

EVERETT MOUNTAINEERS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES
Tuesday, April 6, 2004
Snohomish County PUD

Meeting started: 7:12pm
January Minutes read.

Attendance: Brian Hensch, Hal Watrous, Don Heck, Sherri Chisarik, Mike Bueler,
Penny Barker, Robin Hageman, Forrest Clark

Guest: Russell Dills, Webmaster

Presentation by Russel Dills of Website Modifications

Russell presented website changes and new ways the branch can use them. Using our new laptop and projector, he showed the following new features:

- 1) New Calendar which will have the course dates highlighted for each day.
- 2) Dynamic setup for trip leaders and coordinators to add and delete items to the Trips sections for each Committee.(dynamic = realtime)
- 3) Ways Committees can add “news features” to the new “News Section” of the website.
- 4) New ways that members will be able to sort through Trip Listings by requesting specific criteria that meet their needs.

Other Points:

Russell is the Website Data Base Manager for the Everett Branch, and represents us to the Club, which itself is currently redoing the Data Base.

Sherri C. asked about progress toward a photo gallery and was told its work in progress.

Russell indicated Club now wants to downsize the Go-Guide for budget purposes, and is planning/considering excluding listings of “future” trips and activities that are 2 or more months and beyond.

Mike Bueler indicated Climbing Committee’s big problem with getting our Branch trip listings in is that they don’t automatically go to the Go-Guide for publication when entered on the website.

Committee Reports:

Social – (Social chair remains unfilled). Brian indicated that Dennis Miller had stepped forward to chair the annual Banquet tentatively to be held Nov 13th, the second Saturday in November. The location is TBA and being worked on. The Monte Cristo Hotel in Everett (Monte Cristo Room) is currently working with us on several details. A Mediterranean theme and cost of \$20 per attendee(plus the speaker honorarium) was mentioned. Use of drink tickets also noted. A major goal to this year’s banquet is

breaking even(last year's loss was an est. \$3600 and it appears the Banquet folks are taking it seriously this year.

Brian said that the April branch meeting on Trail Closings is planned and that attendance continues to be strong. No numbers of guests and members was reported for last two meetings. (Note: an estimated 50 people showed up for the February potluck). We still do not have booths or displays set up for all Committees. It was noted that these displays have in the past been an excellent way for new and prospective members to get involved with our activities.

Membership – (reported by Sherri C. in Bernadette's absence). Twenty or so people came to the last New Members Meeting. It was a very social gathering. A request was made that more Activity Committees send representatives so that prospective and/or new members can get a better picture of all that the Branch and Club offers. With declining membership, this is the sole activity(putting aside the Mountaineers Month coming up) where people can learn about all that The Club offers.

Scramble – 41 students(2 drops) enrolled in course and it is going well. We have 20 scrambles listed coming up, including a large number of overnights. A call has been made for more scrambles and it appears we have more leaders responding. In last few years it has been more trips per leader. Andy Boos has worked on new scramble trips resources including a new revised Branch Scrambles List. The annual Scramble Leadership Workshop was held along with the annual Scramble Instructor Orientation, both visited by the infamous Weed Wackin Wade(Bamer).

The Alpine Scramble website link will also be changed, with the placing of a separate link for Snowshoeing. Right now website visitors have no way knowing which link to access for course and trip listings.

Family Activities – Sherri reported 15-20 trips planned for this summer. A free hiking seminar has been set up for Tuesday, May 4. Sherri reports that there is a lot going on for this Committee.

Hiking – Robin reported that all courses are set and booked on the website. 3-5 trips per month are scheduled for the summer. A recent Hiking Committee meeting had a turnout of 12 people(versus 3-4 in recent years) indicating more and positive involvement. May 11 is the next Hiking meeting.

First Aid – members reported it went over well and had good participation

Singles - Penny Barker reported many new activities being planned. Also, signups are being encouraged to check out other Branch activities.

Climbing – All courses going according to plan. Mike provided a brief rundown of how the Climbing Committee is organized and challenges they face. Below is a brief:

The 16 member Climbing Committee runs the Basic and Intermediate Climbing Courses, and the new Leading on Rock(Crags Course) Course. It is an established core of people with good retention. All are intermediate graduates.

The new Leading on Rock course run by Brian Hensch is off to its first year with 8 signups. The emphasis is on sport climbing and hopes to aid in gaining new branch membership and signups.

This new course works under the Intermediate Climbs Sub-Committee.

Supporting the Basic and Intermediate Sub committees are 4: Education , Records, Climbs, and Equipment.

Two challenges continue to face Climbing: 1) there is very little downtime during the year(with exception of Nov and Dec) so this activity is more year round than others. And 2) Since people advance into higher climbing risk levels, the Committee and people involved are highly skilled . . .there is always the challenge of getting new blood involved for future years.

Skiing – no report

Sea Kayaking - no report

Programming - no report. Brian reported that Matt has a solid series of programs lined up for coming meetings.(Matt is taking Climbing course).

Lookout and Trail Maintenance – Forrest Clark has stepped back in as committee chair. The group is small just now and Forrest is eager to rebuild and increase involvement, especially among members with past participation. He foresees a smaller National Trails Day this year. Its great to see Forrest back. Go Forrest Go !!

Old Business

December Branch Meeting Proposal – put on hold for now. It appeared from January Exec meeting that there is no consensus on this proposal among the Committee members. No word from Brian on plans to poll branch meeting members for their feedback at Feb and March branch meetings.

Persis Funding – contact with Neil Bresheare to be made by Hal W.

Need for Marketing Person/Position for Branch – no discussion

Need for Calendar Scheduler for Branch – no discussion. The new website changes outlined by Russell may help with past problems with scheduling. Scrambling and

Climbing Committees agree that it doesn't appear possible that any coordination of course dates is feasible.

Managing Committee: Setting Standards for Activities – the activity summit was held in February with representatives of Hiking, Climbing, Scrambling, and Sea Kayaking involved. As representative for the branch, chair Brian Hensch sits on Clubwide committee. It clearly appeared from those attending that the process of attaining agreeable standards Clubwide will be very tough. The meeting was characterized by some as “contentious”.

A motion was made by Managing Committee to allocate liability insurance costs on a risk weighted basis, assigning costs to each committee based on a subjective “risk” level. It was not passed and apparently tabled until the next meeting.

Though Brian is stepping down as Chair next year, he did volunteer to continue to be the Branch representative to the Managing Committee. No vote or action taken.

New Business

New Committee Chair for Lookout and Maintenance – described under Committee reports above. Again, welcome back Forrest Clark!!

Branch Website Changes – described earlier in these minutes.

Russell Dills presented a number of new opportunities for members and Committee leaders.

Nominating Committee – Brian is stepping down next year, and has asked several long time members to form a committee for recruiting a slate of officers for next year.

Modularization Discussion – Brian again brought up the possibility of offering Modules for sections of courses e.g. navigation. It was agreed that we pursue contacting Larry Ingalls (Hal to do) about his interest in taking this on. Forrest offered that a Ted Case? is another person we could contact about involvement (who used to be involved). (Forrest to contact)

Salmon Bake – Forrest offered a brief history of how this annual activity came to be. It began as a payback and thank you for all those who worked and helped with Club activities. Up until last few years, they have operated in the black. Last year's loss of \$1100 indicates the need for changes. Brian believes we should sell tickets for members as well as non-members, and recommended we set a cap on expenses. Don H. and Sherri recommended that we just ask the Bake leaders to operate at a break-even basis this year, and let them determine how that will be done.

Budget Process for 2005 – Don briefed us that the annual draft budget figures he send to each Committee chair is based on past years figures as a basis for their preparation. The

Club is trying to equalize costs among the branches. He requested that Committees please stick to the dates he has arranged to complete the budget.

Don indicated retail and B&O taxes are added into the cost figures. Also, our Club non-profit status does not preclude us from paying these taxes.

May Mountaineering Outreach Month – Sherri reviewed status:

Go-Guide front page will show summary listings of various activities.

There will be a special Go-Guide insert showing activities.

Press releases have gone out to all major news publications.

Funds are available for those setting up events; complimentary Mountaineer Books can be used for door prizes, for example. Mention was made of giving away calendars.

Wall hangers with brochures available from the Clubhouse.

Sherri also said that REI will allow the branch to set up an information table for the public to learn more about our activities and courses. She is coordinating this and asked for other committees to send volunteers to man the table.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:30pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 13 at the PUD

Hal Watrous, Secretary

April 15, 2004