

Everett Branch Council Meeting Minutes

Everett Branch Committee, September 30, 2025

6:00 p.m. Everett PUD & Virtual

Meeting called to order by Nick Mayo, Everett Branch Chair

Participants:

Nick Mayo, Everett Branch Chair
Matt Hansen, Everett Branch Director
Lydia Gillis, Everett Branch Vice Chair
Billy Anthony, Everett Treasurer
Jared De Aragon, Everett E&B Director
Janelle Schank, Everett Secretary
Rodica Manole, Everett Climbing Chair
Bernadette Lamarca, Everett Social Chair
Rachel Shafer, Everett Nordic Skiing Chair
Erin Shannon-Starup, Everett LOTM Co-Chair
Dan Renfrow, Everett LOTM Co-Chair
Matt Suprenant, Everett Scrambling Chair
Michele Rushworth, Everett Sea Kayaking Chair
Barry Hershly, Everett Safety Chair
Beck Clements, Everett First Aid Chair
Brenna Anderst, Everett Climbing Chair Elect
Alex Bertelsen, Everett Hiking & Backpacking Chair, First Aid Chair Prospective

Motion

Billy Anthony moved to approve the meeting minutes from June 24, 2025. Barry Hershly seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved with no objections.

Introduction

Welcome Alex Bertelsen as the new Hiking & Backpacking Chair, filling an open role. The Committee also hopes to approve Alex as the new First Aid Chair during this meeting, taking over for Beck.

Welcome Brenna Anderst as the new Climbing Chair Elect, who will be taking over for Rodica.

Committee Statuses and Updates

Sea Kayaking

The 2025 Basic Sea Kayaking Course started with 16 enrollments, and resulted in 10 graduations. Two students moved out of the area during the course, and others decided they had already learned sufficient skills and weren't planning on kayaking with The

Mountaineers in the future, so decided not to pursue the graduation requirements. All participants learned useful water safety skills even if they decided not to complete the whole course.

Several “Kayak Tuesday” clinics were held in the spring, and the committee partnered with Boat Blade Body to hold an Incident Management Day Course for more advanced skills for 8 students. The goal of the Incident MGMT course is to encourage members to become Trip Leaders, and this course was budgeted for in 2026 as well. Around a half dozen new members were awarded badges through equivalency tests, and two members have become Trip Leaders with several others currently in progress.

The Summer Shindig campout & paddle was held at Diablo Lake in July, and will be held at Baker Lake in 2026. Trip Leaders led many student paddles, including Photo & Nature themed paddles, and a three day kayak camping adventure in the San Juans, among other adventures. Plans are underway for more kayak camping trips for 2026, and one or more bioluminescence paddles.

Equity & Belonging

The first Equity & Belonging meeting has been rescheduled to October. The retreat will occur in November, and will go more in-depth into organization-level happenings.

Nordic Skiing

The committee is planning to offer Skate & Classic ski courses again this year. A Ski Leader Seminar will also be hosted, with dates TBD and registration opening in November. The committee is also considering offering a dry land, pre-season conditioning opportunity in October/November, but final details are still being confirmed.

Hiking & Backpacking

Alex reports that the Foothills Branch has concerns that some day hikes are crossing over into Scrambling territory. A discussion will be had in early October to determine the level of separation between the two activities. Alex would like to bring Everett H&B and Scrambling members into the discussion to participate if possible.

So far, one member has already reached out with interest in becoming a Hike Leader.

First Aid

Thanks to Alex for volunteering to take over as the First Aid Chair. Within the next few days, Beck & Alex will work on setting up the courses with Base Medical in the Winter & Spring. Dates at the Seattle Program Center have already been reserved, for 4 classes of 20 people.

Climbing

The estimated graduates from 2025 Climbing courses are as follows: Basic Climbing, 20 graduates. Leading On Rock, 8 graduates. Intermediate Glacier, 9 graduates. Sport Climbing, 10 graduates.

A brand new course, Intro to Water Ice, will be kicking off in October. Behind-the-scenes work for 2026 BCC, IGC, and LOR is ramping up, and the courses are almost ready to accept applications.

Lookout & Trail Maintenance

Crew 4 recently finished up their work at Three Fingers Lookout, replacing siding/beams/shutters, painting, & doing sill repairs. Two days were completed at the Mount Pilchuck Lookout with the help of WA State Parks to repaint the lookout.

Course Stewardship integration dates have been agreed and posted for 2026 Basic Climbing and Youth Program. This integration has helped get more hands on LOTM projects, and also help build rapport within the branch community.

Snohomish County Parks has been bringing LOTM in for consulting on rebuilding a few new trails. LOTM has been working to mitigate closure of the Red Barn trail at Lord Hill by designing a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile reroute, and will start building the new trail in the fall. Other projects are in the works.

Scrambling

The committee is expecting 17 graduates from the 2025 Scrambling Course. Hopefully a number of those will continue on to BCC. The Baker Lodge Scrambling Reunion was successful, with 1 trip on Friday, 4 trips on Saturday, and 3 trips on Sunday. The Winter Scrambling Seminar will be held on October 22nd.

Planning for the 2026 Scrambling Course is already underway, and will also partner with LOTM to integrate Stewardship opportunities into the course. It will be posted this weekend.

Matt also recommends use of the Course Management Tool for each committee, as it is very useful for tracking graduation requirements and relieves a considerable amount of work once it is set up. Basic Climbing is also using this tool, and Nordic Skiing will implement it in the coming season.

Safety

Only a few incidents were reported this year, including one at Vantage during the Sport Climbing Course. This was escalated and is out of the committee's hands at this point.

One person also was injured coming off the Tooth during a rappel, and this incident is still under investigation.

Treasurer Update

Fiscal year ends today, 30 SEP. Please ensure reimbursements are submitted by October 10th. The budget is still in the process of being approved, mainly due to concern over book sales. Billy advises to proceed until the formal approval is received, hopefully shortly after October 14th. Any funds that can be reserved to protect the finances would be appreciated. Nick reports that we are expected to overshoot our budget margin in The Mountaineers' favor this year.

Update from Board

Currently, the club is losing a significant amount of money, and the Board is doing their best to address how to resolve that — the main reason the 2026 budget has not yet been approved. Any opportunities to generate revenue for the course that provides value for our members should be explored, such as the new Water Ice course.

Matt explained in detail how revenue has been affected since COVID — during & immediately after the shutdown, many people were resorting to outdoor activities, which led to a surge in sales across many outdoor brands, including the Mountaineers Books. Roughly half of the Mountaineers revenue is in Books. Due to the uptick of people buying books, prints were increased to try to accommodate, but sales dropped after COVID and now there is a surplus of books inventory that is not moving.

Steve Swenson recently rolled off the Board of Directors, and Graham Zimmerman (Piolets d'Or award winner) is standing for election as At-Large Director.

Motion

The Committee moved to approve Alex Bertelsen as the new First Aid Chair. The motion was seconded, and Alex was approved with no objections. Thank you to Beck for all the hard work over the years.

Banquet Update

The banquet will take place on Saturday, November 1st. Deadline to purchase tickets is October 15th. A lot of marketing has gone into promoting the Annual Awards Banquet across many different Mountaineers platforms. Nick notes that emails are traditionally the best way to secure registrations. Bernadette and Lydia will partner on the centerpieces again, and Nick will reach out to larger committees to secure volunteers

for miscellaneous tasks. Committee Chairs, please ensure you have updated your relevant powerpoint slides by October 20th with graduates for your courses.

This year, each party is being asked to bring an appetizer or dessert to save on costs. The ticket prices were reduced to \$35/\$15 youth, but this will still help us save \$200-300. The main course and salad will still be catered, and beverages will be supplied by The Mountaineers. The more tickets that are sold, the more we can offset the cost of the Banquet. The Banquet is a net cost to the club, and is a way to give back to the members.

Nominees for the Larry Ingalls Distinguished Service Award have been received. Nick will reach out to set up a committee to review these nominations and justifications, and vote on a final award recipient.

Action Items

The To-Do list in Basecamp will be revived to help track delegation & deadlines for ongoing tasks.

Youth Programs

The recent climb night went well, however the committee is finding that there are a lot of adults without children participating. A recent hike only had attendees over 60yo, with no youths. The committee is considering adding a Leader's Permission requirement to participate, however there is concern that this may be an obstacle to get people to attend. There's not a way to restrict registrations by age, since both youth and their parents would need to attend.

A representative will promote the Youth Program at the Banquet to help spread the word. Kelly will also promote upcoming events to school districts to hopefully advertise on their newsletter, and Youth events will be promoted on the Climbing channel since lots of graduates have families. The ideal age range would be 7yo to teens, but different activities may have different age ranges.

Matt recommends the Youth Committee attend the Everett Chamber of Commerce non-profit collaborative meetings. These are held once a month on a Thursday morning, are free to attend, and don't require registration. Nick will follow up on a possible donation for the Youth Program from Dana & Dennis.

Next Steps and Meetings

The next Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 27th at 6pm.