

## Navigation Summit

February 25, 2018

11am-3pm in Summit Room (Upstairs)

Seattle Program Center: 7700 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115

**Facilitator:** Sara Ramsay (Adult Education Manager)

### **Attendees:**

Ed Lucas (Kitsap), Christine Grenier (Kitsap), Mike Kretzler (Olympia), Robert Boyd (Seattle), Bruce Crawford (Seattle), Peter Hendrickson (Seattle), Steve McClure (Seattle), Don Sarver (Seattle), Brian Starlin (Seattle), Rick Finkle (Tacoma), Phillip Owens (Tacoma), Alan Coburn (Green Trails), Marc (Green Trails), Dilek Bulut (eLearning Course Developer)

**Regrets:** Joel Heidal (Everett), Jerry Logan (Kitsap)

### **Welcome & Introduction (11-11:15am)**

### **Curriculum (11:15am-12:45pm)**

#### **Navigating Into The 21st Century**

- GPS and Altimeter - Competency and Use
  - Brian Starlin gave a presentation about how the Seattle Branch plans to incorporate the use of GPS into their Wilderness Navigation Course. The plan is to implement this change in Fall 2018. See attachments in email for Brian's presentation materials.
- Integration with *Freedom 9*.
  - Reviewed the updates in *Freedom 9*.
  - There is currently a discrepancy between *Freedom* and the organization's [Navigation Minimum Standards](#).
    - Committees were not ready to make changes to the Navigation Minimum Standards, but recognize that we're now playing "catch-up" with one of our in-house reference texts.
    - **Action:** Seattle to pilot the addition of GPS in their Wilderness Navigation Course, then committees will discuss possible changes to Navigation Minimum Standards at next Summit (Fall 2018).
  - When thinking about curriculum changes, focus on "Learning Outcomes" - what we want students to have upon completion of the course - instead of thinking about what we're already doing, and how a change would affect our current processes and procedures. (This was input from Alan at Green Trails.)
- eLearning
  - Committees want a consistent, org-wide eLearning tool to support their Wilderness Navigation Courses.
    - Currently utilized by Seattle and Kitsap.
    - eLearning would be an option for committees to utilize, not a required component of the Wilderness Navigation Course.

- “What” of the course should be common, the “how” varies Branch by Branch.
- One identified issue with eLearning is having a volunteer to manage the course administration.
  - Suggestion to pool resources and have a group of instructors who can grade any Branch’s eLearning module.
  - Could we make our courses more accessible by allowing students to take the eLearning module any time throughout the year? Would encourage to take module shortly before the field trip.
- **Action:** Dilek and/or Sara will follow-up with Navigation Chairs and Committees to schedule a meeting to discuss eLearning.
- eLearning Request Forms: Please see the two forms linked at the bottom of [this blog](#).
  - All course suggestions should eventually have buy-in from all Branches. eLearning would be org-wide, and not Branch-specific.

### **Trip Planning & Mapping**

- Old Maps vs New Maps vs Green Trails vs Digital Mapping
  - Discussion of course needs and available resources.
- Discussion with Marc and Alan from Green Trails
  - How can Green Trails support The Mountaineers, and vice versa.
    - Green Trails is interested to know what constituents want, to stay ahead of the curve.
  - Green Trails pointed committees to [their app](#) as a resource.
  - Green Trails may be able to provide a PDF map of course locations.

### **Course Harmonization**

- Staying Found, Intro to Map & Compass, Wilderness Navigation, GPS & Smartphone
- Need for an Advanced Navigation Course? Or a more robust “regular” course?
  - Not at this time.
- Could we offer Seminars once or twice a year to cover topics such as CalTopo an digital mapping tools?
  - Seattle and Foothills are planning to offer Digital Trip Planning seminars, could be a model for other Branches to utilize.

### **Org-Wide Concerns (1-2pm)**

#### **Field Trip Location**

- What are our non-negotiable criteria? What are our preferred criteria?
  - Ability to place permanent placards
  - Two long-distance lines of sight
  - Roads/rivers/powerlines (handrail or catch line)
  - Elevation change
  - Accessible most of the year (spring and fall)
  - Wooded area for compass runs of > 400 feet

- Clear area for a wagon wheel, barring check
- Free or low cost land use
- Another idea would be to adjust instructor:student ratios to be in better alignment with land managers' max party sizes (groups smaller than 12).
- What are the goals of the course, are goals of the course changing? Navigation *instead of* orienteering.
- Ryan Dubberly discussed how he is working with DNR to scout a possible location for a Foothills course near Rattlesnake Lake. Ryan will loop back to the group when he has more information.

### **Course Availability**

- How do we meet an increasing need?
  - To make the course more efficient, we need to decrease the number of instructors that we need for each course.
  - Suggestion to create a checklist for "Facilitated Equivalency".
    - Opportunity for a Navigation Leader/Instructor to assess equivalency for a group of candidates during another activity, such as a "Navigation Hike" or a "Navigation Climb". (Activity with a focus on navigation skills.)
    - Concern that this would be difficult in a org culture where climbers are taught to follow their leaders, instead of taking ownership of navigation.
  - **Action:** Sara to pull a report of all members with Navigation Badges expiring in 2018. See attachment in email.

### **Member Benefits for Navigation**

- Gaia GPS, All Trails, Caltopo

### **Minimum Standards (2-2:30pm)**

#### **Badge Expiration**

- Longer or shorter expiration? No expiration?
  - Current expiration is 3 years. Expiration encourages some members to come back as instructors, as a way to maintain their badge, but this doesn't seem like a primary driver. Instructors return because they want to give back to the course, or because they have a particular interest in Navigation.

#### **Wilderness Navigation Instructor Badge**

- Revisit proposal from 2016.
  - May improve instructor quality, and serve as another way to recruit instructors. If we had a Leader/Instructor Badge, could consider removing expiration on Course Badge. The goal of expiration would be to keep instructors, not students, current on new information.
    - Leader Badge or Instructor Badge? "Leader" is more in-line with other activities.
    - Keep current with CEUs.

- Suggestion to work with other Activity Committees to require that their leaders hold a Navigation Leader/Instructor Badge, as a way to ensure that all leaders are current with their skills.
  - This would likely be up to individual committees, instead of being a part of Activity Minimum Standards.
  - Are other Activity Committees requiring leaders to maintain current First Aid? Could look to that as some other precedent.
- **Action:** Branches to discuss various ideas, what would work for your Branch, then reply to the Summit group with comments. Please review Peter Hendrickson's proposal document (see attached email) and reply by April 2.

### **Next Steps (2:30-3pm)**

- Action Items, Point Persons, Follow-Up Plan
  - The next Navigation Summit is currently scheduled for Saturday, November 10 in Tacoma. I do want to highlight several things happening right around that time:
    - Scramble Summit = November 3
    - Climbing Summit = November 11
    - Veterans Day = November 11
  - We may want to choose a different date, if we're hoping for representation from Scramble and/or Climbing?
- Anything else for the good of the order?