**April 2016, Seattle Climbing Committee Meeting Minutes**

**7:00 Call to order**

* Approve March minutes  
  - March minutes are approved
* Pass around attendance sheet

**7:05 Chair**

* 2017 FT and Priority Climbs Schedule

Have been discussed with other branches but no decisions have been made  
- 2016 schedule is out. If you attempt to sign up for one of the priority days you should receive a notice with a link to the 2016 schedule.

**7:15 Old Business**

* Reminder for all course leaders to get their 2017 room reservation requests to Andriana asap (was due April 1)
* Update on Emergency Communication Devices   
  - Recommendation is to purchase ACR: ResQLink’s only due to small size and lightweight.   
  - Bill will move forward with purchasing 10 ACR: ResQLink’s
* AAC Belay Curriculum

Spent day with Ron Funderburke discussing belay techniques and ways for The Mountaineers to become a provider for the AAC Belay curriculum

All participants are now AAC belay certified  
- talked about the Gold Standard for belay  
- mentioned PBUS is used for belaying a lead climber  
- stressed palm down  
- walked through correct method for a grigri  
- morning focused on belaying  
- afternoon focused on how to teach belaying, which was especially valuable  
- kept students busy by having them belay both sides of a rope  
- certification means that the participants are recorded in a database as having received training for both top rope and lead belay  
- materials were in draft form and expect to receive finalized versions in the near future  
- touched on assisted braking devices (petzl reverso, edelrid megajul) and cautioned that students may feel like they don’t need to understand proper braking techniques when using them

* Forefront: An Evening Expo for Climb Leaders and Instructors (aka Climb Leader Refresher)

Scheduled for June 6

Next planning meeting end of April (exact date TBD)  
- planning meeting will be on April 26th  
- will offer an update for all climb leaders on specific skills that our programs teach  
- intent is to offer this as a single event  
- no maximum capacity at the moment

* Proposal to give credit for non-summit climbs

The Basic Team has decided to withdraw the proposal for of lack of consensus.  
  
- Recent incident on Mount Rainier in which a Mountaineers climbing party responded to a victim suffering from hypothermia. Takeo and Meredith were leading the climb and will be asked for permission to publish the story. Nik was also one of the climbers and approves publishing a story.

**7:45 New Business**

* Mountaineers course flowchart  
  - Flowchart doesn’t include “5.9 in the Alpine” (Advanced Alpine Rock), or Aid and Big Wall, because it focuses on bringing in new members, rather than advanced climbers  
  - Basic Alpine Rock Course requires lead belay, cleaning, rappelling, scrambling and using an ice axe and crampons per Stef’s proposal. Idea is to take sport climbers and turn them into alpine climbers.

**8:00 Committee Reports**

**Basic  
-** considering adding a few more instructors to the Basic team  
- 148 students are still in the course after FT3, 15 failed , 3 couldn’t make the field trip due to circumstances  
- failed students are offered the opportunity to practice skills on 3 Monday nights. Students will be evaluated on belay and rappel allowed to continue the course if they pass. They will not be asked to attend a make-up FT3.

**Basic Refresher  
-** scheduled to begin in three weeks and looking for additional instructors  
- will spend a Saturday working on skills in the clubhouse, and go to Mt. Erie to climb on the next day. Two weeks later, will spend Saturday working on snow skills, and will spend Sunday practicing skills at the passes  
- class was active 80s - 00s.   
- no intent to require “lapsed” members to complete course before signing up for climbs  
- in the past, course has been used to prep-equivalency candidates  
- 6 sign-ups, max 10  
- starts april 24, ends in may  
- aimed towards students who have completed the basic course in the last 20 years  
- students must be self-motivated. Some students have participated actively. Others have simply observed.  
- course was free, it is now $75/$100 to cover room charge

**Intense Basic  
-** organizing and offering conditioners  
- organizing a field trip to Pro Mountain sports to discuss gear options and purchasing  
- intent is to make it feel like more than the 9 days

**Glacier  
-** 2017 dates are scheduled  
- predict that 45 out of the 50 current students will complete the field trips **-** will ask students to sign up for glacier climbs that are offered to all members and have been instructed to not sign up for certain climbs for which they are not qualified. However, the system does not allow for prohibiting those students to sign up for climbs for which they have not qualified.  
  
- acknowledged but have not thought about how Mt. Rainier reservation adjustment will impact climbs

**Equivalency**- 15 students signed up  
- will offer another in June and another in October

**Intermediate**- rescue method field trips have been completed  
- a couple rock field trips have been completed  
- rock I will take place 4/10 and 4/23  
- rock II will take place on 5/14-5/15. Hoping to get more experienced rock climbers on the trip so please contact Nick if you are interested or know of someone who could be a good candidate.  
- next year plan is to be more stringent with the Intermediate Eval  
- also plan to reduce class size in accordance with reduction in basic class size. Idea is to emphasize quality over quantity. A proportional reduction would help to mitigate issues around not having enough instructors from intermediate to cover basic needs. Currently an email discussion is ongoing concerning this issue and is exploring many different options including raising price to limit quantities.   
- John Porter has graduated from the Intermediate Program

**Crag**

* Learn to Belay
* Intro to Rock  
  - kick off on Thursday night, first field trip is upcoming  
  - class has 12, waitlist is 19   
  - looking for instructors to run another class or classes   
  - if anyone is free this Friday, could use more instructors  
  - excellent way for Intermediates to demonstrate leadership capability  
  - instructors should be able to lead easy to moderate routes on bolts  
  - currently run 2 times a year, could probably run 4 times a year  
  - most students continue to leading on bolts, some go to Basic.
* Intro to Leading on Bolts  
  - have had first class. Running class twice in 2016 (3 times in 2015). In the process of setting up for 2017. Currently grooming some people to run classes in the future. More on the waitlist than we have in the class.   
  - there has been talk between Loni, Helen, Rory and Stef about making Leading on Bolts a requirement for more advanced climbing courses. In order to do that, the class must be offered 4 times a year, which requires more instructors.   
    
  “The more we want to bump up our commitment, and excellence, the more advanced instructors are needed.”

**Advanced Climbing** (Aid & Big Wall, Water Ice, Alpine Rock, Sport, Self-Rescue)

* Water Ice Course (done for season)
* Self Rescue (done for season)  
  Alpine Rock (full, starting in June)
* Aid and Big Wall  
  - half way through  
  - intro to Aid Class seminar coming up this weekend. It is full. Will host another in the fall.
* Sport Climbing  
  - no report

**Leadership  
-** no business this evening  
- currently the Club Leadership Course coordinator position role is vacant. Stan offers to organize a few weekday evenings in the fall. Rob, Dave, John Olsen mentioned that they would like to help out. Course presents four scenarios which are then discussed. Then the instructors give their real world experiences. In the past, it has been more scrambling than rock focus, so would look to change that to rock.

**Seminars  
-** has had a successful season

**Mountaineers Beta and Brews  
-** over 100 people attended Liberty Ridge by Gavin and Vik. next events will be on April 26th and in May

**Navigation  
-** Jeff is the new co-chair  
- holding a summit in June. do not expect radical changes. But please present any ideas.

**Avalanche  
-** finished for the season

**Professional Climbing Education & Advisory Council  
-** could use more applications

**Equipment & Climbing Walls (includes Friction Slabs)**- point person is attempting to contact the contractor without success  
- within two weeks we will be changing the plan or move forward with current plan. John Olsen is leading the charge and identifies the problem as a personnel issues.  
- climbing committee now has a front door key in the lock box downstairs. Must continue to work with staff to acquire the downstairs building code. Lockers will hopefully be installed soon. Idea is that leaders may store gear for field trips. Ropes will change to a 4 year cycle and more ropes will be purchased. 49 ropes are missing, assumption is that leaders are retaining ropes out of fear that none will be available for field trips.   
- will talk about glacier ropes after lockers are installed as we could have a locker for glacier ropes. Concern is that leaders may inadvertently grab glacier ropes for rock trips.  
- intend to provide each course with locking carabiners in the near future. Lockers will allow courses to manage own inventory including locking carabiners.

**Safety**- safety survey delivered after each trip includes a link to the trip incident report. Many surveys indicate that there was a safety concern but do not include an accompanying trip incident report thus making it an unusable data point.

**Curriculum  
-** no report

**Mountaineers Adventure Club  
-** always looking for help

**Freedom 9**- 2 outstanding chapters which need to be tendered. John Olsen is on point.

**Board Report  
-** snoqualmie property has been sold to the ski resort. Mountaineers hold an easement for 3 years which will be turned over to the parks department.  
- executive director has been changed to CEO because responsibility for Books division has been given to the role

**3 for 3**- see attached document  
- vote here...  
<http://feedback.mountaineers.org/forums/273688-general-feedback/suggestions/12579462-three-day-head-start-for-basic-students-who-don-t>  
- climb leaders need some guidance as they receive many messages from students hoping to be allowed on their climbs  
- would be nice if staff could help with admin parts of climbing, but right now, staff is consumed. In past years, the committee has devoted budget to staff to support and admin position, so it is a possibility. However, staff plans to exercise more control over the financials including taking responsibility for setting course fees. The changes are intended to encourage committees to invest, but the message filtering down to the committee chairs is that leadership is exercising tighter control.

**9:00 Good of the Order & Adjourn**

* Anyone volunteering to bring “dinner” in May?  
  - Petra offers to bring Thai food  
  - Remodel ongoing which will result in staff changes. Committee work room will no longer exist.  
  - John Olsen’s son left for Everest and is not only climbing, but is also photographing.