

## **Everett Branch Council Meeting Minutes**

Everett Branch Committee, November 28, 2023

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6:00 p.m. Everett PUD

Meeting called to order by Nick Mayo, Everett Branch Chair

### **Participants:**

Nick Mayo, Everett Branch Chair  
Rodica Manole, Everett Climbing Chair  
Christina Youk, Everett Secretary  
Lydia Gillis, Vice Chair for the Everett Branch  
Barry Hershly, Everett Safety Officer  
Sam Benefiel, Everett Communication Director  
Dan Renfrow, Lookout and Trail Maintenance/Trail Running  
Matt Surprenant, Scramble Committee Chair  
Alexandria Fetzer, Hiking and Backpacking Chair  
Rachel Shafer, Cross Country Ski Committee Chair  
Michelle Rushworth, EMSK Chair  
Robert White, BOD/Everett Treasurer

### **Motion**

The Committee approved the meeting minutes from September 26, 2023.

### **Committee Statuses and Updates**

**Scramble Course:** We have a reservation with the Boy Scouts (Camp Edward) on 2/24 and 3/23 for the navigation course field trips. Matt will reach out to the instructors to find leaders for the scramble field trips. Foothill branch has some challenges finding instructors to lead the course, so they are not having full course in 2024. The course opens for registration on midnight of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

The navigation course will be held at Camp Edward. Matt will make sure to ask Evan to post the course earlier this year to secure a meeting location and a permit. Matt will work with Evan to make sure he advertises the class earlier this year to get the volunteer instructor to sign up so that we are not short on instructor like last year.

**Trail Lookout Maintenance:** We are linked with a group at Lord Hill. We did the stewardship event at Paradise Valley with about nine people. We also had eight people joining the tooling event where we went through all the tools. The park was very appreciative of the work we did. The contact at North Cascade will be working with us on trail maintenance. The crew training had a great turn out with approximately ten people joining the call and four of those people were from different branches.

**Cross Country Ski:** We are doing great. Both classic class and Interstate class are full within two hours of opening. There is a long waitlist for that. We will do trip-leader training in February.

**Everett Climbing:** The Everett climbing courses are posted. For the Basic Course, we planned for 34 and 31 people had signed up so far. Twenty-nine of those students are new and two students are from last year's class. Intermediate class has been posted. For the first time ever, we will have dry tooling clinic in December at Exit 38 for Crack climbing. This one is not posted, not budgeted, and did not plan for it. Rodica is still working with other folks to get it finalized. There is no concern about finding volunteers for the Basic course. There are many new leaders and new roles for which we will bring them up to speed to lead the course. For the first time after COVID-19, we plan to add more in-person lectures for 2024. We will kick off our Basic Course at Search and Rescue Facility (SAR) in Snohomish (Taylors Landing).

**Sea Kayaking:** Due to pool size constraint, we only plan to have 16 students in April. We wanted to rent a second pool, but we might not have enough volunteers to run the second pool. The classroom sessions have been scheduled. We have a budget for Leadership development, and we will train new trip leaders.

**Communication:** For information purposes, news communication is published on the 8<sup>th</sup> of every month. If you would like something published, please submit it to Sam about several days prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**Hiking and Backpacking:** Not much to update on. Alexandria is still working on certification and networking with other backpacking Chair on how he ran things previously. Alexandria created a Charter for the hiking and backpacking committee and will bring it to the Exec Committee for approval.

**Everett Safety:** Barry did a couple days of talk at the Snohomish PUD at their main campus. For those of you who have classes for next year, please reach out to Barry if you would like him to come and talk Safety at each of your class.

**Treasury Update:** One of the key notes is the increase of the insurance premium. The Everett Branch is paying insurance to the program center approximately 300% plus increase this year compared to last year. The cause for the increase is due to the general increase in insurance premium across the United States. Another area of increase is contracting service has gone up. There has been talk at the program level about how to incorporate contracts to lower to cost.

The monthly report for the fiscal year November 2023 is ready for review. A copy is available in Basecamp under finance. Our Finance person will use this copy as a base forecast for 2024 budget.

**Exec Committee Jackets:** About a year ago, Nick talked about wanting to get each new volunteer to the Executive Committee a jacket with the mountaineer logo on it. Because of the budget constraints, we might need to give out to several folks at a time starting with those who joined the committee in 2022. The OR jackets are expensive and sold out, so Nick was thinking about reaching out to OR directly to see if they are willing to give us a discount at a bulk order or if that doesn't work out, we can think

about another option like mid-layer softshell with mountaineer's logo on the sleeves. More to come on that.

**Social Events 2024:** The banquet event this year was great. Sara MacGillivray is volunteering to help with pre-planning for next year's banquet. Sara had experience planning large events in the past. She suggested that we have a role called, "Event Coordinator." That sounds like a great idea, but it's still being decided. Nick plans to have Sara do a survey prior to planning the banquet for next year to make the event more interesting. Sara would be great working collaboratively with Lydia in organizing the event.

Nick is looking for new ideas. If anyone has any ideas they want to share regarding events during the year or different kinds of banquet celebration we've done in the past, please email Nick or post it in basecamp.

**Other Topics:** An update from 9/26 story shared by Everett Vice Chair regarding unsafe climb at Cathedral Rock incident. Nick, Rodica, and Barry met with one of the Mountaineers involved in the climb and shared with him about the concern from the Vice Chair's friends. He apologized for what happened. Another party involved in the incident also apologized and made recommendations for future climbs to reduce the number of parties climbing through the area and issue warning about the loose rocks. The apology had reached Vice Chair's friends. They accepted the apology and appreciated the quick solution.

### **Future Events**

- 12/3: Jason Hardrath's Journey to Infinity: Pico de Orizaba at Seattle Program Center at 6 p.m.

### **Next Steps and Meetings**

- The next Committee meeting will be held in January 2024.