration - weddings, meetings, birthday celebrations, corporate events, concerts, workshops, reunions or retreats?

The Kitsap Forest Theater, Kitsap Cabin and the Kitsap Yurt are perfect getaways for you and your family, friends, business or group. Kitsap Forest Theater is a perfect venue for outdoor weddings, concerts, performances and presentations. Kitsap Cabin is outfitted with wireless internet, tables, benches, a fully functioning kitchen, dishes/silverware/glasses etc., fireplace and outdoor ambience. The Kitsap Yurt is a 27' diameter yurt with an oak

floor and electricity and lighting. We also have a bunkhouse with bunk beds and mattresses (guys' and gals' side) and many tent sites around the property if you want to rent for an overnight event.

There are hikes available on the property (20 acres) and on the adjacent Rhododendron Preserve. "Big Tree" is a popular destination and is one of the largest old growth firs on the Kitsap peninsula.

During our show season (spring and summer) we have limited weekend availability, but there are several available summer weekends, and the fall is a great time to visit this unique and special place. During the week we have much more availability. Get away from the city and stress and enjoy our peaceful and magical venue. Visit [www.ForestTheater.com/rentals](http://www.ForestTheater.com/rentals) or call 206-542-7815 for more info.

**We are looking for volunteers and donors** to help with property upkeep and improvements - please contact us to volunteer your time and/or donate money. Email [players@foresttheater.com](mailto:players@foresttheater.com) or call 206-542-7815.

[www.foresttheater.com](http://www.foresttheater.com)  
[www.mountaineers.org](http://www.mountaineers.org)

## Meany Lodge

**Meany Holiday Week:** Want to come and enjoy Meany without the crowds (well at least Meany sized ones). Want to try to new acrobatics and new moves and not be shown up but one of the Meany kids. Want quiet time (when everyone goes to play in the snow ). Come up during Holiday Week. Meany is open Dec 27th thru Jan 1st. Cost, per overnight stay (you arrive on the early cat run and you leave on the late cat run the next day) are:

Adult member	\$65
Child member	\$35
Adult Guest	\$80
Child Guest	\$45
Toddler	Free

**New Years Celebration Dinner:** Prime rib, killer dessert prepared by the Meany Kids.

For the younger crowd, we have an *Early New Years* celebration - including fireworks, and then parents can put the kids to bed early.

Questions? email [webmaster@meanylodge.org](mailto:webmaster@meanylodge.org).

**Winter Weekends:** Besides Holiday week, Meany is open every weekend starting the weekend of Jan 2nd and going through the weekend of March 6th (Carnivale di Meany). Come up and play for the weekend or just a day. you will definitely enjoy yourself.

**Meany Winter Season Pass:** Cost: Adult \$450, Child (13 and under) \$300.

If you just come to Meany for 5 winter weekends, you will start saving money. If you include any other times (ie holiday week), then you make out like a bandit. Our full day access to the slopes, means full day, as long as the tows are running you can use them.

**Meany Winter Sports:** Meany has its own Winter Sports School run by the wonderful Patti Polinsky. Not sure about what you want to do? Go check out the sports programs on the Meany

web page and see what we offer. If you don't see a class, just email Patti at [meanysports@me.com](mailto:meanysports@me.com).

**Meany Rentals** - Meany is available for private rentals and Mountaineers events. If you want a nice secluded cabin for a retreat or seminar, visit our website at [www.meanylodge.org](http://www.meanylodge.org) Go to "Contacts" and send the chair an email telling him that you are interested; we will check the Meany calendar. You can also make a reservation online through Brown Paper Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/5822>

## Snoqualmie Campus

Snoqualmie Campus is available to rent by volunteer leaders on Saturdays and Sundays for Mountaineers courses only.

Please contact The Mountaineers Program Center, [info@mountaineers.org](mailto:info@mountaineers.org) (preferred) or 206-521-6001, if you are interested in renting the property for your group.

## Stevens Lodge

The Mountaineers has a fantastic facility for members to enjoy at Stevens Pass. Located just above Lot 4 at the Stevens Pass Ski Area, Stevens Lodge is one of the only ski-in, ski-out facility on the pass. We are open every weekend from December to April, including holiday Mondays in January and February.

The lodge has three dorms with 12-24 bunks in each dorm. Bathrooms are shared and there is a shower in each restroom. The main living area has a large dining room and lounge area with a fireplace. Meals are included in your price of lodging: breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday and dinner on Saturday. Meals are prepared by volunteers and served family-style at a posted time. Please note any dietary restrictions when making your reservation.

Guests are asked to contribute to the running of the lodge by picking up at least one "chore" a day, which can be shoveling snow, serving dinner or hauling firewood. This community effort is what keeps the lodge ticking.

**It's easy to make a reservation** to stay at Stevens Lodge during the season. Visit The Mountaineers website and click through to Stevens Lodge, then register under "Lodges and Centers." You can also make a reservation online through Brown Paper Tickets: [www.brownpapertickets.com/profile/248152](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/profile/248152)

We welcome individuals as well as group reservations for birthday parties, youth groups, etc. Please call Member Services at 206-521-6001 if you have any questions about visiting Stevens Lodge.

**Many of the lodges and properties can be rented for group events, Mountaineers classes, mid-week activities or other special events. Just contact the property directly.**

*Cancellations for lodges and outdoor centers must be made before noon of the Thursday prior to the weekend of the reservation. They will be refunded minus a small service fee.*

Propelled by dedicated and skilled volunteers, all branches offer a number of courses and seminars. Many courses, such as climbing, scrambling, kayaking, backcountry skiing and others, require a set of learned skills to enjoy safely and follow a common curriculum from branch to branch. See course events in the "Go Guide" section of this magazine. Although our program curricula are coordinated to meet Mountaineers-wide standards and policies, each branch offers a slightly different flavor or character to its offerings. Though you may want to join the branch nearest to your home, you may join any branch of your choosing.

Once you're a member, you may participate in trips or courses in any branch. One way to gain a taste test of a particular branch is to attend a new/prospective members' meeting. General dates of these meetings are noted under each branch heading. For all current activities and links to branch websites, visit [www.mountaineers.org](http://www.mountaineers.org).

## BELLINGHAM

**Vice Chair:** Minda Paul  
mindapaul@hotmail.com

**Website:** [www.bellinghammountaineers.com](http://www.bellinghammountaineers.com)

The Bellingham Branch was founded in 1983 with 50 members. You will find it tucked alongside the craggy expanse of the North Cascades. It features a vital, close-knit community courses in first aid, basic and intermediate mountaineering.

It is also home to one of the most popular Mountaineers getaway destinations, Mt. Baker Lodge. From the lodge, Mountaineers and guests can also recreate to their heart's content year-round. In addition to the courses noted above, Bellingham also offers hiking trips and snowshoe tours.

**BRANCH MEETINGS:** Public Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and Branch Committee Meetings are on the 4th Tuesday of each month. See the website for time and locations.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** We would love to have additional hike and snowshoe leaders along with backcountry ski and youth program coordinators. We are also currently

looking for a branch treasurer and a branch chair-elect. Email Minda for details.

## EVERETT

**Chair:** Matt Vadnal,  
matthewvadnal@aol.com

**Website:** [everettmountaineers.org](http://everettmountaineers.org)

The Everett Branch of The Mountaineers was founded in 1910 by H.B. Linman, an Everett dentist. The new organization successfully sponsored over a dozen hikes that year. Its first outing was a hike to Lake Isabelle. Several hundred members of the public attended "stereopticon" presentations at the Everett High School auditorium. Dr. Linman, his wife, and seven other branch members reached the summit of Glacier Peak in August 1910 during The Mountaineers' annual outing. The branch was not "officially" founded until 1911 when The Mountaineers charter was amended to provide for branches. This anomaly allowed the branch to hold its centennial celebration in 2010 and 2011!

Everett members share a wide variety of activities. Please explore the branch website or attend one of the branch monthly meetings to discover more about the branch.

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:** To learn more about branch activities and meet some nice people who happen to be Mountaineers, attend the monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of most months and often feature a guest presentation. The meetings take summer off and resume in September. Members, guests and the general public are invited to join us at 7 p.m. in the Snohomish County East Administration Building, 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Rm F107 in downtown Everett.

The Everett Branch has unlimited volunteer opportunities for those who want to lead climbs, hikes, scrambles, ski tours, kayak trips and trail maintenance activities.

## FOOTHILLS

**Chair:** Steve LeBrun,  
stevelebrun@comcast.net

**Website:** [foothillsmountaineers.org](http://foothillsmountaineers.org)

The newest Mountaineers branch, founded ten years ago, the Foothills branch encompasses the eastside communities along the I-90 and I-405 corridors. The "little branch that could" sponsors activities and classes that focus on backcountry skiing, hiking, backpacking, first aid, navigation, and snowshoeing. Our signature programs include a comprehensive Backpacking Building Blocks (B3) backpacking course, and our Foothills Winter Program which offers Ski & Snowboard Mountaineering, Multi-Week Ski Lessons, Avalanche Awareness, AIARE Avalanche Certification and Glacier Travel & Crevasse Rescue courses.

The Foothills branch also seeks to be a vital

community presence in promoting safe and enjoyable recreation along with conservation advocacy. Among our community-based efforts are special film events, speaker presentations, outdoor leadership training, and trail-maintenance work.

Are there activities you would like to Foothills to do or do more of? More hikes or backpack or ski trips of a certain kind? Additional training in outdoor skills? Certain special events or speaker topics? Let us know, and we'll try to make it happen. Email branch chair Steve with your comments or ideas. Do you want to stay better informed about Foothills plans and activities? Then consider changing your branch affiliation to "Foothills" by accessing "Your Account" on the club website.

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:** Branch Membership meetings as well as Branch Council meetings (open to all members) are held from time to time at Issaquah, Mercer Island or Bellevue locations. See the branch website and calendar for specific events and meeting dates. Membership meetings are social in nature, and typically include a guest speaker, outdoor-themed film, or a slideshow presentation of backpacking and global adventure trips taken by members. Club members who are affiliated with Foothills as their branch of choice will always receive advance-notice emails informing them of upcoming events and special activities.

**VOLUNTEERING:** Are you looking to develop or utilize your knowledge and skills while making new friends and working with like-minded outdoor enthusiasts? The Foothills branch is always in need of activity and trip leaders, course content developers and instructors, writers, and event planners. We also need people to help with administrative tasks such as bookkeeping, publicity, website blogging scheduling - the sometimes mundane tasks vital to the success of the branch. And if you have basic bookkeeping skills and an interest in learning how a large non-profit manages its finances and budget, we are also seeking a Branch Treasurer.

The Foothills Branch - your Eastside community of outdoor friends & recreationists.

## KITSAP

**Chair:** Jeff Schreppe,  
branch@kitsapmountaineers.org

**Website:** [kitsapmountaineers.org](http://kitsapmountaineers.org)

Founded on March 6, 2003 the Kitsap branch counts in its backyard the trails, waters, and mountains of both the Kitsap and Olympic peninsulas. Over slightly more than a decade this branch has developed very strong climbing, hiking, and sea kayaking programs and in the past year its conservation/education and photography programs have grown significantly. Other Kitsap Branch courses and activities include snowshoe/winter travel, navigation, avalanche awareness, first aid, wilderness basics, hiking & backpacking basics, and trail running. The branch recently started an arts

committee which primarily focuses on painting.

Our activity committees sponsor four or more stewardship efforts each year and recurring events include our spring and fall Salmon Safaris and our annual Photo and Art Show. The branch hosts an Annual General Membership meeting in the Silverdale Community Center every October. A major goal of the branch is to add more family activities in 2014.

Most branch meetings and courses are held at the historic Kitsap Cabin at 3153 Seabeck Highway, which is located on the Kitsap Forest Theater/Rhododendron Reserve property between Silverdale and Bremerton. However, some meetings may be held at other locations throughout Kitsap County depending upon the activity or the audience to be reached. Branch council meetings are held on the third Thursday of the each month at 5:30 pm. To find the location of the council meetings please check the calendar on the Kitsap Mountaineers website.

## OLYMPIA

**Chair:** Greg Lovelady, GregL12@comcast.net

**Website:** www.olympiamountaineers.org

Come to the adventure presentation and potluck on **first Wednesdays** from September through May, excluding November, at the **Friends Meeting Hall at 3201 Boston Harbor Rd. NE.** The potluck meal begins at 6 p.m. Bring a dish to share and your own plate and flatware. The adventure presentation begins at 7 p.m. Contact Carolyn Burreson at cbburreson@q.com.

**DECEMBER 3 ADVENTURE PRESENTATION:** Tami Asars is an outdoors writer and photographer and the author of two hiking books - Hiking the Wonderland Trail and Day Hiking Goat Rocks and Mt Adams. She will identify must-see hiking spots of spectacular grandeur and mind-blowing vistas, as well as those less travelled for times when you want to escape it all. After the presentation, have your book signed and your hiking questions answered by the author. Books will be available for sales at the event.

**BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL** comes to Olympia on December 13-14. Mark your calendar and watch the branch website for details of this festive and fascinating event!

**NEW OFFICERS** were elected this summer. Brian List was elected Chair-Elect, Henry Romer was re-elected to the Director position, and Derek Pierson is the new Secretary. Greg Lovelady moves from Chair-Elect to become the new Chair of the Officers Committee. Sincere thanks to the nominating committee, those who were runners-up in the election, and the out-going committee members.

**THE BRANCH OFFICERS** meet the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the

Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St NW. The next meetings are September 10 and October 8. Members are encouraged to attend.

**BRANCH LIBRARY:** Contact Maxine at 360-786-6512 (8 a.m. to 8 p.m.) or maxdunk@comcast.net if you'd like to come by to browse, check out or return materials, or request items for pickup at the monthly potluck. The catalog is listed on the branch website.

## SEATTLE

**Chair:** Timmy Williams, mtrntimmy@clearwire.net

**Website:** www.mountaineers.org/about/branches-committees/seattle-branch

The largest of our branches, Seattle gives lovers of the outdoors an opportunity to try out hiking, backpacking, scrambling, climbing, skiing, snowshoeing, wilderness navigation, first aid, family activities, folk dances, leadership training, naturalist study, photography, singles events, Retired Rovers activities, Under the Hill Rovers activities and sailing.

**MEET THE MOUNTAINEERS:** The Seattle Branch holds a Meet The Mountaineers open house at The Mountaineers Program Center periodically. These allow new members and prospective members to learn about The Mountaineers offerings. Keep an eye on the website for information about the next one.

**FREE HIKING SEMINARS:** Do you have the hiking or backpacking bug but you just need to know a little more about how to get started in the Pacific Northwest? The Seattle Branch offers a free Beginning Hiking Seminar most months at The Mountaineers Seattle Program Center. Though seminars are free, participants are urged to register for them on line to make sure there is enough seating.

**INTRO TO MAP AND COMPASS:** Learn the basics of how to keep from getting lost in the wilderness. See website to register.

**DO YOU WANNA DANCE?** The Seattle singles group offers dances and lessons. Contact Karen Ludwig, karenludwig2000@yahoo.com, for upcoming singles dances.

## TACOMA

**Chair:** Scott Davidson, scott.davidson@tacomamountaineers.org

**Website:** www.tacomamountaineers.org

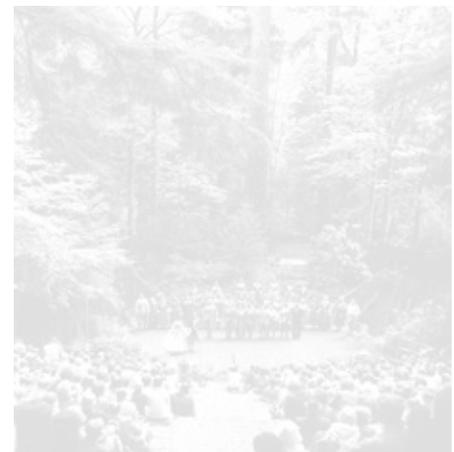
The second largest of all seven branches, Tacoma maintains not only its own program center in the Old Town neighborhood of Tacoma, but a property close to Mt. Rainier, the Irish Cabin on the Carbon River. Tacoma Branch

offers an extensive list of activities and courses, including backpacking, hiking, conservation, scrambling, climbing, first aid, snowshoeing, skiing, sea kayaking, sailing, bicycling, singles events, wilderness navigation, avalanche awareness, folk dancing, photography and family activities.

Learn more about us by visiting our branch website to view our activities, our events calendar and other offerings.

### MEET THE TACOMA MOUNTAINEERS:

Tacoma Branch holds a free meeting on the third Friday of every month (except June-August and December) to introduce prospective and new members to the branch. The meeting starts at 7pm with a presentation about The Mountaineers, followed by an interlude to talk with various activity reps (hiking, climbing, sea kayaking to name a few of the 22 activities).



## MOUNTAINEERS-WIDE Players-Kitsap Forest Theater

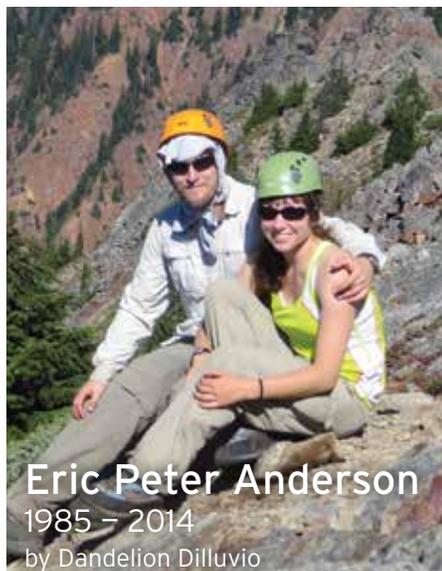
### Theater Inspired by a Magical Place

Escape to the Kitsap Forest Theater! Join us for a grand adventure as you stroll down the forested trail to our unique and breathtaking theater. Treat yourself to a "day away" in the forest and enjoy theater inspired by a magical place. Generations of theater-goers have enjoyed the scenic drive or ferry ride to the theater, and often come early to picnic under the firs before the trail to the theater opens at 1:00pm. **Walk on the 11:10am Bremerton ferry and take our shuttle to the theater (reservations required - call 206-542-7815).**

**Volunteer Opportunities:** We need help with cooking for cast members, set building and painting, costume sewing and help during shows with selling tickets, ushering and parking. We also need help in caring for this unique property. Please contact us at players@Foresttheater.com or call 206-542-7815 to join a fun and supportive community and help us produce the best outdoor theater in the area.

**Rentals:** Please see the Kitsap Cabin section for info on renting this Mountaineers property.

For current activities and links to branch websites, visit [www.mountaineers.org](http://www.mountaineers.org).



**Eric Peter Anderson**  
1985 – 2014  
by Dandelion Dilluvio

**Eric Peter Anderson** died in a rappelling accident on September 6, while descending Le Petit Chavel after summiting the peak with his wife, Dandelion Dilluvio. It was their first wedding anniversary.

Eric was only 28 when he died, but he did more in his short life than most. After graduating with a BA in Aerospace Engineering, Eric went straight to Thailand to train in Thai Boxing. After some hesitation, he came back to the USA to begin his career as a rocket scientist. Eric was wise beyond his years, possessed amazing intelligence and enjoyed debating with everyone he met. He also had a sense of adventure that was equally matched by his wife of one year, and best friend of 12.

In 2011, Eric moved from Maryland to Washington, to begin a new job at Boeing. He and his then girlfriend, Dandelion, enrolled in the Basic Climbing Course, followed up by more advanced classes. Eric loved rock climbing more than anything and had lists of every peak and crag he wanted to climb. Eric was fearless on the sharp end of the rope and loved a good hand jam or finger lock. Eric and Dandelion summited numerous peaks in the

Northwest and beyond, including Iceland's largest mountain, Hvannadalshnúkur.

Eric was more than just an alpinist and sport climber. He was an avid snowboarder, XC skier, backpacker, boulderer and was just beginning to take up trail running. He loved to travel, but would only stay in hostels, tents and huts, never hotels. He was a purple belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu and an inspiring coach and mentor in the sport.

Eric's death was tragic, but he touched so many lives and experienced so many adventures. If he was going to leave this world young, this is how he would have wanted to go. He died doing what he loved and in his favorite part of the Cascade Range. His detailed list of routes, summits, places and treks will now be met by Dandelion, who plans to continue climbing along with his ashes.

Eric will continue to climb on, in spirit and in our hearts.



**Nedra Slauson**  
1929 – 2014  
by Lauren Mills

**Nedra Slauson**, a longtime member of The Mountaineers, died July 10, 2014 at the Foss Home in north Seattle, 14 months after an incapacitating stroke at her home in Edmonds. She was 84.

She was born and raised in Seattle's Ballard neighborhood and graduated from the UW. With the exception of brief sojourns living in Los Angeles, near Cape Canaveral,

Florida, and Huntsville, Alabama, the Puget Sound area was her lifelong home.

Nedra joined The Mountaineers in 1952 and completed the Basic Climbing Course in 1954. She had a background in journalism and edited a 20-page *Outing* newsletter entitled "The Opabin Ledge-R." She was also involved with The Mountaineers' Players, as she had a beautiful alto voice and loved choral music. Some of the plays she acted in at the Kitsap Forest Theater include *Plain & Fancy*, 1975 and *The Golden Apple*, 1976.

Nedra also served on the Mountaineers Editorial Review Committee from 1978 to 1987. She was instrumental in ensuring that ISBN numbers were secured for the first titles to be published by Mountaineers Books. At the time, she felt 100 numbers would be sufficient to meet the club's publishing needs for years to come. Needless to say, they were quickly exhausted.

When she wasn't backpacking, canoeing, and skiing in Washington state and British Columbia, Nedra loved to travel further afield. Overseas trips with The Mountaineers included Switzerland in 1978, Austria in 1983, Canada's Maritime Provinces in 1992, and the Italian Dolomites in 1993.

Other memorable overseas adventures found her trekking in Nepal, hiking the Milford Track in New Zealand, walking in Yorkshire and Scotland, and bicycling down the Danube. A trip to Belize led her to complete the Sea Kayak Course in 1992. Her last trip abroad was to Greece in 2011, where she impressed fellow tour members with her stamina in climbing among the many ruins, including the Rock of Monemvasia.

In her later years, Nedra took pleasure in the activities and fellowship of The Mountaineers' Retired Rovers. She loved their weeks at Mount Baker Lodge, hiking by day and reminiscing by night. She often led in-city walks for the Rovers, including one past the historic homes of "downtown" Edmonds.

Nedra was interviewed in 1998 for The Mountaineers Oral History project and expressed her appreciation for the important role The Mountaineers had played in her and her family's lives. She greatly enjoyed the activities it afforded her and treasured the friendships she made. Nedra is survived by her sons Ken and Howard and her daughter Lauren, as well as three grandchildren.



## Karen Sykes

1943 – 2014

by Karen Portin, Robert Morthorst and Lola Kemp

Photo by Karen Portin

**Karen Sykes**, born Karen Dalby in Shelton, Washington, grew up along Hood Canal and Edmonds. Karen's first love was writing. She discovered poetry while in high school and became an accomplished poet under the name of Karen Waring. She contributed poems to several editions of Litmus Journal and published two books of her own, *Child's Poem and Poems*, 1970 and *Exposed to the Elements*, 1976.

Then the mountains captured her heart.

Karen began writing lyrical trip reports accompanied by her amazing photographs that resulted in legions of followers. She became a member of The Mountaineers and hiked and/or ran at least a couple times a week for the remainder of her life. Over the course of her more than 30 years as a hiker, Karen was a trip leader

for hundreds of people and a "virtual" trip leader through her writings for many more thousands of people.

Karen wrote numerous trip reports for Pack and Paddle Magazine and for Signpost magazine. In 1996, she was invited to write a weekly hiking column for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* where she developed a wide audience who eagerly awaited the Thursday paper and followed her into the mountains.

Karen wrote *Hidden Hikes in Western Washington*, 2002, and co-wrote *Best Wildflower Hikes*, 2004, both published by Mountaineer Books. After a successful 13-year run as a newspaper columnist, Karen embarked on yet another phase as a blogger. She contributed articles to the *Seattle Times* and became a regular writer

for *SeattleBackpackerMagazine.com* as well as *VisitRainier.com*.

Through it all, Karen continued to hike into the mountains with her camera. On her return home she was compelled to write about her experiences and share her photographs with her articles and on Flickr. She loved words and was unbeatable at Scrabble. She loved playing "boogie woogie" on the piano. Her passing leaves us with warm memories and gratitude for her wit, charm, sense of humor and her endless energy and desire to see what came next along a trail.

Karen is survived by her daughter Annette Shirey of Tucson, Arizona, loving partner, Robert Morthorst of West Seattle, and her beloved cats.



The Mountaineers

# FoothillsWinter.org

## Foothills Branch Winter Education and Outings

Basic and AIARE L-1 Avalanche - Ski and Snowboard Mountaineering - Mt. Baker Ski Camp - Glacier Travel Course  
Weekly Ski Lessons at the Pass - Nordic and Alpine at Meany Lodge - Trips and Outings  
information and schedules .... FoothillsWinter.org

# businessdirectory

**Mountaineers Business Members** are a community within the community of The Mountaineers - all sharing the same interest and passion for the outdoors. The Business Membership gives business owners *who are already Mountaineers Members* the chance to showcase their services and support for our organization in front of our entire membership. We thank the following Mountaineers business owners for their support.

## ARCHITECTURE

**Grace Kim** (Joined 2001)  
Schemata Workshop  
www.schemataworkshop.com  
grace@schemataworkshop.com  
206-285-1589

## AUTOMOTIVE

**Lee Wilcox** (Joined 1995)  
Lynnwood Auto and Truck Service  
www.lynnwoodautoandtruckservice.com  
lynnwoodautotruckservice@gmail.com  
425-776-5888

## CONSTRUCTION

**Louie Coglas** (Joined 1987)  
Louie Company - Roofing Specialist  
www.LouieCompany.com  
earthhumor@comcast.net  
206-963-4521  
WA Lic #: LOUIEC902C6

**Matthew Eads** (Joined 2007)  
Terrain Build, Inc.  
www.terrainbuild.com  
matt@terrainbuild.com  
206-607-7761

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

**Mearl Bergeson** (Joined 2011)  
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management  
www.fa.ml.com/mearl\_bergeson  
mearl\_bergeson@ml.com  
206-464-5632

**Leah Schulz** (Joined 2006)  
Tri Star Finance  
www.leahdschulz.com  
leah@TriStarFinance.com  
206-523-1288

## LEGAL SERVICES

**Justin Elder** (Joined 2014)  
Justin Elder Law Office PLLC  
www.justinelderlaw.com  
justin@justinelderlaw.com  
206-818-2406

**David, Nina and Alex Riley** (Joined 2010)  
Tomsen Riley LLP  
www.tomsenllp.com  
david@tomsenllp.com  
425-998-7497

## MAPS

**Coburn Family** (Joined 2008)  
Green Trails Maps  
www.GreenTrailsMaps.com  
alan@greentrailsmaps.com  
206-546-6277

## MIND AND BODY

**Dhammadinna Davis** (Joined 2013)  
Bodhiheart Sangha Buddhist  
Meditation Center®  
bodhiheart.wordpress.com  
bodhi.community@gmail.com  
206-383-4959

**Christopher Hall** (Joined 2011)  
Chiropractic Sports Physician  
www.drchrishall.com  
chris@drchrishall.com  
425-455-3300

**Hope Maltz** (Joined 2007)  
Moving Into Comfort -  
Feldenkrais Method®  
www.MovingIntoComfort.com  
hope@MovingIntoComfort.com  
425-998-6683

## OUTDOOR RECREATION

**Jennifer Robinson** (Joined 2014)  
Deep Forest Challenge LLC®  
www.deepforestchallenge.com  
jenniferrobinson@deepforestchallenge.com  
253-970-0807

## REAL ESTATE

**Leah D. Schulz** (Joined 2006)  
The Force Realty  
www.RealEstateByLeah.com  
leah@leahdschulz.com  
206-523-1288

**Cisca Wery** (Joined 2003)  
Windermere Real Estate Company  
www.LakeWA.com  
cisca@windermere.com  
206-715-7187

## TRAVEL

**Ambrose Bittner** (Joined 2009)  
Red Lantern Journeys -  
Asia tours and treks  
www.redlanternjourneys.com  
ambrose@redlanternjourneys.com  
206-568-0710

## Want to become a Mountaineers Business Member?

To find out more about increasing your small business' visibility with The Mountaineers membership and to become a supporting business member of this group, please contact our Membership & Marketing Manager, Kristina Ciari, [kristinac@mountaineers.org](mailto:kristinac@mountaineers.org) or 206-521-6023.

As in all things Mountaineers, the idea for a Business Member category was started by a dedicated volunteer and board member, Leah Schulz, who saw this as a means to strengthen support for the organization and the benefits of Mountaineers membership. To find out more about opportunities to get more involved with this group, contact Leah: [leah@leahdschulz.com](mailto:leah@leahdschulz.com) or 206-523-1288.

And remember: since The Mountaineers is a mission-based and volunteer-driven 501(c)(3) non-profit, your membership dues are tax-deductible.

In recognition for their increased level of support, Business Members - in addition to all the regular benefits of Mountaineers membership - receive the following:

- Business Member Directory listing on the Mountaineers website, including link to business member's website
- Business Member Directory listing in the *Mountaineer* magazine
- Business Member Directory included in new-member packets distributed to all new members
- Opportunity to publicly showcase support of Mountaineers organization
- Discounted advertising rates in the *Mountaineer* magazine

## The Wilderness Act at 50

by Steve Scher, Scholar in Residence

Looking down onto Rachel Lake. Photo by Suzanne Gerber

My wife and I hiked up to Rachel Lake last week. The hike hurt. I felt old. But what a glorious way to pain – a stroll through an incredible old growth forest, then a scramble up a steep hillside to a beautiful mountain lake in the amazing Alpine Lakes Wilderness. What a gift it is, to be able to hike through wilderness, just an hour or so from the urban core.

A gift indeed. With the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Wilderness Act on September 3rd of this year, I am grateful to everyone who worked on that campaign all those years ago, who had the vision and political drive to get the act passed. We are in your debt. The question is, how do we pay it forward?

Few of us get to spend much time in a true wilderness. The wild has receded from our day-to-day existence. The best most of us can hope for might be a stroll through a weedy lot in the city. At least there, the sparrows and juncos find a meal and shelter on their own, with the added sustenance of a few pork rind packages tossed their way.

For those few of us who live near a capital 'W' wilderness, it's a privilege. When President Johnson signed the act that created the National Wilderness Preservation System 50 years ago, "for the use and enjoyment of the American People," as the act was written, he preserved and protected remnants of a once wild planet. But these 109 million acres and counting were also preserved for their inherent value – for being wild places still humming along to rhythms we humans can't fully control. Just knowing they are there can be a balm to an urbanized soul.

Wilderness is not just a place. It's a concept. A concept that is as fragile as it is majestic. Plants and animals that were once plentiful could be wiped out entirely with climate change – as they run out of higher, cooler elevations. For the American Pika already at the mountaintop, and the Marbled Murrelet facing the double whammy of plummeting ocean food sources and fewer old growth forests for nesting, an official wilderness designation won't much matter.

Management might help.

But is it still a wilderness when management plans are necessary to maintain them? Given how many of us there are and what we are doing to the planet, can the wilderness remain a place "where man is a visitor who does not remain"?

So, what do we do now, those of us who enjoy the benefit of that foresight? Birders in cities and towns far from wilderness areas won't be able to enjoy the migrating warbler at their backyard feeder if all this protected land turns to dusty isolated pockets. Duck hunters might wonder what good are the fields and ponds they have protected if they become ever more lonely places.

What kind of coalitions might form to preserve these places into the future? Hikers, climbers, runners, carbon sequestration advocates, heck, people who breathe, the potential for a broad coalition to protect, preserve, even expand wilderness is huge.

So are the pressures arrayed against it.

In signing the act 50 years ago, President Johnson said, "If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it." We have used up a lot of what was here in the beginning and are leaving future generations one big mess. For all our efforts, there will be contempt mixed with their gratitude.

Hiking up to Rachel Lake, we stood aside to let two couples have a clear path down through the rocks, roots and running water that came off the hillside. "Can't figure out why this is harder going down than it was coming up," was one woman's comment.

"Ask your knees," was my response.

"Yeah, this trail takes its toll," the last man said as he passed us. "We were in our teens when we started out."

It is a long trail.

So here we are, facing a steep climb, grateful for the vision that secured this hard hike, getting a little tired. We still have a long way to go.



**The Mountaineers**  
EXPLORE • LEARN • CONSERVE

explore  
  
**Washington's  
Wilderness**

**Saturday, Nov. 15**  
**2-5pm - REI Flagship**  
 222 Yale Ave N., Downtown Seattle  
 RSVP online: [bit.ly/wawilderness](http://bit.ly/wawilderness)



Trappers Peak, North Cascades National Park. photo by Tim Nair, Mountaineers Trip Leader

Hosted by:

Supporting Partners:

