**Minutes Seattle Branch Council – November 19, 2015 6:50pm**

Attendees: Peter Hendrickson, Stan Terada, Dave Shema, Helen Arntson, Heidi Walker, Greg Testa, Brian Seater, Brian Starlin, Jimmy Jet Klansnic, Anne Smart, Cindy Hoover, Rob Lanxon.

Moment of Silence for Eivind Sleveland, Folk Dance Chair. Died October 2015.

Approved 17 September 2015 Minutes.

**Chair Briefing** – Peter Hendrickson

* My duties: Voice of Seattle Branch, Leadership (SBC, MC, BOD), Volunteer Issues, Project Funding FYI-*Slab project moved to 2016 due to contractor delay*, Meet the Mountaineers, Volunteer Recognition Dinner Jan 30, 100 Peaks Around Rainier...
* 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
* Calendar 2016 will be provided with dates of SBC, BOD, MC, Safety, First Aid and Navigation (those committees which touch several programs)
* Leadership Conference December 5th (Saturday) Program Center...
* Summits for activity chairs – Chair to promote summits and keen to hear of those planned.
* Volunteer Dinner January 30th (Saturday) Program Center.

**Safety Officer Briefing** – Helen Arntson

Two different reporting systems: Incident Reports (trip leaders) and Safety Concerns (trip participants via survey).

Safety Committee looking at how to best use these two reports. Arntson attended the Wilderness Risk Management conference in Portland to see how other organizations handle this. Safety Committee meeting this week to work on how best to improve reporting of safety concerns. Is right information being gathered? How to quantify? Want information we can use.

**Board of Directors Rep Briefing**

No Report – Board of Directors Retreat last weekend

**Program Staff Rep Briefing**

No Report

**Treasurer**

No report

**Old Business**

* Badges (Heidi Walker)
  + Badges are just volunteer recognition, except for class/skill badges.
  + Issues with leaders going to destinations for their committee that they are not qualified for. Or enrolling students who are not qualified for the outing.
  + Student badges have an expiration.
* Friction Slab construction – postponed until 2016. Delays with contractor.
* “About Button” on Seattle Branch webpage
  + Branch website has an entry page with blog postings. “About Button” takes you to the actual Seattle Branch page that we can edit.

**New Business**

* Volunteer Recognition Dinner, hosted by Seattle Branch
  + Send recommendations for volunteer of the year to Peter Hendrickson.
  + Volunteer dinner hosted by Seattle - all branches invited to have their own volunteer recognition at the same event.
  + Branch Executive committee to vet the nominations
  + Suggestion - Have an award (clothing, membership, gift certificates) for Seattle Volunteer of the year. Send ideas to Peter Hendrickson

**Committee Reports**

**Alpine Scrambling** – Stan Terada

* Low snowfall in 2015 impacted snow scrambles, otherwise another successful year.
* Nina Crampton assuming Intense Scramble field trip leadership from Tab Wilkins

**Backpacking** – Heidi Walker

* Joined Hiking at an all-branch summit for Hiking/Backpacking. Kitsap, Foothills, Tacoma, Seattle took part.
* Main issues:
  + Participants show up unprepared (clothing, gear), late cancels, no-shows
  + How to retain leaders (leaders don’t want to deal with unprepared students)
* Next summit in a few months.
* Up-tick in problems
* Question: Any ideas why participants are showing up unprepared?
  + “Meet-up” syndrome – participants have not taken any courses, participants don’t understand importance of sign up/cancellation
  + Some participants treat Mountaineers as a guide service.

**Climbing** – Rob Lanxon

* Basic Climbing – Full, 160 students in course, with 56 on waitlist.
  + Encouraging waitlisted folks to register for Scramble course.
* Intermediate Climbing – Full, 70 in course, 30 on waitlist.
* Modularization of Basic Climbing course planned for 2017.
* Friction slabs – money is there, need a contractor who will perform.
* Adding an avalanche awareness courses. These are not Avalanche Level 1 courses.

**Family Activities**

* No report

**First Aid** - *note from Mary Panza*

* 2015 was a busy year! The Seattle first aid committee offered 10 Wilderness First Aid classes, for a total offering of 300 student spaces. We used about 290 of those spots.  
  We added 2 sessions at the end of the year due to high demand. The Everett branch combined their course with ours to make scheduling easier on the students, offering 2 additional courses - a total of 12 at the Seattle program center! In addition to Mountaineers members who need to complete first aid as a requirement for another course, we saw an increase in new members, hikers, kayakers and experienced mountaineers taking the course to add or refresh their skills.  
    
  Our volunteer pool steadily increased, and we added medical personnel with wilderness experience from outside the organization or new to the organization.  
    
  For 2016, we continue to target 10 sessions - 300 spots for wilderness first aid, and are looking at options to offer a wilderness first responder course, which is an 80 hr. training that is the standard for guides and professionals in the outdoor industry.
* No Summit Planned: Frequent conversations with Everett and Tacoma colleagues. Olympia still holds MOFA. Bellingham hosted a WFA last year. I'm not sure if they'll be switching over to that or going back to MOFA. I've heard no follow up. Kitsap occasionally tries to hold a MOFA, but most of their members go to one of the other branches for first aid. FH has held two WFAs in the past but has t done anything recently. Their members usually come to Seattle for first aid.

**Folk Dance**

* Johnny Jeans new chair.

**Hiking** – Heidi Walker

* Information session with prospective students in Dec

**Leadership**

* Trying keep things going after change of Chair.
* No class in 2015
* May be a Leadership class in the spring. (Tentative)

**Midweek Hikes**

* No report

**Naturalists** – Dave Shema

* Intro course in 2016 set to begin in April. The winter seminar series is underway.

**Navigation** – Brian Starlin & Greg Testa

* New Co- Chairs
* Change in workshop format. Now have an hour lecture/table work session before the problem set.
* Fieldtrips
  + The usual rain.
  + Looking at making modifications. Change in stump problem?
  + Add a calibration station.
  + Final problem – students like the full course.
  + Used GPS devices at 3 stations at fieldtrip. Helped with sweep. Clear-cut is getting overgrown (final problem).
  + Cancellations and no-shows are becoming a major problem on field trip. Tracking repeat offenders. Students signing up for multiple field trip sessions.
  + Altimeter worked in pretty well in the course. Still a little fuzzy on how GPS to fit in.
* Volunteer Park compass/map/altimeter/GPS course – being tested.
* Number of students and graduates increasing, but also increasing are the number of no-shows at the field trips.
  + 2014 – 257 grads
  + 2015 – 292 grads out of 450 students
* E-learning course in development:
  + Contractor Trilium to produce the course.
    - 1st get 4-5 videos on line,
    - 2nd get workshop on demand/on line,
    - 3rd online on demand instructor training.
  + Some on-line content to be available in February.

**Photography** – Anne Smart

* + Getting classes going.
  + Format change. Now offering a one-day Basic class, four times a year.
  + There will also be April class on macrophotography for a types of cameras.
  + Content course content frequently being updated.

**Retired Rovers**

* No repot

**Sailing**

* No repot

**Paddle Sports**

* No repot

**Singles Activities**

* No report

**Skiing** – Cindy Hoover

* Cary Porter now running the courses.
* Nordic course starting Jan 9th.
* Info night Dec 15 on Nordic skiing. Invited other branches to take part at this event.
* Mountaineer-wide Skiing Summit on December 5th.
* One leader in 2015 was not a ski leader. Trying to figure out how this happened.

**Snowshoeing –** Jimmy Jett Klansnic

* Courses are on line and taking registration. Sign up is strong.
* Trying to set up a snowshoe summit. Other branches tie snowshoeing into other activities (climbing, scrambling, etc.) so not sure how representatives will be chosen.
* Concern: Courses across branches have same name but have different content. Trying to work out.
* Concern: Seattle requires Avy 1 for strenuous and moderate. Other branches do not. What should be the minimum standard?
* Course offerings for Avy 1 are sparse. Will pay for other Avy 1 training for leaders.
* Course fees and content are diverging across the organization. Bad thing?

**20-30 Somethings** - Brian Seater

* New chair.
* Handful of trips but need leaders. We offer only Hiking and backpacking trips – where no course is required.
* Formerly Under The Hill Rovers

**Youth Outreach** – New Leader to be Identified

* Plans for a Volunteer newsletter to be sent weekly (as needed).
* Outside volunteer agencies used to assist at youth/school events. (e.g. Rotary club)

**Good of the Order**

* Next Branch meeting Jan 14 @ 6:30.
* Some destinations/routes were combined on Mountaineer website. The destination for a past activity may have been changed to “TBD”. Contact Jeff Bowman to get the destination restored.

**Adjourn**

* 9:05pm

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

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