

## **Backcountry Ski Summit Minutes**

12/6/18

Summit Room

Mountaineers Seattle Program Center

**Facilitator:** Nick Block (Education Manager)

**Attendees:** Ryan Kitchen, Jill Uthoff, Daniel Coate, Tom Eckhout, Jeff Williams, Brent Williams, Barry Hershly, Pred Vadjic

### **Pizza & Beer (6:30-6:45pm)**

### **Welcome & Introductions (6:45-7pm)**

### **Overview of Each Branches Program (7-8pm)**

- How do you run your current program? (if applicable)
  - EVE
    - 3 classroom sessions, 3 field sessions
    - FT1- Equipment focused and touring (Locations vary)
      - How do you use gear? Is it appropriate for course
      - Physical and mental prep
    - FT2 Overnight backcountry camping and LNT (Artist Point)
      - Build snowcaves, ice block bivy, tent shelter with no floor
      - Night ski, exposure to skiing when dark
    - FT3 - Trip planning and student run touring (Locations vary)
      - Provide mentorship
      - Allow students to make decisions
      - Gathering beta
    - Prerequisites: AIARE 1 in last 3 years to join the course
    - Ski at an intermediate level (Black Diamond in a resort) in inconsistent and variable terrain
    - Backcountry Ski badge is awarded on completion
    - This year running 2 groups of 6 students
    - Primary leaders are AIARE certified instructors
  - OLY
    - Hopes to get to be as robust as Everett but right now trying to accomplish a different goal
    - Created a ski series last year to share beta and learn in a safe environment
    - Last year ran a Ski Mini Series
      - 3 outings
        - 1 - Mazama Ridge
          - Beacon use, ski travel

- 2 - Pinnacle Peak
      - Beacon use, group travel and terrain discussions
    - 3 - Cowlitz gap
      - Touring Day
  - Students must complete AIARE 1 to graduate
  - The goal is to help newer BC skiers understand what skills and experience they will need to be safe
    - Focus is on helping newer skiers get into the backcountry and help them understand what it takes to be safe
    - Help students understand they need a lot more training to be safe on their own including AIARE training
    - Emphasize that this course is “dipping toes in the water”
  - Would like to do a “level two” ski series for more intermediate skills but are not there yet
  - Got great feedback from people last year
- What do branches that plan to implement a program *want* to do?
    - BEL
      - Want to accommodate the people in the climbing courses who show an interest in backcountry skiing
        - About 20% of the climbing course shows interest but typically no more than that
      - Jason Speer and Krissy Fagan to chair the course this year, likely going to model after Everett and feel strongly about AIARE experience for students coming into the course
    - TAC
      - Would like to start similar to Olympia with the intent of building something closer to what Everett
    - Olympia Branch requesting best way to move forward on badge creation for successful completion of entry level introduction to backcountry skiing.

### Activity Standards Review (8-8:45pm)

- Do the standards need work?
  - Yes, they need a lot of work, but we will need time to go through them as a group
- Splitting the BC & XC Standards
  - The group agrees we need to split out the standards to a standalone document

### Next Steps (8:45-9pm)

- Identify action items
  - OLY - **ACTION ITEM** Work with Nick to create an outline for badging/curriculum
  - TAC - May implement something similar to what OLY did last year

- **ACTION ITEM** Work with OLY and EVE to create this
- BEL - Krissy and Jason will follow up with the group to discuss next steps for their program
- EVE - **ACTION ITEM** Please share documents on Basecamp so others can build their courses
- Standards review
  - Split BC/XC
  - Update standards to reflect current practices
  - Review at our next meeting so we can have things 90% finished, and spend our time wordsmithing and tweaking to be approved
  - A copy of the standards is now in Basecamp
    - **ACTION ITEM** Review the standards between now and our next meeting in approx. 6 months
- Next meeting?
  - Potential Topics
    - Mentoring, leadership development, instructor education
    - Standards Review
- Basecamp
  - Nick sent an invite to everyone to join the BC Ski Basecamp. Let's use this to stay in touch and keep all our documents and files in one place.

**Adjourn (9pm)**