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

**7:00 Call to order**

* Approve February minutes

Approved

* Pass around attendance sheet

**7:05 Chair**

* Report from Finance Committee  
  Proposal for Emergency Communication Devices which was approved by the committee at the February meeting, has been submitted and accepted. Proposal outlines a volunteer role to manage the devices including tracking whereabouts. A volunteer and process needs to be secured before purchasing the devices. There is 24-7 access through the basement door and a locker available to store the devices. Chris Williams has indicated that Staff is willing to consider helping with Committee needs. Staff could augment management of the devices by assuming responsibility for verifying device whereabouts, checking batteries, ensure operation, change lockbox code on a regular basis etc. Devices will be released first-come-first-served. Potentially could build a tracking portal on the website but the change would be significant. What happens if a device is not returned? Maybe just need a volunteer to stand up the process and rules and then hand over the program to staff or other. Tracking down missing devices cannot fall to staff. Only Seattle Climb Leaders may checkout devices. This program will be a pilot for other branches and programs (hiking, sea kayaking, scramble). Will purchase PLBs - the McMurdo or the ACR. Bill Ashby volunteers to set up the process. John Wick volunteers to set up the storage facilities.  
    
  Budget for gear replacement is $6000. Considering requesting more to replace heavily used ropes. John Wick will take inventory and develop a proposal. Given the increased usage due to more programs and more participants, it might make sense to discontinue ropes after 3 years instead of 5. Hopefully forthcoming storage cages will allow for reserving newer ropes for activities that require them such as multi-pitch climbing. There have been questionable ropes used on climbs, users should take it upon themselves to check ropes before climbing on them as it is not practical for one person to be responsible for the condition of all ropes on all climbs.
* AAC Gold Standard Belay Curriculum March 13  
  Ron Funderbunk will come out on March 13 and teach the AAC Belay Curriculum. About 8 people are currently signed up for the course. Could we record the course for future reference? Josh Gannis - should be no problem to set up a camera. However, the course is a hands-on, teach-the-teacher class, so a video recording may not be sufficient. Link to registration will be in the meeting notes if anyone is interested in signing up. Long term plan of the AAC is to license the curriculum.
* 2017 FT and priority climbs schedule  
  In the past there has been a cross-branch meeting to organize FT and climb schedules. There will be no meeting this year. To fill the gap, Stefanie will coordinate requests among the climbing committee and present a proposal to the other chairs. The Program Center is currently available for 2017 reservation requests. Staff (Adriana) will collect requests for a month or two and then resolve conflicts in the 2017 schedule as necessary. Proposals should be sent to Stefanie ASAP with alternative dates in order to facilitate resolving conflicts. Stefanie will solicit input from all of the course leaders with a forthcoming email.

**7:15 Old Business**

* Update on Emergency Communication Devices
* Refresher Day for Climb Leaders and Instructor scheduled for June 6  
  Will be scheduled on 3/2/2016 followed by an email to the volunteers to develop a plan.
* Proposal to give credit for non-summit climbs (Tom)  
  "The following multi pitch rock climbs will be added to Basic Climbs: R & D, Cave Route, Saber and Midway. These will not count as the required alpine rock climb needed for graduation from Basic."  
  One benefit to crag climbs is that they are less vulnerable to weather cancellations. Chief concern is that the Basic Course is an Alpine Course. If we accept Crag climbs as a required climb for Basic Graduation, are we watering down the Alpine nature of the Course? Holistically, the experience gained from the identified Crag Climbs are excellent rock climbing experience, while the rock climbing experience inherent to some of the rock climbs provide minimal opportunity to exercise rock climbing skills. Coming out of the Rescue Methods field trip, some instructors are concerned that students are ill prepared. Allowing Crag climbs to count for credit will increase traffic on crag climbs. There are other areas that could mitigate the traffic (such as Squamish). Crag climbs provide opportunities to get valuable reps on rock. Intermediate students to date can often lack deep experience in multi-pitch climbing. Rock climbs create bottlenecks to graduation because the parties are necessarily smaller. Offering credit for crag climbs can help solve the bigger problem of Basic Students not being able to get on climbs. Climbs do not impact user days for recreational areas. Alpine climbs have chossier rock, more problems with respect to route and gear placement. Requirement would be Alpine Rock, Glacier and 1 other which could be Glacier, Alpine Rock or Crag. This configuration does not appear to solve the bottleneck problem. Proposal gives Climb Leaders more flexibility with route selections. It also allows the Basic Course to leverage Crag Climb Leaders. If we are trying to produce Alpine Climbers, Scrambles can be more effective than some of the more accessible Alpine Rock climbs. The proposed rock climbs are graded higher than any current Basic Alpine Rock climb. For all Basics to graduate, at least 50 successful rock climbs are needed, assuming that the climbs are filled with only Basic students. Given the fundamental nature of this change, the committee believes consensus rather than majority is appropriate. Discussion is tabled until next meeting.
* Proposal for a climb leader incentive program (Stef)
* Proposal for AMGA Instructor Course (Discussion)  
  Would like to have a second proposal per best practices. By the math, this is more expensive than sending people to SPI courses. Discussion is tabled until May.

**7:45 New Business**

* Changes to Belay Escape and impact on Intermediate  
  Basic has re-focused on crucial techniques. Moving away from stressing advanced techniques. Considering not evaluating on Belay Escape. Students will pass if they achieve hands-free, though they will be taught the complete process. Question whether we are currently evaluating well. Evaluations will be strict, if a student is deemed not safe, they will fail and be given an opportunity to train and re-test. Belay Escape absorbs a significant amount of student practice time. Removing the focus, will open student schedules to practice belaying and rappelling. Program has added teaching Lead Belaying. Belay Escape is fundamental to Rescue Methods, so the advantage to teach it to Basics is to prepare them for Intermediate Evaluation. However, Belay Escape could be taught by Intermediate Mentor Groups. Could also set up a Belay Escape module (would require resources and management). Currently, Intermediate students have about a month to prepare Belay Escape skills for Intermediate Evaluation. Currently, Basic Students work on Belay Escape in March and then wouldn’t be evaluated at the Intermediate Level until December. Hope is that if we evaluate strictly on going hands-free, the skill will be less perishable and serve as a strong basis for learning Belay Escape. Intermediate states that they will find a way to work Belay Escape into the Intermediate course. Believe that the practice will result in decreased numbers of Intermediate students who pass Intermediate Evaluation. Maybe Basic Students should not be taught to Belay Escape because it is interpreted as the right response to any situation, even if escaping is unsafe, on the third pitch of a six pitch route, for instance.
* Mountaineers course flowchart  
  Tabled until a future meeting.

**8:00 Committee Reports**

**Basic**Need instructors for early May snow field trip at Stevens Pass. Generally experiencing a shortage of field trip instructors. Might be due to diversity of courses which strains volunteer resources. However, Basic SIGs have plenty of instruction so maybe the pool is diverted.

**Intense Basic**25 applications. will weed it down to 16 and will notify applicants next Monday. interest follows price increase to $1300.

**Glacier**

**Equivalency**

**Intermediate**in need of experienced instructors for the Rescue Methods field trip.

Andrei Maksimenka has completed the intermediate course.

**Crag**

* Learn to Belay

2/25 workshop went well

* Intro to Rock

Next course starts 4/1, with evening workshops 4/1, 4/8, 4/15, and 4/22 and a FT scheduled for 4/23. Looking for instructors!

There is demand for 1-2 more courses this year, looking for additional lead instructors!!

* Intro to Leading on Bolts

**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
* Sport Climbing
  + still not up, but still planned

**Leadership**Meredith Trainor - conditionally approved. must complete WFA.

Sherrie Trecker - approved.  
Bryn Fluharty - conditionally approved. must complete WFA.

Aaron Molskness - approved.

**Seminars**

**Mountaineers Beta and Brews**next event on Liberty Ridge presented by Gavin and Vik will be held in March

**Navigation**

**Avalanche**

**Professional Climbing Education & Advisory Council**

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

* Storage Cages proposal approved - moving forward with bid (Thanks, John Rollins!!!)

**Safety**

* The Safety Committee is working on the 2015 report - it's well underway
* Changes to incident reporting still in process.
* The Mountaineers is working with the Outdoor Safety Institute for a risk management review of courses/activities, global adventures and lodges
* Helen to attend NOLS "Administrative Risk Management Training" class
* The Mountaineers have formed a committee to review the Global Adventures program and ensure there is oversight of that program generally.

**Curriculum**Moving to quarterly meetings

**Mountaineers Adventure Club**Badly needs instructors

**Freedom 9**

none

**Board Report**Tom Vogl is the new CEO. - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/thvogl>

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

* Tom Nims will run CC meeting in April (Stef and Matty both traveling)
* Anyone volunteering to bring “dinner” in April?