

Everett Branch Council Meeting Minutes

Everett Branch Committee, January 28, 2025

6:00 p.m. 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 Branch Director
Lydia Gillis, Everett Branch Vice Chair
Billy Anthony, Everett Treasurer
Jared De Aragon, Everett E&I Director
Janelle Schank, Everett Secretary
Sam Benefiel, Communications Director
Rodica Manole, Climbing Chair
Dan Renfrow, LOTM Co-Chair
Matt Suprenant, Scrambling Chair
Barry Hershly, Everett Safety Officer

Motion

The Committee approved the meeting minutes from November 26, 2024.

Introduction

The new Committee Reports document has been implemented. This file can be used to help arrange talking points for the upcoming meeting agenda, for absent committee chairs to leave a report for their committee, and as a quick-reference on committee updates without reading through the entire meeting minutes.

Committee Statutes and Updates

Climbing

Instructor Review on January 18th had the highest attendance count in years — 75 total. 2025 Basic Climbing Course kicked off successfully on January 23rd, with 38 students total (37 full payments, 1 student returning from last year).

Intermediate Climbing Course kicked off over the weekend with the first field trip, Winter Mix, which included a successful bivy in very cold temps. Leading On Rock will kick off on March 2nd. Tim Bliss will lead the Crack Climbing Clinic on April 12-13. The course was posted and filled up within 24 hours, and was budgeted for 6, but will take 8 registrations.

Robert has been noticing Mountaineers members from other branches attending our courses who end up joining the Everett Branch. It's great that we are drawing new members organically.

Lookout & Trail Maintenance

Slowly but surely gaining crew leaders — currently have 6 active leaders. Jim Griffing has been a key leader, and was also pivotal in getting a student help who may have not been in a great mental space by escalating the issue to staff to ensure the person was covered.

At Lord Hill, Dan did a walkthrough with Parks and LOTM will start working on more advanced projects such as reroutes. Jim completed the first reroute, known as Project #40. The second half of Project #40 and several other projects were reviewed by Parks, verbally approved, and are currently awaiting approval of paperwork. These projects should showcase how far the LOTM Committee has come.

Stewardship activities have been posted and integrated into the following courses: Everett BCC, Everett Scrambling, Foothills Scrambling, & Seattle IBC. Some activities are already getting signups from this year's course students. Dan & Erin suggested that for next year, whoever is posting climbing course activities should be made a Stewardship leader, so that the trail maintenance activities can be directly added to the climbing courses.

The Co-Assemble trail maintenance course is still in the progress of being completed.

Scrambling

As of 28 January, the Scrambling course has 15 signups, with 20 budgeted. The roster closes on 1 February. Other branches are also noticing lower than usual Scrambling course signups this year. Regardless, the committee is well-prepared for the course to kick off. Jared will present E&I with a land acknowledgement at the first lecture.

Snowshoeing did fill up quickly, with 23 signups and 18 budgeted. Each class is running at \$5 higher than what was budgeted, so the program is running ahead of plan. It's believed that the additional signups may be due to REI shutting down their experience programs, which included snowshoeing trips.

Navigation courses will be held on March 8th and March 15th. These have yet to be posted, but the Mountaineers are aware of the dates for DNR permitting purposes.

The Committee is planning on having the annual Scrambling reunion at the Baker Lodge, either the 1st or 3rd weekend in August. Scrambling is excited to partner with LOTM on National Trails Day in Darrington on June 7th, and LOTM will also present at the second Scrambling lecture.

Nordic Skiing

Both Skate and Classic programs are going well. Skate has 12 participants, and is having their 3rd field trip on January 29th. The skate program is growing a larger instructor pool and may look at expanding next year. There are also skate ski trips starting to happen, and some skaters are interested in becoming trip leaders.

The Classic program has 45 students and just had its 2nd field trip. There will be a social ski after the 3rd trip that will allow both Classic and Skate students to ski together. We also just had a leader training course that was well attended by people from all branches. This year, Everett was the only branch to offer such a course.

Sea Kayaking

The committee is in the process of planning the SK Basic Course, which will run for the month of April and is expected to enroll 16 students. On-the-water events will be held in the Anacortes area, as our previous provider of rental equipment at Lake Sammamish closed.

Student paddles will be held throughout the summer, and seven paddlers are in various stages of becoming trip leaders. A camping gathering will be held in July at Colonial Creek Park.

Treasurer Update

Financials for all branches are tracking as expected for the most part. The mid flight re-forecasting is coming up to review what was budgeted for, and what the actual numbers will be at the end of the FY. The re-forecast will have the same format as last year, and is expected to come out within the next few weeks. Any questions will be addressed at the February meeting, and the final submittal will happen in March.

Nick emphasized the importance of making the process as painless as possible for the committee chairs, who are focusing on executing programs. This can be done by having committee chairs send a simple report of any items that are significantly under revenue, or over expense, and the Branch Chair & Chair-Elect can maintain the midflight spreadsheet themselves using that information.

Equity & Inclusion

Jared has added an E&I folder into Basecamp so that committee chairs can access resources regarding E&I for use in their courses. Jared has partnered with a few different programs to incorporate E&I acknowledgements into course lectures.

Update from Board

The SHSAP Charter has been approved, and a committee will be put together soon. There has not been any discussion yet on how this committee will be staffed. This topic will be brought up on the next BLC call.

There is currently a draft interim policy that states that anyone that, within a certain time period, has been under state or federal court supervision regarding a sex crime conviction of some sort, will not be allowed to have a leadership position within the mountaineers, and will not be allowed to participate in certain activities (for instance, youth programs, or stations that involve close-contact with others). Details regarding the enforcement of this policy are still being discussed, and there are some revisions that will be made to the policy to ensure there are no loopholes, but this will most likely be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

Any committee chair with concerns, or who are hearing members voice concerns or questions, should voice those to Matt so they can be passed along at the next Board Meeting to be addressed.

There will be a change in how incident reporting is handled, to add a form regarding behavioral incidents reporting inappropriate conduct. Physical incident report forms will still go to the Safety Committee, but the new behavioral incident forms will go to Tom and will be more confidential to quell any concerns of retaliation.

The Mountaineers Gala is coming up on April 26th. Sasha DiGiulian will be the keynote speaker, and Art Wolfe will be receiving the Adventure With Purpose Award. Tickets are currently on sale.

The end-of-year fundraising push was a success, with donations reaching \$20,000 over the goal that was set.

Motion to Approve Scramble Committee Charter

The Committee approved the new Scramble Committee Charter. Most of the committee roles are already staffed, however there are some openings, including Vice Chair and Leadership Coordinator.

There was a question regarding if there are any updates to this charter, which group would approve any amendments? There currently isn't a formal process to approve charter amendments, but Nick feels that we can monitor Everett branch committee charter changes internally in Basecamp, and any large changes or any that bring up concerns can go through a more formal approval process during an Everett Executive Committee meeting. Robert also wonders if individual committees can approve their

own amendments since they have their own officers. Nick will attempt to get additional direction on this during the next BLC meeting.

Everett Social Event Planning

Nick, Robert, Lydia, And Sarah met to discuss social event planning for 2025, and have decided to pursue a partnership with the Edmonds Waterfront Center. A Tacoma Basic student, who is also the chair/president of the EWC, reached out to open up a line of communication to collaborate on social events with the Everett Mountaineers.

An event is being planned for the end of March to start a speaker series and kick off the 2025 Social Events calendar. If this event works out, a larger event may be planned later in the year. These events may draw new memberships to the Everett Mountaineers. More details to come.

There is also a plan to schedule more informal get-togethers for Everett Mountaineers members, with a fixed date/time so that minimal planning is involved. These events will hopefully start in April.

Honoring Indigenous Names

Lydia would like to put a focus on incorporating the indigenous names of locations into our speech when we talk about visiting these places. The Mountaineers have a lot of members who are new to the area, so including historic names along with the federal names of these places can help raise awareness and respect for the history of the area, and also re-include people who have historically been excluded. If these individuals see The Mountaineers making a concerted effort of honoring indigenous names and including those groups into the conversation, not just in platitudes but in real experiences, they may feel more comfortable, welcomed, and seen in our community.

Jared noted that the online E&I course does go over the importance of using indigenous names, but would like to take it a step further by including indigenous names of peaks and routes into course activities and descriptions. Jared would like to remind leaders and those who are posting activities that this is a great way to incorporate these acknowledgements. Robert noted that this is incredibly important during current events where indigenous names are being stripped in other areas of the world.

Nick also brought up the possibility of including indigenous names into all route descriptions on the website and in the database (if one exists or can be agreed upon in the case of multiple names from different tribes). It would be great to start seeing the common name and indigenous name side-by-side. Robert noted that this is currently on the E&I Committee's to-do list.

Newsletter & Other Items

Submit Newsletter content to Sam by February 1st. The social events will be added to the newsletter, and Sam will also include indigenous names with locations. Sam requests photos for the newsletter in a landscape orientation, and that also include names of climbers and places in them.

Rodica requested an update on Round 2 Program Center reservations for 2026, and will send a note to Becca and Laurel.

Future Events

- March 24th, 2025: Open House w/Tami Asars @ EWC
- April 26th, 2025: Mountaineers Gala @ Fremont Studios

Next Steps and Meetings

The next Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 29th in-person and virtual via Zoom.