

Everett Branch Council Meeting Minutes

Everett Branch Committee, November 26, 2024

6:00 p.m. Everett PUD & Virtual

Meeting called to order by Nick Mayo, Everett Branch Chair

Participants:

Nick Mayo, Everett Branch Chair

Robert White, Everett Branch Chair Elect

Matt Hansen, Everett Director

Billy Anthony, Everett Treasurer

Janelle Schank, Everett Secretary

Jared De Aragon, Everett E&I Director

Sam Benefiel, Communications Director

Bernadette Lamarca, Social Chair

Matt Suprenant, Scrambling Chair

Rachel Shafer, Nordic Skiing Chair

Dan Renfrow, LOTM Co-Chair

Erin Shannon-Starup, LOTM Co-Chair

Beck Clements, First Aid Chair

Motion

The Committee approved the meeting minutes from September 24, 2024.

Introduction

Welcome to new branch officers:

Matt Hansen is the new Everett Director, replacing Ramki Pitchuiyer. Matt will sit on the Board of Directors and serve as a liaison between the Board and the Everett Branch. Ramki has moved into an at-large position on the Board.

Billy Anthony is the new Treasurer, replacing Robert White.

Janelle Schank is the new Secretary, replacing Christina Youk.

Another welcome to Jared De Aragon, who is the new E&I Director.

Robert White has moved into the role of Chair-Elect and will work closely with Nick during the transition over the next year. Robert will also work closely with Billy to transition Treasurer duties.

Committee Statuses and Updates

Climbing

The 2025 Basic Climbing Course will have around 40 students total. 32 students have paid, 6 are in offered status, and 3-4 of those may be on scholarships. One student from last year's BCC is returning to complete the course and will not pay the fee.

The students for the 2025 Leading On Rock and Intermediate Glacier Climbing courses have been selected, and will be announced soon.

Sea Kayaking

The committee is looking at new locations and a new outfitter to provide rental gear for the 2025 Basic Sea Kayak Course, as Kayak Academy is no longer providing this. The Basic Course will be held over several dates in April, and will have room for 16 students. The Basic Course has budgeted for 16 participants for revenue, as opposed to last year's maximum of 20.

Six individuals have been identified as future Sea Kayak leaders for the branch, and are in various stages of being trained. There is a Holiday Light Up Paddle and Potluck planned for December 14th on Camano Island. It should be posted soon for sign ups. The committee is considering offering a two-day Navigation Clinic, and a one-day Intro to Towing clinic in 2025.

First Aid

There are four upcoming courses through Base Medical, and each should have 20 students if they fill up, which they historically do. Beck received some responses from individuals who would like to help out with the First Aid Committee. Executive Committee members are encouraged to help out if possible to aid with coordination.

Lookout & Trail Maintenance

LOTM has embedded activities into various 2025 courses to try to generate more engagement. There are 5 activities for the Everett Basic Climbing Course, 4 for Seattle Intensive Basic Course, and 1 for Foothills Scrambling. In the past, course leaders have approached LOTM due to students putting off the Stewardship Badge graduation requirement until the very end of their course. Integrating these stewardship opportunities into the courses directly resolves this last-minute need. These are hands-on, Mountaineers run stewardship opportunities. For each activity, there need to be at least 1-2 Crew Leaders, and the committee is requiring the course leaders to send qualified activity leaders (e.g. Scramble Leader, Climb Leader) to help manage the people so that the Crew Leaders can manage the work. The committee hopes this will expedite the process of getting students their Stewardship credit and is also hoping this will mean more Crew Leaders in 2025. There are 5-6 regular Crew Leaders currently.

Tim Bliss will be representing LOTM at the Everett BCC meet & greet. LOTM also met with Mountaineers Staff, Nate Rees, to discuss permitting and how to grow relationships with landowners and represent The Mountaineers positively.

It has become quite taxing on the LOTM Committee to run several 2-hour sessions, in-person and via Zoom, covering an introduction to trail maintenance and how to become a Crew Leader. Other branches have been sending students to these courses to train their committee members, but once these students have gone through, they do not participate in Everett LOTM events. The LOTM Committee does have a desire to help the Mountaineers overall with Stewardship, but this is additional work for Everett LOTM that has not been returned. This issue was brought up to the Stewardship Activity Council, and it was suggested to create a Co-Assemble course, which should be ready by Jan-Feb 2025.

LOTM would like to remind all committee members to encourage course students to participate in Mountaineers Stewardship opportunities, rather than promoting third-party organizations first (WTA, Mountains to Sound, etc.). LOTM hopes that this will help grow the Stewardship program in general. There is worry that some branches or committees may not know that there are active Stewardship programs both in Everett and Olympia.

A decision has not been made yet on how to allocate funds from the Quest Grant, whether for the Pilchuck Lookout or another project. The grant states that the funds can be put towards any trail maintenance activity in Snohomish County. A justification would need to be put together for how the funds would be used, and the committee is not quite ready for that at this time.

Scrambling

The Scrambling Course has been posted. It was budgeted for 20 people, and has room for 40. Registration opens on December 1st.

The Navigation Course will be posted by December 15th to ensure the DNR permit can be acquired in time. The plan will be to have the classroom session at the Everett PUD, then park at the Boy Scouts for the field portion of the day. This will save a significant amount of money, as the dining hall at the Boy Scouts is much more expensive than the PUD and more difficult to schedule. The class will still use the Boy Scouts' parking lot so students and instructors can access DNR land for the field work, and will give them a small donation as a thanks.

Other branches have offered smaller SIG-like scrambling courses — some co-ed and some women's affinity groups. Everett Scrambling unfortunately does not have enough instructors to be able to offer these.

Nordic Ski Committee

Nothing new to report. Things are going well for classes.

E&I Onboarding Questions

Jared requested an Org Chart for the Everett Executive Committee & Branch Council with committee leads. Nick will take this on and post to Basecamp and the Branch page if possible. Jared is also curious to know if we are tracking diversity & inclusion data through our courses. Robert will team up with Jared to ask staff members to pull that data from salesforce, and provided insight that the data is mainly looked at through a scholarship lens.

Jared asked how to connect with committee leaders to ensure E&I and land acknowledgements are included in courses that are starting up. Nick recommended identifying the leaders/chairs for different courses such as BCC, LOR, IGC, Scrambling, etc. Basecamp could also be used to tag each of the course leads and committee chairs to create awareness. Robert recommended connecting with Dave Foong to help coordinate and get things off the ground, and also emphasized the opportunity for land acknowledgements and storytelling during LOTM/Stewardship activities and the upcoming Co-Assemble course.

Jared found an E&I Leader Toolkit on the Mountaineers website, and suggested that these tools be added to Basecamp for committee chairs and other leaders to be able to access. There is also a blurb in the 2024 E&I Update that “Equity & Inclusion” will be renamed to “Equity & Belonging”. This change has not occurred yet, but should be on our radar. Robert asks for committee chairs & course leaders to proactively reach out to Jared to start the discussions and see where E&I can be incorporated. Everett is leading the way for other branches regarding E&I.

Treasurer Report

It was originally stated that 2025 was to be an investment year. That is no longer the case — it is now a “hold steady”. Trying to maintain headcount for staff. In Q4 books, youth programs were unfortunately behind. Recommending course prices match their budget as closely as possible, or possibly increase. Everett is right in line with what was recommended.

Staff has created a rolling course revenue forecast for leaders to reference on a monthly basis. Smaller courses like Intro to Winter/Mixed Climbing are already included in the price of IGC/LOR, so students who are not part of those parent courses have to pay a fee to participate, which generates additional revenue. Some committees have also raised their course prices by just \$5 or \$10, which seems small but makes a big

difference in revenue. Still try to keep expenses down even though additional revenue is coming in. Connect with Billy if any large expenses are expected in the near future.

Curious to see how we landed with respect to margin PNL/revenue/expenses for FY24. Robert suggested a note to members via email about employer donation matching, and will write up a blurb for Sam for Giving Tuesday for the newsletter.

Update from Board

1. SHSAP resolution was passed at the last meeting
2. Discussing strategies to balance budget, and backup scenarios to ease off in certain areas in case donations are not as expected
3. Impact storytelling, & investing in teaching & gathering spaces
4. Jeff Bowman's family matching \$20,000 for Giving Tuesday
5. We were able to give away \$100,000 in scholarships for courses in FY24

Additional Everett Meetup Opportunities

Informal monthly meetups, open to any Everett Mountaineers who would like to participate. These should be self-organizing, low effort and no cost, to avoid requiring one person to take on the planning process each month. Nick would like if Everett branch council members could commit to attending one meetup per quarter to get ears & eyes on what's going on and share any pertinent information with attendees. Nick will circle back with Lydia and Sarah MacGillivray.

Honoring Indigenous Names

This topic will be tabled until Lydia & Jared can be present on the call together.

Everett Annual Awards Banquet

Bernadette received positive feedback regarding the centerpieces with local Indigenous mountain names and descriptions. Nick believes we could extend this to other aspects of our programming beyond the banquet — possibly including Indigenous names in Route/Place descriptions on the website. Ideally, this would be done organization-wide as a collaboration between branches.

Lots of positive feedback about the banquet in general as well as the two guest speakers. Robert suggested having different committees appoint the guest speaker each year, so that the focus and representation is spread across various activities and may draw more attendance from those communities.

Future Events

- December 7th, 2024: North Sound Leadership Conference

Next Steps and Meetings

The next Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 28th, 2025.