**February 2016, Seattle Climbing Committee Draft Agenda**

**7:00 Call to order**

* Approve January minutes  
  \*January minutes are approved.
* Pass around attendance sheet

**7:05 Chair**

* Report from the CC retreat
  + [Presentation](https://www.mountaineers.org/about/branches-committees/seattle-branch/committees/seattle-climbing-committee/committee-documents/meeting-minutes/2016/january-retreat) and [Meeting Minutes](https://www.mountaineers.org/about/branches-committees/seattle-branch/committees/seattle-climbing-committee/committee-documents/meeting-minutes/2016/january-retreat/cc-retreat-january-2016-meeting-minutes/at_download/file)
  + [Modernizing Climbing Education](https://www.mountaineers.org/about/branches-committees/seattle-branch/committees/seattle-climbing-committee/committee-documents/meeting-minutes/2016/january-retreat/modernizing-climbing-education-presentation/at_download/file)  
    \*provide an opportunity for volunteers to take a breather from running courses and step back to see a holistic view of the organization to better understand the direction of the organization   
    \*board is thinking about the direction of the club and specifically the climbing courses, so a vision helps to structure that conversation
  + Action Items/Take-aways from [Membership Survey Results](https://www.mountaineers.org/about/branches-committees/seattle-branch/committees/seattle-climbing-committee/committee-documents/meeting-minutes/2016/january-retreat/2015-seattle-climbing-membership-survey-results/at_download/file)
    - Modularize Climb Leader roles (need proposal)
    - Evening seminar for prospective leaders (need volunteers)
    - Weekend seminar on snow travel for Crag Leaders so they can lead Basic Rock Climbs (need volunteer)
    - Incentives for Climb Leaders (in progress)
    - More stringent evaluations and fitness requirement to restore climb leader’s trust in program (in progress)
    - Allow non-summit climbs (crag climbs) to qualify as alpine rock (proposal needed)
    - Allow private climbs for credit (proposal needed)
    - Communicate that turn-arounds can get credit (Stef)
    - Move students who already have 3 climbs to waitlist  
        
      \*by far the most popular response was difficult registering for climbs  
      \*essentially, all the suggestions concern the supply side, “how can we attract a greater quantity of active climb leaders?”  
      \*”move students who already have 3 climbs to waitlist” could be achieved via updates to the system, but doing so would be a major change  
      \*is there really a supply side problem? or is it simply a perception? graduation rate last year (2015) was higher than historical.  
      \*160 basic students. 60 glacier class students. 20 intense basic students. ?? second year basics. 219 climb leaders (not including crag leaders). 64 leaders lead at least 1 climb last year. believe that 50 active climb leaders could fulfill the demand.   
      \*potentially a problem of distribution and not supply  
      \*possibly could change policy such that as soon as a basic student has 3 graduation climbs, they would be treated as a basic grad, i.e. they would not receive preference for climbs.  
      \*expect Climb Leader Incentives sub-committee to present at March 2016 meeting.  
      \*looking for volunteer to develop proposal for granting credit for non-summit crag climbs and another volunteer for the same for private climbs  
      \*we currently do not aggressively recruit climb leaders, might be an opportunity. however, recruitment can be done informally without the guidance of the climbing committee. a formal solution would institutionalize the effort and perhaps lead to greater success.   
      \*proposal for emergency communication devices will be sent with this month’s meeting minutes  
      1. incentive program for climb leaders. 3 climbs = $100. 6 climbs = full price with $350 limit. would begin at the start of fiscal year 2017  
      2. immediately purchase 10 PLBs to be stored at a lock box in the basement to be lent to climb leaders. each device would need an identification number and be tracked. the lock box would need a dynamic code that would not be distributed to everyone all of the time. hopefully staff can absorb the management responsibility.   
      estimated cost = $12900 in 2016. with an annual cost of $2000.  
      \*it makes sense to move forward with this plan without participation from other branches because it is important and critical, but not a primary focus throughout the club  
      \*potentially a manufacturer would be willing to sponsor the PLBs as an official sponsor of the Mountaineers  
      \*PLBs would be registered to the Mountaineers and the ICE number would be the club’s emergency line  
      \*Emergency Communication device proposal is approved.   
      \*Next step is talk to finance.   
      \*Will discuss with Ruth (attorney) the viability of requiring a device on every climb. Current directive is not to require a device because it’s not enforceable. Further, a club requirement raises a deeper legal issue beyond aligning with current industry standards.
  + [Curriculum Subcommitee Recommendations](https://www.mountaineers.org/about/branches-committees/seattle-branch/committees/seattle-climbing-committee/committee-documents/meeting-minutes/2016/january-retreat/curriculum-sub-committee-recommendations/at_download/file) regarding the [Mountaineers Basic Course Review by IMG](https://www.mountaineers.org/about/branches-committees/seattle-branch/committees/seattle-climbing-committee/committee-documents/meeting-minutes/2016/january-retreat/mountaineers-basic-course-review/at_download/file)
  + Proposal regarding Emergency Communication Devices
* Take-Aways from Climbing Chair Summit
  + Need to put more focus on 2:1 and direct pull in crevasse rescue curriculum  
    \*should be in 2017 skills handbook
  + Münter rappel should be replaced in 2017  
    \*Seattle is the only branch teaching Munter. all others teaching carabiner brake (which is not endorsed by manufacturers). will teach in 2016. in 2017 we will likely teach a different method, probably a recently developed AMGA carabiner brake method with 3 locking carabiners, wherein the rope does not run over the spine. will present a video demonstration at the March meeting.
  + Belay escape can be simplified to going hands-free only  
    \*isn’t the technique useful on glaciers?   
    \*rarely used, so can diminish importance to work on more often used skills.
  + Move focus from standing ice-axe belay to prusik belay
* Report from Branch Chair Meeting
  + New Finance Committee will be responsible for course pricing  
    \*responsible for setting course pricing, which was previously the job of the committees. Finance Committee will consider the market (Mazamas, Boealps, etc.) as well as internal factors.  
    \*Finance Committee will recruit Activity Committee representatives for input  
    \*Seattle branch has been diligent about keeping prices consistent with the economy while other branches have been fairly stagnant. new committee will help address that issue.
  + New [Volunteer Reimbursement Request Form](https://www.mountaineers.org/about/branches-committees/tacoma-branch/committees/tacoma-climbing-committee/tacoma-climbing-subcommittee-basic-climbing/mountaineers-check-request-form/at_download/file)  
    \*Please use the new form  
    \*Please include receipts when submitting expenditures
* AAC Gold Standard Belay Curriculum  
  \*Goal is standardize how climbing techniques are taught across climbing organizations  
  \*A generally positive movement in which the Mountaineers would like to participate. If you are interested in being involved, reach out to Stefanie.   
  \*Ron Funderburke will be guiding the effort from the AAC
* Minimum Standards on Climb Leaders:
  + Leaders must demonstrate skill maintenance at least every three calendar years by: • Leading a climb, or • Instructing at a field trip or seminar, or • Participating in a club-sponsored skills review  
    \*Will ask staff to create a list of climb leaders who have not met these requirements. These leaders will then be informed that they need to meet the requirement in order to be able to post climbs. leaders will be encouraged to attend the upcoming skills review day
* Instructors and Leaders **URGENTLY** needed for Basic FTs

**FT2**

16 instructors minimum, we could squeak by with 10 for the 2nd weekend if it stays at ~20 students

Sat, 2/6: 40 students, 17 instructors, lead JA - great!

Sun, 2/7: 40 students, 21 instructors, lead JA - great!

Sat, 2/13: 23 students, 4 instructors, lead JA - bad

Sun, 2/14: 19 students, 4 instructors, lead JA - bad

**FT3**

16 instructors minimum, not ready for sign up for the students yet

Sat, 3/19: 7 instructors, no leader

Sun, 3/20: 5 instructors, no leader

Sat, 3/26: 5 instructors, no leader

Sun, 3/27: 2 instructors, lead James Templeton  
\*Ultimate consequence is that we must cancel those field trips and must refund the fees

* Need somebody to lead CC Meeting in April  
  \*Tom volunteers

**7:30 Instructor Course Proposal**\*Proposal will be distributed and discussed in detail over the next couple committee meetings. If you have any questions, please direct them to Loni.

**7:50 New Business**

* Bolt Replacement Efforts  
  \*Asking the Mountaineers to help with re-bolting efforts. Currently, there is no systematic process for replacing bolts, and no organization providing information on worn and suspect hardware.  
  \*The public is discouraged and prohibited from re-bolting at will. So, this is an opportunity for the Mountaineers to serve the community.   
  \*Propose to survey climb leaders concerning bolts that potentially need to be replaced and continue to partner with other organizations that currently re-bolt. Survey results would be stored in a central database managed by the Mountaineers. Results would be shared with the Access fund, and the Washington Replacement Group (WaRG).   
  \*Propose that the club help finance organizations and experts that are involved in re-bolting efforts.   
  \*Population growth in the Seattle area puts more stress on hardware decreasing its useful life.  
  \*Club avoids liability by not actually participating in the re-bolting.   
  \*Next step is to continue to talk with Access Fund and WaRG. Will also create an awareness release to be included in the Leader Lines, and a straightforward survey to be delivered to the climb leaders.   
  \*Database could be made available to all Mountaineers

**8:00 Committee Reports**

**Basic**\*Please volunteer for previously mentioned field trips if you have availability  
\*2nd lecture February 3. Presentation will be made available to SIG leaders and committee members.

**Basic Modularization**

\*Scramble leaders are thrilled to have scramble be included in Basic Modularization. Concern around including crampon skills in scramble course. Leaders are for it but believe that there will be resistance from the committee.  
\*if you are interested in leading a course next Summer, get in touch with Stefanie

**Intense Basic**\*June 18 - 26  
\*Price will be raised for people over 26 and lowered for people under 26

\*additional navigation class on April 30  
\*registration is available on the website

**Glacier**\*held initial potluck

**Equivalency**

\*no report

**Intermediate**

\*no report

**Crag**

* Crag
* Learn to Belay
  + 1/29 Learn to Belay workshop went well. All registered students showed up for a change!
  + Next Learn to Belay workshop is 2/25
  + Spring Intro to Rock is on the calendar and registration is open. Class meets Fridays in April (4/1, 4/8, 4/15, 4/22), with a field trip on 4/23. Instructors needed! If the website doesn't let you register as an instructor, please contact me directly ([sam.wilson@gmail.com](mailto:sam.wilson@gmail.com))
* Leading on Bolts  
  \*starts March 28th and is held on monday nights through April. will be requesting instructors
* Intro to Rock

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

* Water Ice Course  
  \*wrapping up a ouray trip
* Self Rescue  
  \*completed
* Alpine Rock  
  \*dates have been scheduled
* Aid and Big Wall  
  \*7 students  
  \*held 1st field trip, 2nd field trip upcoming
* Sport Climbing
  + Steve Yi in the process of setting 2016 course up

**Leadership**\*will present applications for Sherrie Trecker and Meredith Trainor at the next meeting

**Seminars**\*currently looking for volunteer to lead. volunteer would begin in 2017. 2 seminars in jan with more coming, organized by Jennifer

**Mountaineers Beta and Brews**\*Steve Yi will present Serpentine Arete on Dragontail on Feb 18

**Navigation**

\*celebration of 100 peaks of mount rainier on sat march 5. free copies of Gaia nav app will be handed out. presentation will include new navigation devices and techniques

**Avalanche**\*AIARE 1 begins next monday  
\*Avalanche is now a stand alone committee chaired by Loren McWethy, who is looking for volunteers

**Professional Climbing Education & Advisory Council**

\*Discussed Gym to Crag survey results at last meeting

\*Goal is to develop a vision document over the next few meetings

**Equipment & Climbing Walls (includes Friction Slabs)**\*we have 6 pairs of ice tools but can only account for 3 so please keep your eyes out  
\*please move rappel ramps back when you are finished with the basement as not doing so is a fire hazard

**Safety**

\*annual meeting named Dave Shema as the new safety chair

**Curriculum**\*no report

**Mountaineers Adventure Club**

\*going to Winthrop this weekend. still looking for one more driver. super fun!! lots of energy! nordic skiing, skate skiing, stay for free at the hostel. stefanie, becca + 30 teenagers.

**Freedom 9**

\*most chapters are draft form and reviews have begun

**Board Report**\*new president is Jeff Lawrence (Tacoma). Steve is an at-large member (treasurer for the past two years)  
\*agreed to set-up a Governance Committee to institutionalize oversight of the board  
\*update of the strategic plan, including course improvements and modifications. Steve Swenson is the chair  
\*CEO search is down to 3 candidates. names not being announced. final round of interviews in progress. nominating committee will decide in next couple of months.

**8:50 Old Business**

* Refresher Day for Climb Leaders and Instructors  
  \*Will aim to make it as a attractive as possible with a local brewery supplying beer  
  \*next step is to find a time to schedule goodman A, B and C for a weekday evening

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

* Anyone volunteering to bring “dinner” in March?  
  \*Tobias volunteers to order Chipotle for 30