**January 2015, Seattle Climbing Committee Draft Agenda**

**7:00 Call to order**

* Approve December minutes

Approved.

* Pass around attendance sheet

**7:15 Chair**

* [Seattle climbing member survey](http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/2489653/5c13b17db012) - please participate

especially helpful to understand areas for improvement thus honest, frank, constructive feedback is appreciated. Stefanie will categorize results and draw emerging themes as topics for the retreat

* Climbing Committee Retreat January 24 - please RSVP [here](https://www.mountaineers.org/about/locations-reservations/seattle-program-center/events/climbing-committee-retreat?_authenticator=d6ef16875a17cfd0fde12cf0f3e4581f50a5e7d8)!!!
	+ AMGA Report

Report analyzed Basic program across all branches and will be presented.

Curriculum subcommittee will present recommendations.

* + Emergency Communication Devices

Leadership Forum talked about legal issues and emergency devices and drove home the need to take steps toward implementing current technologies in order to increase safety. Thus, the topic will be discussed at the retreat.

* Meet the Mountaineers January 25, 6-8pm
	+ Need 1-2 volunteers

Bill and Meredith volunteer.

* Climbing Chair Summit January 30
	+ Discussion of AMGA Report

if you’re interested in the report, the link will be included in these minutes.

* Blake Herrington Event March 22
	+ Blake will present his new book: Cascade Rock - 160 Best Routes

Previews of the book are available on Blake’s blog.

**7:30 Old Business**

* Refresher Day for Climb Leaders and Instructors
	+ Planning meeting scheduled for January 11, 7-8:30pm

**7:40 New Business**

* Holding a leader fall: sandbag or actual fall?

Not required to answer today, but a discussion is needed. Decision will be applied to Intro to Rock, Leading on Bolts and Basic courses. Intro course has included real leader falls in the gym and never incurred an injury. Can be taught as a field trip, instead of leaning on SIGs to teach the skill. Sandbags are currently 100 lbs - heavy enough to provide resistance but not so heavy to wear out people setting up the sandbags. The size of the Basic course means more leader falls and thus increases the chance of an injury, so maybe it should be excluded. Basic course has not included lead belaying but the SIGs have taught it informally at different levels; the philosophy has been that lead climbers should climb routes as though they were not being belayed. Beginning with 2016, lead belaying will be officially taught. SIGs will often teach lead belaying but not practice a fall because leaders are not sure how students will respond given that they are new to the skill. Lecture 2 of the Basic Course will include Lead Belaying as will the belaying field trip (held in Goodman). In recent years, the increased limitations in practice areas has resulted in less opportunities for Basic students to experience multi-pitch leaving students less comfortable with the concept. However, the climbing wall at the center is now equipped to practice multi-pitch. Catching Lead Falls and Lead Falling is not taught in Intermediate. Lead falling and students take real lead falls, and students catch lead falls in the Crag course. In Leading on Bolts, the “leader” takes a fall while on top rope. Have the option to use the gym to experiment with different configurations to best replicate and teach catching a lead fall.

* AMGA course for Mountaineers instructors: Loni will present proposal in February

All committee members may request to add items to each meeting’s agenda.

**8:00 Committee Reports**

**Basic**

Course is running great; volunteers have excelled at organization and operation. special thanks to all those that have helped! First lecture is tomorrow and it will be the trial run for a new style, so very excited to see the results. Small changes in the field trips as well. Jim - hoping to see an attitude of receptiveness to different methods. Munter hitch will be taught as a backup repel method as Carabiner brake was not supported by manufacturers, the AMGA and the rest of the community.

Stefanie...

\*Dan needs admin privileges so that he can post documents to the course website.

\*SIG Leaders need to be added as instructors to the Basic course so that have admin view

\*Climb Leaders and Committee members should be added as well.

**Basic Modularization**

* Meeting with Alpine Scramble Chairs scheduled for January 6

**Intense Basic**

Sherrie Trecker and Steve McClure will be co-leading. John and Gene will take a backseat but will help out. course will be held jun 18 - 26. agreed to 12 students but may increase to 16. will not exceed 16 as experience with 20 last year proved to be difficult to manage. price will increase from $1200 to $1500. Considered offering a second course but decided against it due to the difficulty of students to get on climbs. asking for climb leaders to schedule climbs specifically for intense basic so that it will be possible to make signing up for a climb as a pre-req and will address burnout experienced after the course is complete, as it will encourage students to maintain momentum. Looking for rock, alpine or glacier, up to the climb leader’s discretion. often struggle to get intense basic students through first aid and navigation so working on solutions for that issue as well.

**Glacier**

No report.

**Equivalency**

Number of students attempting in April.

Stefanie - recommend adding equivalency for people who have graduated from other climbing clubs to the retreat.

**Intermediate**

2 students have graduated, Leaf Peterson and Sandra

3 lectures in January

**Crag**

* Crag

Course is full with a 5 person wait list. all field trips have the requisite number of instructors.

* Learn to Belay

Jan, Feb and March classes have been scheduled. may schedule one for April depending on demand. asking for instructors, should be able to sign up through the web site but if you have any issues, reach out to Sam. Loni will send out the instructor request to the Crag mailing list. Matt offered to send out a request to intermediate students as well.

* Leading on Bolts

first course in march will open in february and is already receiving interest.

question about a Basic student who has taken Leading on Bolts - is there precedence for allowing such a student to test out of Rock II? suggestion to invite the student to help demonstrate the skill to other students.

* Intro to Rock

will be one in April and probably one in August.

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

* Water Ice Course

2 field trips - one in January (Lillooet BC or Bozeman MT), second field trip will be Ouray CO

* Self Rescue

Last official field was last Sunday. could use some more help this Sunday, if you’re interested in helping out, reach out to Matt

* Alpine Rock

No report.

* Aid and Big Wall

Just getting geared up. begins Jan 24th. will be offering the Aid and Big Wall seminar in the Spring. Intro to Aid on April 9th - 10th.

* Sport Climbing

No report.

**Leadership**

Chris Chapin is approved as a Climb Leader.

Loni Uchytil is approved as a Climb Leader.

Albert Summerfield is approved as a SIG Leader.

**Seminars**

* Cara has been working on setting up seminars

**Mountaineers Beta and Brews**

* Steve Yi presenting on Serpentine Arete/Backbone Ridge on February 18

**Navigation**

Committee asked Steve to test super cheap altimeters. Results will be posted on the Mountaineers Blog (available today).

**Avalanche**

Recent conditions have increased the risk and resulted in fatalities. Important that everyone take extreme caution when traveling in the Backcountry.

**Professional Climbing Education & Advisory Council**

* Climbing Education Advisory Council meeting (conf call) January 14, 6-7pm to discuss Gym-To-Crag survey results
* WFA Recert for Climb Leaders Proposal
* WFR Proposal

Proposal to include WFA and WFR within the PCE Grants is approved.

Committee has discussed allowing Climb Leaders to use PCE grants on Mountaineer courses.

Stefanie confirmed via email that the Mountaineers will offer/run 2 WFR courses per year beginning in 2016.

Typical applicant is Climb Leader, SIG Leader, and Advanced Climber. Application asks what the applicant’s involvement with the club has been which gives the committee the ability to reward people who have volunteered. Application is online under the PCE committee.

Classes are significant time commitments and students are asked to pay first and are reimbursed, which helps to control the budget.

Over the last several years the Mountaineers have become more open to outside education and enrichment and the PCE has been instrumental in encouraging that trend which improves overall safety, among other things.

Stefanie - is it possible to publish the application more widely across the site?

**Equipment & Climbing Walls (includes Friction Slabs)**

Basement has been cleaned out so there is space. Will be replacing the rings in Goodman A&B so that it will possible to rig ropes without ladders. Locker project is progressing.

**Safety**

in the process of scheduling annual year in review meeting for 2015. ongoing work to revise the incident report. reps from everett and bellingham are involved as well and announcement will be shared this spring. committee is asking climbers to report concerns and near misses as well as actual accidents.

**Curriculum**

No Report

**Mountaineers Adventure Club**

No Report

**Tech 2.1/Website**

Stefanie - Gene recommends to remove from the agenda.

**Freedom 9**

17 of 28 chapters currently with the developmental editor and on track for 20 by the end of next week. expect to be on the shelf in spring of next year.

**Board Report**

search for new CEO is proceeding to interview stage next week and expect a hire soon.

**8:45 Good of the Order & Adjourn**

* Anyone volunteering to bring “dinner” in February?

John Wick volunteers with Matty P as backup.