**Minutes Seattle Branch Council – January 14, 2016 6:30pm**

Attendees: Mary Panza, Dave Shema, Mary Hsue, Carry Porter, Gordy Swartzman, Ann Smart, Heidi Walker, Peter H, John Jecker, Jimmy Jet Klasnic, Greg Testa, Brian Seater, Brian Starlin, Stan Terada, Alan Vogt, Stef Schiller

Welcome and Agenda Review 18:30

Introductions by all in attendance.

Moment of Silence:

Doug Walker (August 17, 1970-December 31, 2015), climber, philanthropist, entrepreneur, REI, Fred Hutch & Peak Society chair, helped fund WTA Lost Trails, Mtr Advisory committee. Avalanche Victim Mt Defiance 31 Dec.

Summarization of Doug’s achievements by Brian Starlin.

Lucile Peake Townsend (1936-Dec 6, 2015), former Alpine Scramble Chair, Trip Leader, helped formalize “Ten Essentials”; Service & Social: 3:00 p.m. Sat. Jan. 9th, 2016 at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 911 Stewart St, Seattle.

Approval 19 November 2015 Minutes. Moved: ? , Second: ? approved

**Chair Briefing** – Peter Hendrickson

* Volunteer Recognition Dinner: Saturday, January 30, 5:00 to 9pm, gratis, Keynote James Edward Mills (*The Adventure Gap: Changing the Face of the Outdoors*)
  + How do committees recognize one of their own?
  + Other branches have their own branch-wide events to recognize committee volunteers.
  + Seattle does this at the club-wide dinner.
* Nominations: Branch Volunteer of 2015
  + Chairs – need candidates by tomorrow (Jan 15) night. Send to Peter
* Identification: Committee super volunteers list review
  + Send last minute addition to Peter and Chris Williams
  + Criteria – 15 somethings
* New Volunteers: Using DB extract to identify, invite, onboard new volunteers from their profiles. And encouraging regular updating of profiles.
  + Carry – can we get this list update every 6 months, of new members of last 6 months. Get it pushed to us.
  + Mary – suggest every 3 months.
  + Peter – lets go quarterly
* Calendar 2016-- SBC, BOD, MC, Safety, First Aid and Navigation
  + Peter – first run at a branch calendar. What would be helpful?
  + Can we get Meet the Mountaineer events on calendar.
  + Peter will update calendar on a monthly basis. Send out as an email attachment
* Managing Committee Update: Annual plan targets...Summits and more
  + Assemblage of branch chairs, properties, Global Adventures
  + Encouraging cross-branch activity committee meetings
* Leadership Conference 2015
  + Full Capacity. Interesting presenters
  + Recordings were made and posted on Mountaineer website.
  + Chris Williams took a survey. People appreciated a session on conservation
  + Lots of attendance from other branches
* Avalanche Instruction—Newest committee
  + Parallel to First Aid
  + Only branch to have such a committee.
  + Loren McWethy is the chair
  + Exists to supply avalanche level 1 courses for Seattle Branch
* Family Activities—Consideration for new committee
  + Peter met with a parent new to city, neighborhood. Wanted activity for their kids.
  + How can Seattle branch committees offer kid programs?
  + Policy change on handling kids going up before Board.
  + Anne Smart – requirements are too stringent
  + Difference between family and youth programs - Brian Starlin
  + Steered these parents to Mountaineer youth groups – Explorers and Pioneers
* Initiatives 2016
  + Nurture Healthy Branch/Staff/Board Relationships
  + Reach out to Underserved Communities in Greater Seattle
  + Provide Professional Development for Volunteers
  + Advance renewed, improved curricula, instruction and assessment/evaluation
  + Peter – interested in concussion incidents

**Safety Officer Briefing** – Helen Arntson – absent

Helen’s email – Safety Annual meeting this coming Sunday

**Board of Directors Rep Briefing** –- Patrick Mullaney - absent

**Program Staff Rep Briefing** –- Suzanne Gerber – Mary Hsue standing in

* + Mary Hsue –
    - Membership is up considerably and staff is excited.
    - Search for CEO is continuing, 3 identified, in person interviews next week.

**Treasurer Briefing** -- John Jecker

* Revenue is up for Fiscal Year Ending (FYE) 2015 over FYE 2014, Expenses were level. Net for 2015 = $85.4k, 26% increase over FYE 2014. Seattle has $300k+ in the Seattle reserve account.
* Membership. The unaffiliated branch has been the most popular branch. Now staff is trying to move the unaffiliated to real branches. New members must choose a branch.
* For FYE 2016, revenue is up over budget. Expenses can not yet be determined. Projected to have a negative net by the end of the year.
* Changes to the expense reports are underway. Mary Panza says this new expense report is much easier to use. Instructions are now available. Activity Chairs approve committee expenses. John/Peter approve expenses by activity chairs
* Board of Directors is reviewing changes in how accounting is done. Will take effect in FYE 2016. See treasurer’s report (attachment)
* Mary Hsue – Glen Eades: *Don’t want to make our prices available only to Amazon, Microsoft, Boeing execs. Might want to offer reduced or zero priced courses to selected people.*
* Success of a course will not be measured by course profit.

**Secretary Briefing** –- Dave Shema

* Website changes – Improvements keep on coming to the website.
* Cancellations no longer show up by default in one’s profile
* Removal of Adobe Flash (used to implement some buttons) for cyber-security reasons.

**Old Business**

* Badges (Heidi Walker) – nothing to report
* Friction Slab construction – will be revived in the spring.
* Gift for honored volunteer of the year. - Carry Porter moved that a $100 gift certificate to backcountry.com

**New Business**

* SAR report Mt Defiance
* Add Officer to Leadership—Vice Chairperson. Peter wants one!
* Branch operating manual Tacoma has a redbook. If you would like to work on this, let Peter know.
* Chair visits to committees. Peter would like to visit Seattle Activity committee meeting. Activity Chairs please let Peter know of next meeting.

**Committee Reports:** Kindly include efforts towards:

* Nurture Healthy Branch/Staff/Board Relationships [Esp. Summits]
* Reach out to Underserved Communities in Greater Seattle
* Provide Professional Development for Volunteers
* Advance renewed, improved curricula, instruction and assessment/evaluation

**Alpine Scrambling** – Stan Terada

* New course was created. CASC – Compressed Alpine Scrambling Course.

**Avalanche** – Loren McWethy – absent

**Backpacking** – Todd Mitchell – Heidi Walker standing in – combination Backpacking/Hiking report.

* All Mountaineer summit held last week.
  + Minimum standards proposed.
  + Branches have to approve. and then Managing committee.
* Working a video for new hikers to the Mountaineers. New hikers do not need to take a course but do need to watch the video and answer a few questions.
* No shows - a new no-show policy is being developed by hiking committee. Need other activities in entire club to report no shows.
* Conditioning hiking series is set up. Olympia used Seattle’s program successfully. Hoping other branches pick it up. Seattle has a long wait list.
* Backpacking/Hiking would like to help with a Beach cleanup fundraising effort.

**Climbing** – Rob Lanxon/Stef Schiller

* Seattle Climbing retreat in 2 weeks. AMGA made recommendations. Retreat will review.
* Climbing looking at adding 4 climbing modules (separate courses). Complete all 4 modules and one gets basic badge.

**Family Activities** – Becca Polglase (Staff) – absent

**First Aid** - Mary Panza

* Extended contract with Remote Medical, we will be hosting the Wilderness First Responder course 80 hours.
* Budget coming from staff, Seattle First Aid to supply volunteer support.
* This course is the AMGA standard. AMGA requires WFR for most of its courses.
* The regular 16 hour course is being offered by Seattle and Everett. Tacoma looking at NOLS session (instead of RMI). Olympia and Kitsap still offer MOFA.
* Still need volunteers to help with scenarios. 10 scenario sessions/year. Take 15 volunteers per session.

**Folk Dance -** Johnny Jeans absent

**Hiking** – Heidi Walker (see backpacking report)

**Leadership** – Lawrence Landauer absent

**Midweek Hikes** – Edmunde Lewin absent

**Naturalists** – Gordie Swartzman

* Naturalists Study Group is offering monthly hikes for those *really* interested in studying plants.
  + Signing up for these hikes is causing a problem.
  + Working with Jeff Bowman.

**Navigation** – Brian Starlin & Greg Testa

* Getting ready for upcoming courses in February. Habitual No Shows are blocking other from registering from the course. Need to track no-shows better.
* Another NAV summit at Meany Lodge planned this year.
* Offering a NAV course for Intense Basic this summer at Meany Lodge.
* Looking at offering a winter session that covers snow travel.
* Climbers asked to push students to take earlier NAV courses.

**Photography** – Anne Smart

* One day Basic class posted on line, as is the Macro class.
* We are offering a total of 3 Basic classes per year. Each class is one day in length.

**Retired Rovers** – Storm Yanicks – absent

**Sailing** – Alan Vogt

* Class will be in April, lasts 3 months. One class/year.
* May offer a Sailing Navigation course.
* Sailing has been dependent of Mountaineer Magazine. Change in magazine publication schedule fear may accept signup.
* 2 new volunteers with yachts.

**Paddle Sports** –George Swapp – absent

**Singles Activities –** Eldon Ball – absent

**Nordic Skiing** – Carry Porter

* Rebuilding after a couple of low snow years. Classes starting up next week.
* Held inter-branch ski event with Everett at Meany Lodge for students.
* Inter-branch Chairs summit in April planned.
* All Seattle instructors are PSA certified, but other branches do not. Seattle wants to improve general ski instruction.
* Trying to rebuild committee – it was a one person committee for a long number of years.
* Trying to get a youth program going.

**Snowshoeing –** Jimmy Jett Klansnic

* Students finding courses on the website.
* Flyers, magazine does not continue.
* Plenty of students but challenge getting instructors.
* Course management is a problem. Not good reporting feature available. Lots of grunt work.
* Held one hour Snowshoe summit before December’s leadership summit with other branches.
* Courses across branches are quite different, with different requirements.
* Seattle has trip leadership guidelines which was shared with other branches.
* Seattle students must take only Seattle snowshoe trips for graduation credit because courses are so different.
* Supporting Chris Ensor’s Methow Valley winter trails project– trying to get other branches involved.

**20-30 Somethings** - Brian Seater

* A couple of folks interested in becoming leaders and committee members. Re-growing the committee.

**Youth Outreach** – Josh Gannis (Staff) – absent

**Good of the Order**

* Next Branch meeting Thursday, March 10 @ 6:30. Same place
* Any interest in business cards? Contact Peter.

**Adjourn**

21:05 pm

**The 2016 Seattle Branch Council meeting occurs on the 2nd Thursday of odd months at 6:30pm.**

**Mar 10 – May 12 – Jul 14 – Sep 08 – Nov 10**