

Mountaineer

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for soldiers PAGE 18

Alex Honnold

a world-view climber PAGE 21

Elevation & Elation

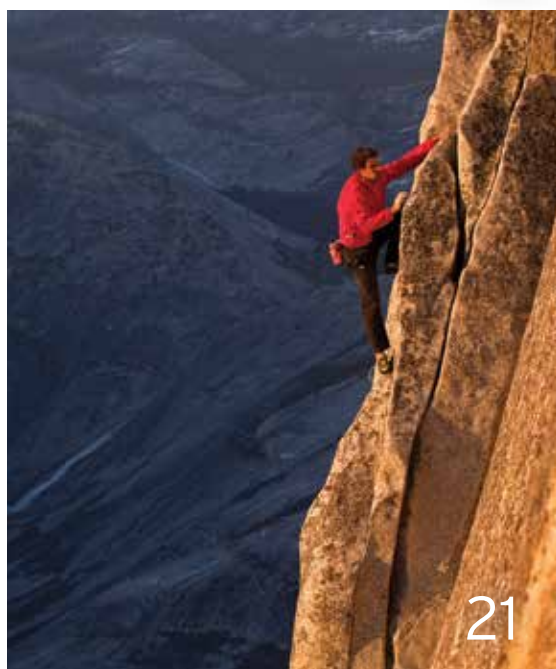
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The Mountaineers enriches lives and communities by helping people explore, conserve, learn about and enjoy the lands and waters of the Pacific Northwest and beyond.



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Mountaineer uses:



Discover The Mountaineers

If you are thinking of joining — or have joined and aren't sure where to start — why not set a date to Meet The Mountaineers? Check the Branching Out section of the magazine for times and locations of informational meetings at each of our seven branches.

on the cover: Alex Honnold at the Seattle Bouldering Project. Story on page 21.

photographer: Luke Allen Humphrey lukeallenhumphrey.com

Community & Friendship



Community. Friendship. We may become a Mountaineer in order to learn a skill or take a class, but these are the reasons we stay Mountaineers. Many of my lifetime friends I've met while on Mountaineer outings, found that we had common goals and were compatible while hiking or climbing together, and just hit it off. We then discover the community we belong to within The Mountaineers.

One community I belong to is those seeking to complete the Peak Pins offered by the various branches. I started working on the pins the Tacoma branch offers, and expanded from there. Many new members don't realize it, but the Mountaineers offers over 35 different awards for completing a set of objectives. These cover climbing, scrambling, hiking, and sea kayaking. There is a long history of peak pins, the first

created in the 1920's – the latest created just three years ago. Many climbers complete the popular "5 Majors" (Rainier, Adams, Baker, Glacier Peak, Olympus). Hard-core climbers will work on the "Cascade Classics," a list of 18 peaks in the North Cascades that will make one very familiar with that great national park. Hikers have several objectives, three pins for various groups of lakes, two patches for a series of lookouts, and even a patch for hiking 100 miles in Olympic National Park.

Some of the most fun I've had recently was trying to complete the recently created, "100 Peaks Around Mt. Rainier." When the list came out in 2013, I had already climbed 62 of them and was three or four behind my two climbing buddies, Curt Baxstrom and Scott Rice. We looked at the list and found many of the peaks were good early-season conditioners, so we started out picking them off. We didn't intend to try and finish the list in one year, until we got in conversation with the co-creator of the list, Gene Yore. Gene had around 50 of the peaks at that time, but kept going out every week and picking up a few each week. We'd look and see that Gene was catching up, so we'd make another trip to go get some more.

I started talking and emailing Gene. We'd watch each others progression on Peakbagger.com and congratulate each other on picking up some more peaks. We finished a lot early in the year, then focused on some serious climbs we had trained for, mostly in the North Cascades and Olympics. As the summer and fall progressed, we'd see Gene catching up again, we'd get nervous he might get ahead so we'd head out and get some more.

The rivalry continued, fueling our motivation and forming a community, until all of us had completed our list. Through this, I became better acquainted with Gene and others, and really enjoyed meeting everyone in March when the first medallions for completing the list were awarded. We have a broad community of over 100 people working on these peaks now, sharing beta, knowledge and encouraging each other, with a little good-natured rivalry going on as well. And as a member of the Tacoma branch, meeting so many new people from many branches sharing a common objective makes me proud to be a Mountaineer!

My hope for you is that you can find your community within The Mountaineers. Might be with a group of crag climbers, hiking enthusiasts, peak pin gatherers, sea kayakers, naturalists, conservation group... the lists go on and on! Get out, meet up, enjoy!

Dan Lauren, President, Board of Directors



The Mountaineers is a non-profit organization, founded in 1906 and dedicated to the responsible enjoyment and protection of natural areas.

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Taking part in the world

No Mountaineer I know will deny this simple fact: mountaineering is empowering. Climbing or scrambling to the top of a peak gives a sense of immediate personal accomplishment.

It connects you to the world in a fulfilling way that engages every sense – from the smell of fresh mountain air, to the sound of wildlife, to the beautiful vistas of surrounding peaks, to the feeling of dirt, rock, branches or even your own body, as you climb upwards.

Maybe that's why so many chose to give back. They become conservationists and speak for the land, and they teach their children and others how to love and care for it as well.

All three of the features in this issue, along with our Outdoor Education and Conservation Currents pieces have a theme of giving back.

In the first feature, *Summitting for Soldiers* (page 18), you'll be inspired by a nonprofit that takes veterans climbing in order to cope with PTSD. It's a program that our partners over at books works with, donating copies of *Freedom of the Hills*.

For the second feature (page 21), I had the honor of interviewing Alex Honnold, who is considered by some to be the world's best climber. His foundation, which helps to provide electricity via solar power to communities around the world, will inspire you as much as his unparalleled climbs.

In the third feature, *Elevation & Elation* (page 27), you'll get to read about what it takes to crew the fastest assisted thru-hiker on the PCT. And, they did it for a cause: to raise money for a nonprofit that provides support to families of those with cancer.

Our Outdoor Education column (page 7) was written by Jessi Loerch, a professional journalist for publications such as the *Everett Herald* and *Seattle Times*. She gives a first-hand account of what it's like to volunteer with The Mountaineers, and how she's inspired her own daughter to enjoy the mountains.

And in Conservation Currents (page 14), you'll read about the importance of having a voice in the conservation world. But likely, if you're reading this magazine, you already know that.

I'm proud to be part of a community that cares – that looks out for the environment and teaches our kids and others to do the same. One of the inspiring things about Mountaineers is how much responsibility we take for our part in the world. Even if we don't always know if what we're doing is going to make a big difference, as Alex Honnold says, "If nothing else, there's no harm in trying."

Suzanne Gerber, Publications Manager

membershipmatters



Are you making the most of your Mountaineers Membership Benefits?

You should be. You'll find deals on everything from international travel to discounts at your local coffee shop. Start exploring all of the great benefits we have to offer today.



Can you identify the location in the foreground?

Send your answer to Suzanne by the first of August: suzanneg@mountaineers.org. If you guess correctly, you'll receive a \$15 gift certificate* good for Mountaineers purchases, and we'll publish your name in next issue's column.

*Not redeemable for cash. Mountaineers employees or persons shown in the photograph are not eligible.

In case of a tie, one winner will be chosen at random. Each month we'll publish a new mystery landmark and identification of the previous one.

Adventurer? Please send in your trip photographs for possible publication as a mystery location! (see email address above)

The winner of last issue's *Summit Savvy* was Louise Suhr. She correctly identified Gothic Peak (see below).

Last issue's summit savvy: Gothic Peak

A moderate rock or snow-rock scramble. This trip in the Monte Cristo area features an old mining road, rough trail, a visit to Gothic Basin and Foggy Lake, which is frozen for most of the year.

Ascent Route: Walk the road from Barlow Pass for about a mile. Do not cross river. Look for trail on right that leads to Weden Creek Trail and Gothic Basin. Follow trail up to Foggy Lake at 5,200 ft

From Foggy Basin traverse clockwise around lake and ascend snow or talus to the north side of the north pinnacle. Ascend small benches through trees to the summit.

Activity Type: Scrambling

Seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall

Distance (round trip): 11 miles

Elevation Gain: 3,900 feet

High Point: 6,213 feet

Permit: Northwest Forest Pass



Gothic Peak. Photo by Sue Shih

memberhighlight

ten essential
questions



Name	Kristina Ciari
Hometown	Bozeman, MT
Member Since	June, 2013
Occupation	Membership & Marketing Manager for The Mountaineers
Favorite Activities	Backcountry Skiing, Ski Mountaineering, Running, and Sport Climbing - all while wearing a tutu of course.

Kristina sporting a tutu on one of many ski adventures. *Photo courtesy of Kristina Ciari*

How did you get involved with The Mountaineers?

My first experience with The Mountaineers was in 2012 when I volunteered as a victim for a Wilderness First Aid scenario. Then I heard about a job opening – and with my work experience and passion for the outdoors, I knew it was the job for me. Plus, it was the only opportunity I would be willing to give up my summer of funemployment for. I officially joined The Mountaineers in June of 2013 as the Membership and Marketing Manager.

Why is getting outside important to you?

Spending time outside is my sanity. As a runner, skier, climber, and “life enthusiast,” I seek opportunities to challenge myself in new and interesting ways. The outdoor community has really given me everything: my friends and chosen family, my personal sense of self, and my career at The Mountaineers, where I’m encouraged to pursue my personal and professional passions for getting outside.

Favorite Mountaineers Memory?

A few weeks into my tenure here, I thought it would be fun to host a slideshow for Kyle Miller and Jason Hummel to talk about their recent completion of the American Alps Traverse – a 120-mile, 16-day journey, originally imagined by Mountaineers Historian Lowell Skoog. I scheduled the event for a random Wednesday night in August. It was my first event and I just hoped people would show up. Show up they did! The 450 people who walked into our building to support these local guys completely floored me. This was the first time I really saw the power of The Mountaineers’ community, and I continue to be invigorated by

the excitement our community brings to everything we do.

Who/What inspires you?

I’m inspired by the accomplishments of others. Whether you’ve on-sited your first 5.6 on top-rope or paddled around the San Juans or summited Mt. Rainier, I am stoked on your achievement.

We often compare ourselves to others in a negative way, so instead, I try to focus not on how people are doing things faster/harder/better than me, but on the fact that people are challenging themselves and realizing the sense of personal satisfaction that comes with breaking down personal barriers.

What does adventure mean to you?

Adventure is doing anything that makes you smile. Embrace what makes you happy. Ruthlessly pursue opportunities to challenge yourself. Be who you are and you might be surprised by what you find.

Lightning round!

Sunrise or sunset? **Sunrise.**

Smile or game face? **Smile.**

Superpower? **Teleportation.**

Post-adventure meal of choice?

Something fresh like a salad or a bunch of fruit, but of course that’s always accompanied by a Rainier Beer.

If you could be a rock star at any outdoor activity overnight, what would it be? **Speed flying (aka parachute skiing).**

Sharing the Outdoors with our kids

by Jessi Loerch, professional journalist
and passionate volunteer



Jessi's daughter, Hazel - future kindergartner and Mountaineer - on Suntop Mountain. Photo by Jessi Loerch

When I joined the Mountaineers, my daughter was two. Since she was born, I've been tailoring my adventures to accommodate a baby carrier.

While I was pregnant, people told me that being a parent would make me reel things in. "Have your adventures before you have kids," they said, over and over. I bought it.

They were wrong. I was wrong.

Instead, being a parent made me want to grow, to push my limits. So I signed up for alpine scrambling and quickly fell in love with The Mountaineers. Even as I left Hazel with my family so I could go scrambling, I fantasized about bringing her with me someday.

Not long after I started scrambling, I filled out an online survey about the future of The Mountaineers. With a sort of glee, I voted for more youth programs over and over. I knew Hazel wouldn't be old enough to enjoy them for years, but no matter, she'll grow.

Historically, The Mountaineers have mostly served adults. But that's changing. The group added youth programs in Seattle first. This year, to my delight, they expanded to my hometown of Everett and I got my first chance to volunteer. The scrambling course led me to start climbing. So I was happy to show up in Everett to belay middle-schoolers in the YMCA's Minority Achievers Program.

That day I ended up belaying on a hard section of wall, 5.12. I figured no one would get far up the wall, and I was right. I was wrong, though, when I thought most kids would give up quickly. The kids fell again and again, but they kept trying. They were

creative about trying different strategies. No one seemed to think that falling was failing. I couldn't help but think that's a pretty valuable lesson to learn - even more practical than how to tie a figure-eight follow-through knot.

One young climber, Wulfric Mangkorneo, convinced the group leader to let him try one more climb as our time was running out. I belayed him on a route with an overhang. I wasn't certain he'd be able to make it, but I kept my doubts to myself. I was wrong again. He struggled for a bit, but he kept trying until he found a combination of foot- and hand-holds that got him up. When he made it, we both cheered. I was more elated than if I'd made it up myself. (Which, frankly, I probably wouldn't have been able to do.)

I talked with Todd McNeal, executive director of Hand in Hand, a group that helps foster kids and has also climbed with The Mountaineers in Everett. Todd told me that sometimes volunteers think the kids need rescuing or looking after, but he doesn't think that's true. What they need is someone with passion who wants to share the things they love.

Mountaineers have passion to share and spare. After all, isn't that what we've done for our whole history? We have taught each other to love the outdoors, and safely, for more than a century; now we're including kids in our passions.

My daughter is turning five soon. The challenge of starting kindergarten is ahead of us. But we'll also have the mountains. I can feel our limits pushing farther out all the time.



A Hitchhiker's Guide to the National Parks

by Craig Romano, Guidebook author

A group of climbers on a road in Mount Rainier National Park. Photo by Ida Vincent

My plan was initially without a hitch. Hike from Longmire on the Wonderland Trail to Indian Henry's Hunting Ground. Do a little photography in those famed fields, visit the Mirror Lakes and then head back out via the Kautz Creek Trail. It would be a nice 14.5-mile hike with some decent elevation gain. My hiking partner would leave a car at the Kautz Creek trailhead and we would drive back to Longmire to retrieve my vehicle. Plan was good – until my hiking partner couldn't make it. I was on assignment, so the hike would go on.

When I made it to the Kautz Creek Trailhead at the end of the day, I figured I'd just start walking the three plus miles up the road back to my truck. It soon became apparent that the walk was less than enjoyable. The road was narrow. It was a Friday evening with lots of traffic. And there was construction leaving the road even narrower and full of hazards.

That's when the thought occurred to me to hitch a ride back to Longmire. I almost never hitchhike, nor pickup hitchhikers. I can count the times on one hand (and a thumb) how many times I have resorted to this mode of transportation or helped someone else with it. And except for one time on Orcas Island, it was always within a national park. These are places that I feel fairly

safe giving rides and asking for a ride. Miscreants as a general rule aren't usually in national parks looking to pick up and make life difficult for folks.

One of my most memorable national park experiences involved hitchhiking. Upon missing a bus in Chile's Lauca National Park, my partner and I realized that we could be stuck in the middle of nowhere for days. So, naturally we started hitching.

Within several hours, we were offered a ride by a nice Chilean family on holiday. Their car was small. We had to tie our packs to the roof. My partner and I sat in the backseat, each with one of their children on our laps. When we finally arrived at our destination many hours later, I went to thank our travel angel with what was then (1988) the equivalent of a \$20 US bill. No small change in Chile at the time. They refused to take it and just wanted us to have a great trip and to remember well their country and the Chilean people. We certainly did!

Evidently however (as I will shortly reveal), if a couple of Chilean backpackers were stranded in Mount Rainier National Park, they may get an experience that won't leave them remembering our country as fondly.

As I stuck my thumb out and watched several cars drive by, I kept plodding up the busy and unsafe roadway. Finally a park ranger arrived – more specifically a law enforcement agent. Cool, I thought, I'm going to get a ride.

That didn't happen. Instead I got hassled! The law enforcement officer rolled down her window and, without asking me if everything was okay – if I had car trouble, if I was hurt, etc., said in a firm and authoritative voice, "Who are you and what are you doing?"

It was obvious what I was doing – and I told her who I am. Either she never heard of me or wasn't impressed with my writing, as the next thing that came out of her was "Hitchhiking is illegal in the park." Dumfounded and a little put off by the coldness of her repore, I explained to her why I was hitchhiking to avoid walking on a dangerous road. This was followed by another firm, "Hitchhiking is illegal in the park." Now, normally I am respectful of authority – especially our rangers – but I couldn't understand for the life of me on why she was giving me such a hard time for what I perceived as a non-issue. My East Coast sarcasm kicked in, "Ohhh a federal offense!"

She continued to give me a hard time in which case I just said, "Obviously you aren't going to help me – thanks (sarcastically)." I then proceeded to walk up the road. She drove off. I immediately felt terrible over the exchange. I didn't like that I became ugly – that is not like me when dealing with our land managers. But I was also upset and dismayed at how I was treated. I almost always (since I'm not a criminal or engaged in criminal activity) have great conversations and exchanges with law officers and rangers. Maybe this officer just got through with someone vandalizing the park or harassing animals. Maybe it was already a tough Friday. But really – you're going to harass me for trying to get a ride back to my vehicle?

Eventually four army recruits from JBLM pulled over and offered me a ride – and, not trying to be lawbreaker, I wasn't even hitchhiking. I told them my story and insisted that if questioned, they would vouch that I wasn't soliciting a ride – that they freely gave me one. We all shared a laugh and I was back to my truck and heading home. And while at the moment I wasn't thinking too fondly of our park rangers—I certainly had a warm feeling about our military personnel.

I did truly feel badly for getting a little wise with the LE officer. And the next day I called the park superintendent to apologize. What I also did upon returning home is do a little research on hitchhiking in the national parks. After digging through multiple websites, as hitchhiking doesn't appear in the rules and regulations section of individual park websites, I did find out – and was quite surprised that, hitchhiking in national parks is indeed against the law. So – yes it is a federal offense!

Wow! This new revelation sent my mind reeling back into time – transforming great memories into law breaking moments. Like the time my buddy and I ditched our bikes in southern New Mexico and hitchhiked to the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument. It was February and we didn't want to bike through snow. A local rancher picked us up (unbeknownst to him that we were lawbreakers) and showed us around the Puebloan ruins.

Then there was that time back in 1999 when my wife (girlfriend at the time) and I tried to hike the Heather Park-Klahhane Ridge

loop from Heart O' the Hills, but the heavy snow pack that year had us adjusting our plan and hiking out Sunrise Ridge instead of risking crossing dangerous snowfields beneath Mount Angeles. We stood at the Hurricane Ridge parking lot to hitch a ride back to Heart O the Hills. Within minutes a nice family let us jump into the back of their pick-up. They had no idea they were transporting lawbreakers!

I wonder if I was harboring criminals when I gave three German backpackers a ride in Canada's Kluane National Park. Other than the fact that these three intrepid fellows who must have been in the Yukon backcountry for an awfully long time emitted a noxious odor in my van, I never felt in danger for my life. But still, if I aided and abetted the transportation of law breakers in one of North America's wildest places, what did I become?

Seriously though, I couldn't find out if hitchhiking is illegal in Canada's national parks, but I have a feeling that it isn't, as hitching a ride seems to be pretty prevalent throughout our northern neighbor. And hitchhiking isn't illegal in Washington State either, as long as you are off the road shoulder, giving potential transporters a safe spot to pick you up. But hitchhiking is illegal in the North Cascades complex, Mount Rainier National Park, and Olympic National Park. I eventually had a conversation about hitchhiking in the parks with a national park superintendant. This high ranking park personnel told me that hitchhiking is not something that they are too concerned with when it comes to park infractions. But still, it's on the books and you can be cited and fined for doing it.

So, keep that in mind the next time you come off of the Wonderland Trail and need a ride back to your vehicle. Thumbs up or thumbs down when it comes to this law?



Craig legally taking notes and *not* hitchhiking in North Cascades National Park. Photo by Alan Bauer

A Walk Through the Sagebrush Sea

by Kris Fulsaa, a Mountaineers Books author

Sunrise lights the Oregon Buttes in the Jack Morrow Hills region of Wyoming's Red Desert. Photo by Dave Showalter

The sagebrush sea is a vast ecosystem wearing many faces across 11 states: from southern desert shrublands to mountain woodlands, from grasslands and riparian areas to the sagebrush steppe, where grasses and shrubs are co-dominant. Perhaps the sagebrush sea's most recognizable form, the sagebrush steppe is a mix of big sagebrush, antelope bitterbrush, horsebrush, and rabbitbrush, with perennial bunchgrasses (providing horizontal cover for ground nests) dotted with balsamroot, lupine, Indian paintbrush, pasqueflower, saxifrage, and shooting stars. This is the realm of the greater sage grouse, Gunnison sage grouse, sagebrush sparrow, Brewer's sparrow, and sage thrasher, obligate species that require sagebrush for cover, nest protection, and food.

Undisturbed grasslands in the sagebrush ecosystem range from bunchgrasses west of the Rockies (as in Washington State's Palouse Prairie) to shortgrass prairie east of the Rockies. You might see steppe bluegrass, needle grass, and Indian rice grass interspersed with flowering camas, dwarf goldenweed, and larkspur. The clear air rings with the western meadowlark's melodic rising tones that instill hope.

A visit to the sagebrush sea's desert shrubland reveals big sagebrush interspersed with black greasewood, spiny hop-sage, and saltbush. Keep an eye out for tiny ball cacti, hedgehog cactus, prickly pear, and stonecrop sparsely scattered among desert parsley, rock penstemon, and bitterroot. Raptors perch

in wait for mice and voles to venture out; nighthawks swoop for bugs through the evening air with a buzzy, nasal peent.

Yet the sagebrush ecosystem is also interspersed with riparian areas lush with creek dogwood, willows, rushes, sedges, and monkeyflower. The intermountain West's "gray sea" includes the upper watersheds of the Colorado and Missouri rivers as well as watersheds in the Great Basin. Red-winged blackbirds make throaty, reedy calls from cattails; the songs of yellow and MacGillivray's warblers, song sparrows, and Bullock's orioles resound; the scent of water draws creatures at dawn and dusk.

On the fringes of the sagebrush ocean, woodlands of aspen, cottonwood, pinyon-juniper, mountain mahogany, and serviceberry are the haunts of red-tailed and ferruginous hawks, western scrub jays, black-billed magpies, and Virginia's warblers, as well as larger mammals on the hunt.

In any of these habitats, the sagebrush ecosystem is dominated by nearly thirty species, subspecies, and hybrids of the iconic plant that gives this habitat its name. The best known is big sagebrush, which has more biomass than any other shrub species in the world, says Leila Shultz in her Pocket Guide to Sagebrush (Point Reyes Bird Observatory Conservation Science, 2012). It and its four subspecies have multiple races—hybridization that results from habitat-specific specialization.

Basin big sagebrush is found in Nevada's Basin and Range

country and elsewhere. Higher-elevation mountain big sagebrush is the most palatable to wildlife—thus, extraordinarily important for animals in the Rockies, Cascades, and Sierras. Parish big sagebrush is found in California's Mojave desert. Wyoming big sagebrush, despite its name, grows throughout the lower-elevation eastern sagebrush sea. Bonneville sagebrush, a hybrid of mountain and Wyoming big sagebrush, is also palatable to wildlife. Any of these plants has an unmistakable shape, looming tall and pale grayish-blue, with a strong scent evoking the wide-open spaces of the Old West.

Each sagebrush species has a unique mix of bitter terpenoids as well as tasty compounds attractive to browsing animals. Most sagebrush species are evergreen, with two kinds of leaves: large, irregular early spring leaves drop off by midsummer—gather these aromatic sprigs for sage bundles—but the tight little evergreen bundles of perennial leaves photosynthesize during winter, providing important forage when most other woody plants are dormant.

In spring, sagebrush leaves are at their most bitter and aromatic, to discourage insects and grazing animals while flowers are forming. Its many small flowers start opening in late summer through early fall, producing huge amounts of pollen; sagebrush is wind pollinated. In fall the bitter compounds that deter insects and predators break down, so the microscopic seeds become more palatable, dispersed by wind or animals that eat them. At 20 percent protein, sagebrush seeds are an important winter food source, according to Shultz.

Among the many animals that forage on sagebrush are Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer, pronghorn, and pygmy rabbits. Sage grouse eat scabland sage, low (or little or dwarf) sagebrush and its two subspecies, silver sagebrush and its three subspecies, and black sagebrush, as well as the three primary subspecies of big sagebrush: Wyoming, basin, and mountain, the most palatable of all. Greater sage grouse and Gunnison sage grouse eat sagebrush foliage year-round, supplementing it with insects in summer—but in fall and winter, sagebrush is their sole food source.

The sagebrush sea supports around a hundred bird species, more than eighty-five mammal species, a hundred plant species in addition to sagebrush, plus more than three hundred species of insects, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. The Pocket Guide to Sagebrush Birds, by Melissa Pitkin and Laura Quattrini (Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and PRBO Conservation Science, 2010), lists sagebrush's iconic species as greater sage grouse, Gunnison sage grouse, sage thrasher, sagebrush sparrow, Brewer's sparrow, pygmy rabbit, mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, moose, black bear, pronghorn, mountain lion, coyote, and gray wolf. No matter which sagebrush habitat you walk through, you'll see clear blue sky and big views, hear a unique bird chorus, and breathe in the unmistakable scent of sagebrush: the vital, life-giving shrub of the intermountain West.



"A Walk Through the Sagebrush Sea" is an excerpt from *Sage Spirit: The American West at a Crossroads* by Dave Showalter and published under the Braided River imprint of Mountaineers Books. Learn more: sagespirit.org

Visiting Washington's Sagebrush Steppe

If you've ever rambled the rimrock along the Columbia River near Vantage, or explored the Horse Heaven Hills near Prosser, you've stepped into Washington's sagebrush steppe.

As sweeping as the vistas may appear in these places, the unfortunate truth is that less than 50 percent of Washington's historic shrubsteppe remains. And much of what does remain is degraded, fragmented, and/or isolated from other similar habitats.

At The Mountaineers, we've seen that boots-on-the-ground leads to more committed and knowledgeable public lands advocates, so we invite you to explore this less well-known Washington landscape. Get to know it and learn more about what it needs to be protected and restored.

Much of the Washington's best sage-grouse habitat can be found within areas managed by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, including:

- Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area
- Sagebrush Flat Wildlife Area
- L. T. Murray Wildlife Area
- Oak Creek Wildlife Area

These wildlife areas will not necessarily have hiking trails, but they often have old roads that invite wandering. For specific suggestions, check out *Best Desert Hikes: Washington* by Alan Bauer and Dan A. Nelson, *100 Hikes in the Inland Northwest* by Rich Landers, or *Washington's Channeled Scablands Guide* by John Soennichsen. And, don't forget your Discover Pass.

Learn More: http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/

BEWILD

Come to BeWild and Experience Sage Country

Wednesday, August 12 | 7 to 9 pm

The Mountaineers Seattle Program Center

Join photographer Dave Showalter for a grand tour through the sagebrush country of the Intermountain West. Published by Braided River, his new book *Sage Spirit: The American West at a Crossroads* invites its readers to envision an American West where all the plants, animals, and people that define the Sagebrush Sea will thrive.

Dave's slideshow and talk, will feature scenes from the Tetons, Yellowstone National Park, the Black Canyon of the Gunnison and many more iconic Western places. It will bring the 2015 BeWild Speaker Series to a dramatic close. Don't miss it!

Tickets available at the door or online at mountaineers.org/productions/bewild.



Investing in Traditions

by Mary Hsue, Director of Development & Communications

Tab on skis with Mount Rainier in the distance. Photo courtesy of Tab Wilkins

When I arrived in June 2011, The Mountaineers had recently achieved 501(c)(3) nonprofit status and fundraising was in its infancy. With the exception of dedicated campaigns to raise funds for capital projects, like the basalt columns in the courtyard of the Seattle Program Center, efforts to raise unrestricted dollars for budding youth, conservation and yet-to-be-developed volunteer programs were just getting off the ground. The concept of inviting members and volunteers – who already give a significant amount of time – to make an additional investment of dollars in these programs was new and risky.

One and a half months into the job, I attended my first board meeting. The following fiscal year budget was the big topic and the board debated passing a budget that included an investment in fundraising for programs which would “at the 30,000-foot level, change lives and save the planet” – my words for what I believed The Mountaineers impact story would ultimately be centered around. The meeting went into the wee hours of the night and ultimately passed.

The rest of the story, as they say, is history.

That first board meeting is one of three memorable board moments for me. The other two are for another time. However, I’m honored to highlight a board member who played a crucial role in all three of my memorable board moments – Tab Wilkins, Mountaineers board president in 2010 – 2012, Peak Society member, Alpine Scrambling Intense course innovator, and donor for every fundraising appeal we’ve presented at The Mountaineers.

Setting an example

Not only does Tab’s name appear on every list, but he was one of a few board members who took a leap of faith and agreed to increase his Peak Society entry level \$1,000 unrestricted gift to \$5,000 at The Mountaineers first fundraising event and celebration of the 50th anniversary of Jim Whittaker’s historic summit of Mt. Everest. That was 2013 and our official launch of higher giving levels of Peak Society.

Tab was The Mountaineers board president when he made his first gift to the organization. “I modeled behavior that I hoped others would emulate,” Tab said when I asked him what inspired him to become one of 35 founding Peak Society members. “As a 501(c)(3) the goal was to diversify our revenue base by build a fundraising capability. At some point you must live the commitment you want others to make,” he explained.

Giving to make lasting impact

“As far as stretch giving and growing my support over the past few years, I thought about my parents and the time and dollars they gave to their community.” Tab’s father was a professor and his parents were not wealthy, but they gave generously to their community. “I kind of followed in my parents footsteps.” He explained, “The club is a significant part of my life. I’ve met lifelong friends. I get to share what I love to do. I want to support that happening for others.” The Mountaineers is one of two organizations to which Tab makes a generous and loyal commitment. He says, “When I give, I want it to be significant and to have a lasting impact.”

Trust in leadership

Just ask any board member from any nonprofit and I bet she will tell you that an unrestricted donation is the most important and valued gift to a nonprofit board. Tab agrees. "From my personal perspective, while there are specific projects I'm interested in supporting, I feel it's important to trust our leadership to make good decisions and invest the dollars I give, and I want to support the leadership's ability to make those decisions." To explain his name appearing on multiple donor lists, Tab says "If I want to support a special interest, then I will give dollars in addition, and like most Mountaineers donors I also volunteer my time."

Path to leadership - community

When I asked Tab about his path to board service, he said, "I liked that courses were taught and activities were led by volunteers, so I volunteered to become hike leader, and then a climb leader." It was after becoming a committee leader, when he considered serving on the board, "I thought long and hard about the board as a way to continue to give back to the community."

Like many members who are new to the area, Tab began his journey with The Mountaineers 15 years ago. "I was new to Tacoma and happened to drive by the Tacoma Branch Clubhouse one day" he explained. "I liked outdoor activities and thought it would be a good opportunity to meet people who liked to do the same thing." Tab started hiking with the Tacoma Mountaineers, became a hike leader, and led hikes for eight years until he moved to Seattle for work and continued to take courses with the Seattle Branch.

Programs before fundraising or visa versa?

I wasn't here when The Mountaineers pursued 501(c)(3) status, so I asked Tab to explain. He said, "We knew that engaging youth was big through the 70's and 80's and then the effort died. Having 501(c)(3) nonprofit status would enable us to resurrect these programs." Tab has observed that youth programs make a difference for the health and longevity of The Mountaineers. He said, "I've presented the state-of-the-union address at a few 50-year member luncheons. When I ask folks to raise their hands if their parents took them camping when they were kids or if they learned to ski as a kid in one of our lodges or if their parents were Mountaineers members and brought them along on Mountaineers hikes or climbs or if they took a Mountaineers

course when they were teenagers." He says at least 60% of the hands go up in response to the question.

Evolution of The Mountaineers

Tab was quick to give credit to Martinique Grigg, The Mountaineers' executive director, for her role in the evolution of The Mountaineers. He says, "At a very intuitive level, she brought energy, focus, and had outdoor perspective from her work with the Appalachian Mountain Club. Her vision was new, refreshing and gave everyone else the energy to grow up and change with the times." And it has made a difference. Tab agrees, "People I talk to, see new and different things from The Mountaineers. They observe that we still do our core well, but they see that we have a new energy and drive. Martinique's leadership engaged the board to be more active in where we want to go and how want to get there."

What do you hope to achieve with your giving?

"From a personal aspect," says Tab, "I'm doing the right thing by giving to my community. It's a priority. I want to see it survive. Friendship. Personal challenge. Growth. Many things began with youth. We had to get back to that. And most importantly, how do you save the outdoors? Make it valuable."

Just over a month has passed since The Mountaineers second fundraising event, BREAKTHROUGH: expect the unexpected. You might have heard about it because it was awesome and wildly successful, exceeding revenue goals in every category. That's not a pat on my back – it's an acknowledgement of the board and their decision to take a risk at that board meeting, make a commitment to success and do whatever it would take to ensure success. I've benefitted from these decisions over the course of my career with The Mountaineers.

Does this sound familiar to you? It should if you've ever taken a course, been instructed or mentored by Mountaineers volunteers. Commitment to success runs deep at The Mountaineers. It's part of the DNA.

And the 30,000 foot level story I mentioned in the beginning of the article? It stands today as "transforming lives and conserving wild places," which is quite honestly what The Mountaineers has done over its nearly 110 year history. Not too risky of an investment these days, if you ask me.



Tab on skis. Photo by Mike Warren



Creating conservationists: Our Voice

by Katherine Hollis, Conservation and Recreation Manager

Mountain goats in the Enchantments. Photo by Ida Vincent

To truly care about something, it has to have impacted you intimately. It's that personal connection that gives us the impetus to act. While everyone can agree that cancer is terrible, it often takes having a friend or family member fight it for someone to get involved in supporting research. While many people might agree with the idea of bike lanes, it usually takes attempting to be a regular biker commuter to engage in advocacy on city bike paths. One of the most important things we do as Mountaineers is inspire people to love the outdoors. Since you can only love what you know, the Mountaineers works to get people of all ages outside into nature. We connect people with the outdoors to support the physical, emotional and social benefits of a healthy active outdoor lifestyle and because successful conservation depends on these connections. We work to protect the places that inspire, excite and challenge us and leave them better than when we arrived, because we know our way of life depends on others experiencing that same wonder and joy.

What it is about our experiences outdoors that make us care?

My colleague, Mary Hsue, shared this bit about type two fun, and how these types of experiences outdoors create that intimate connection with the natural world.

Within my first few years of climbing, I found myself with three others on a one-day climb of Mt. Stuart's West Ridge, struggling to keep up with the fast-pace, battling mosquitoes and working hard to manage my fear of exposure. We'd been going for 13 hours non-stop, and the trailhead felt many hours away. It was not fun. I told myself over and over that I would NEVER do this climb EVER AGAIN. And yet a week later, I described the climb as "not bad", and actually asked my climbing partner if he thought we could do the more challenging North Ridge in a day. The climb was fun. Or maybe more accurately, it is fun to consider in retrospect: this is quintessential "Type II, bordering on Type III fun". With this sort of fun, you would rather break a limb and be airlifted out than to move forward. It's only

later, after you realize that the only direction you can move is forward - where there exists a chance to accomplish something unimaginable - that you would even think to call it fun. Type II or III fun involves suffering in the process, but the experience usually builds character, and the rewards have the potential to course through the rest of your life.

These experiences also build connections to our awe-inspiring natural places.

The other thing about my breakthrough on Mt. Stuart is that when I got to the top of the Long's Pass I stopped and turned around to look back at the mountain, at that moment being kissed by the setting sun's rays. My first thought was "I climbed THAT?" which was immediately followed by a sense of awe and appreciation for the mountain that played a significant role in my experience. I think about it today and can see it like it was yesterday. This is an image that will be forever burned in my memory. Mt. Stuart, Long's Pass and Bean Peak trail are places I'm connected to because these places made this breakthrough possible.

This kind of powerful outdoor experience is what The Mountaineers has provided for adults for over a century. And we have made remarkable progress in giving the same to youth - particularly for those youth who would not otherwise have these opportunities. These "aha" moments that our programs help make, create connections and people who care about the persistent issues and threats to the natural world. Type-two fun inspires us to become protectors of these places.

The Mountaineers is also uniquely positioned to create a modern voice in land conservation through our younger members, like Sarah, a member of our Mountaineers Adventure Club. During her three years as a MAC member, Sarah shares that she's met people who will be lifelong friends and done things she never imagined she could do.

From the trailhead to the peak, I kept doubting myself and my capabilities. I wasn't paying attention to my surroundings or the people I was with. My body was capable, but my mind started to psyche me out. The only thing that kept me going was the fact that I needed to keep on going for my group. I did not want to be the weak link. The reality that what we were doing was real and had risk was magnified as I scrambled on the peak, leaning forward to keep my balance, hunched over making big moves, and using a hand-line for protection. And all the while, I thought "I am by myself." It's just me and Sahale. When I saw two teammates sitting on top of the summit waiting for me, I was overwhelmed with happiness and relief - elated to be so close to my goal.

I will never forget the gratitude I gained for Sahale.

Because it's that Sahale trip that boosted my confidence for the rest of that year. And to this day, I meet challenges in school, at my new job at REI, and in my personal life with a new passion and a new level of unshakeable confidence. I owe this confidence to Sahale. In return for that gift, I promise to protect Sahale.

Through her immediate, personal experience in wilderness, Sarah has become one of its fiercest protectors. Whether planting trees, summiting Rainier or paddling the Columbia river we provide these experiences every day to every type of adventurer. This is our voice: **The Mountaineers protects the outdoor experience.**



Climbers on their way up Sahale. Photo by Ida Vincent



Our Secret Rainier Memorials at Mount Rainier

by Mickey Eisenberg, Gene Yore, and Kevin Bacher, NPS Ranger at Mt. Rainier National Park
(with thanks to Patti Wold and Donna Rahier)

NPS Photo by Steve Redman

Mount Rainier National Park (MRNP) is filled with glorious places to visit. Its visitors justifiably flock to the well-known destinations: Sunrise, Paradise, Camp Muir, Summerland, Spray Park and Comet Falls to name just a handful. But there are dozens of other wonderful places – less well known and perhaps a bit more difficult to find – that have a beauty all their own. Longtime Mountaineers trip leaders, Gene Yore and Mickey Eisenberg, call these places “Our Secret Rainier.” This is the tenth of a periodic installment from Gene and Mickey on these hard-to-find gems in the park.

Usually visitors to Mt. Rainier National Park admire grand vistas and the natural world surrounding them. This is as it should be, but in addition to the glory of the place are two large memorials and numerous plaques commemorating the people and human history associated with the park. This installment of Our Secret Rainier tells you how to find the two memorials and provides the location of the smaller plaques located throughout the park.

Memorial to Stevens and Van Trump – first to climb Mount Rainier

The memorial commemorates the first climb of Mount Rainier. The stones commemorating the event read: “Site of the camp from which General Hazard Stevens and PB Van Trump made the ascent of this mountain 17 August 1870,” “Sluiskin Indian Guide waited here for the climbers to return,” “Place identified by General Hazard Stevens 17 August 1915,” “Erected by the Mountaineers and the Mazamas 1924.”

The monument is located on the Skyline Trail near Mazama Ridge. It is in the shape of a seat so that one sitting can contemplate Mt. Rainier and imagine the route these intrepid climbers took to the summit

Directions: From the Nisqually Entrance drive to Paradise and in approximately 0.8 mile past Paradise and just beyond the

bridge over the Paradise River, park in the large parking area on the right side of the road. Drive time to the parking area is 2 hours 30 minutes from downtown Seattle and less from Tacoma.

Route Description: The trailhead is located by a red “Wrong Way” sign on the east side of the road. Hike the 4th Crossing Trail for 0.2 mile until you reach the Skyline Trail, where you turn right (the sign points to Paradise Glacier, 1 mile). Continue on the Skyline Trail until you reach the Stevens-Van Trump Monument at approximately 6000’.



Photo by Eric Harrison, creative commons

Side trip to Cowlitz Rocks: Fifty yards beyond the monument, follow the trail to Paradise Glacier (the sign states that the trail “ends 1.5 miles ahead”). Stay on this trail until it peters out, and then continue northerly with the Paradise Glacier on the left. Head up what appears to be a valley until you reach a col at 7200’, northwest of Cowlitz Rocks. Take the ridge (staying to the right, just off the ridge), and head southeast until you reach the highest point of Cowlitz Rocks (7450’). This final ridge portion of the route goes over rock scree.

Marine Memorial

On December 10, 1946 a military transport plane carrying 32 Marines from San Diego to Seattle encountered bad weather approaching Toledo, Washington and requested permission to fly above the storm. This last radio contact estimated the plane to be 30 miles south of Toledo, Washington. Immediate efforts to locate the place were hampered by the continued bad weather. The weather cleared enough by December 16th to launch an aerial search over an extensive area but no signs of the plane were found and in late December the search was suspended.

The following summer, wreckage of the plane was spotted by a park ranger on the South Tahoma Glacier at 9,500'. Extensive efforts to locate the bodies led to identification of a large piece of the forward section of the plane at 10,500'. Efforts to remove the bodies were considered too hazardous and the recovery mission was called off. The glacier remains the site of entombment for all 32. In 1947, the National Park Service dedicated a memorial to the 32 Marines located at Round Pass overlooking the Tahoma Glacier. A duplicate memorial was placed in the Veterans Memorial Park in Enumclaw. There is also a plaque with the names of all the Marines at the Jackson Visitor Center.

Directions: Drive one mile past the Nisqually entrance of Mt. Rainier and turn left on the West Side Road. Drive 3.2 miles until you reach a barrier - park here.

Route description: Walk or bike approximately 4 miles along the West Side Road to Round Pass. The Memorial is located immediately beyond the pass.

Side trip to Gobblers Knob: From Round Pass it is an easy hike to the Gobblers Knob lookout. The trailhead is at the pass. The hike to the lookout adds 1200' and less than 3 miles round trip.

WWII Memorial Plaque

There's also a small monument and plaque along the Waterfall Trail at Paradise, not far above the visitor center, commemorating the 10th Mountain Division that trained at Paradise during WWII before fighting in the Italian Alps. To find the plaque take the trail up from the plaza where the old round visitor center used to be, to the point where it intersects with the Waterfall Trail, the monument is on a low stone northwest of that intersection.



Commemorating the 10th Mountain Division that trained at Paradise during WWII before fighting in the Italian Alps. Photo courtesy of Kevin Bacher

Stevens/Van Trump and Marine Memorial

Skill levels:	easy hike (for both)
Beauty:	6 for Stevens/Van Trump 3 for Marine Memorial
Effort:	2 and 3, respectively
Distance (RT):	3 miles and 8 miles
Elevation gain:	800ft and 1,100 ft
Total time:	2 hours and 4 hours
Best season:	summer & fall (for both)
Maps:	Green Trails Rainier East & USGS Rainier East for Stevens/Van Green Trails Rainier West & USGS Mt. Wow for Marine Memorial
Equipment:	Hiking gear (for both)



Want to learn more?

Mount Rainier National Park has over 100 climbable peaks (not counting Mount Rainier itself) either within or immediately adjacent to the Park boundary. While most are scrambles (and a few are climbs) there are 15 peaks that are reachable as hikes.

Guide to 100 Peaks at Mount Rainier National Park is available as an enhanced iBook for the iPad on iTunes and a PDF eBook by Mountaineers Books - all royalties are donated to The Mountaineers.

Summiting for soldiers

by Lace Thornberg,
Development and
Communications Director,
Mountaineers Books



Michael Fairman on the summit of Aconcagua, one of the Seven Summits, he plans to reach while raising awareness about veterans struggles with post-traumatic stress. Photo courtesy of Michael Fairman

For veterans Steve Redenbaugh and Michael Fairman, climbing together was a way to cope with their struggles with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

In 2009, Steve and Michael started Summit for Soldiers to raise awareness about veteran suicide across the country and to make life easier for veterans and families coping with PTSD. They travel across the country meeting with veterans, sharing mental health resources, and encouraging organizations to work together. In each state they visit, they bring fellow veterans along on a trip up to the state's high point.

Many veterans and families have joined them since their first state high point campaigns, and Summit for Soldiers officially incorporated as a 501(c)3 organization in fall 2014, aiming to build on their awareness campaigns, and to work more directly with the nations veterans.

"Adven-therapy"

Summit for Solidiers "adven-therapy" program provides a safe, nonjudgmental environment for veterans to "come hang out" and hopefully, find a renewed purpose and mission. Think "outdoor VFW," says Michael. They focus on mentorship – with more experienced climbers advising less experienced climbers, and with veterans helping fellow veterans to work through shared struggles.

Here's where Mountaineers Books comes into the story.

Michael reached out to Mountaineers Books to see if we'd be

willing to donate a few copies of *Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills*. Impressed with his organization's mission and approach, we were more than happy to send the hard copies and electronic copies he'd requested free of charge.

Michael, who "can't imagine any climber who doesn't have at least a few versions of *Freedom of the Hills* on their shelves," assigns chapters to adven-therapy participants to be read before they practice climbing techniques together. He finds the classic approaches shared in *Freedom* to be "invaluable" teaching resources.

In June, Summit for Soliders' adven-therapy participants will embark on their first climbing road trip, hitting all the state high points between Ohio and Colorado. They'll cap the trip with a climb up Mt. Elbert which will also serve as a tribute to Maj. Chris Thomas, who perished in an avalanche last New Year's Eve.

"Chris had already discovered the therapy through outdoor adventure, but we totally connected on the vision and purpose of what we were trying to do," explained Michael. Thomas had climbed to several high points, including Mt. Rainier, with Summit for Soldiers, had become certified as a guide and was just about to establish a Colorado chapter.

"He was a good friend and will be dearly missed, but he died doing what he loved best and not with a gun in his mouth."

Growing state by state

Summit for Soldiers is most active in Ohio, and where Michael and

Steve live. The participant roster is still small, but their aim is to grow not only in Ohio, but also by adding chapters state by state.

Establishing a Washington chapter is top on their priority list. As Michael notes, "It doesn't take much to get some veterans together and get them out in the hills, so I'm hoping we will find some veterans and/or climbers stepping forward to help us set this up."

In addition to working with current veterans, Summit for Soldiers also reaches out to potential future veterans by presenting to groups like the ROTC. Michael is convinced that the next generation of our military can "completely change the mindset on dealing with service-related mental health injuries," if he can convince new recruits to accept the challenge.

Carrying the "Silently Fallen" flag

When I spoke with Michael, he was just a few days away from starting a trip up Denali. If he is successful, this will be his third continental highpoint. How was he feeling? "Nervous/Excited!" Three key motivations lie behind Michael's bid for the Seven Summits. The first is to lead by personal example. As a "dis"abled veteran becoming a "re"abled veteran by taking on great challenges, he hopes to encourage other veterans to do the same – "mountains optional."

Second, he uses the climbs to garner attention for the organization's mission and messages about PTSD and veteran suicides. More than 8,000 U.S. veterans commit suicide each year. One in nine veterans suffer from post-traumatic stress.

As much as Michael wants the public to pay attention to these

numbers, he also wants veterans suffering from PTSD and their families to know that they are not alone, and that many resources are available to them. You'll find these mantras on the Summit for Soldiers website: "Someone who suffers from PTSD is NOT abnormal; it is a natural response to a traumatic event."

His third motivation is to carry a "Silently Fallen" flag bearing the names of soldiers lost to suicide. The most recent additions were the names of a brother and sister who took their lives together.

The flag, Michael says, "allows us to not only honor these men and women, but to give them a voice and to hopefully save many more."

Michael has successfully summited Aconcagua and Kilimanjaro. He had also attempted Everest, but that bid was cut short with the 2014 avalanche that led to the tragic loss of 16 Sherpas.

Staying positive

Summit for Soldiers is more than a project for Michael.

"I have struggled daily, and have survived an attempted suicide," he readily shares. "This has become my mission and purpose, and I will not fail it ... as hard as it may get, I have an incredible support group around me...especially the wonderful families of the veterans represented on the flag."

Michael is looking forward to a day when all veterans are active and healthy, and veteran suicides are dramatically decreased. He wants to see stigma eliminated, with service-members seeking treatment for PTSD without restraint or fear. Then, he says, "we will just go out and climb and give our thanks."



Summit for Soldiers co-founder Michael Fairman carried a "Silently Fallen" flag bearing the names of veterans lost to suicide with him to the summit of Kilimanjaro, while his wife, Beth Fairman, carried a flag bearing the names of immediate families affected. Photo courtesy of Michael Fairman

Building a Better World through Books OUR BOOK DONATION PROGRAM

In 2014, Mountaineers Books donated more than \$8,000 worth of books to fellow non-profit organizations. Summit for Soldiers is just one of the 55 groups across the country to benefit from these donations. Other groups we contributed to include Rocky Mountain PBS, Northwest Association for Experimental Educators, Mount Shasta Avalanche Center and dozens of groups based in Washington state. These books are most often used as auction items and raffle prizes, which helps the group who requested the book to raise needed funds to support their programs.

Like our "1% for Trails" program, our "Give Books" program is one way that we collaborate with other non-profit organizations that are working to get people outside, to lead healthy active lives and to protect the natural environment.

GET BOOKS: If you work or volunteer for a non-profit organization that could put a selection of our titles to good use, please visit www.mountaineersbooks.org/getbooks to apply. Please note that we receive more requests than we can fulfill and give priority to organizations whose missions are closely aligned with our own.

GIVE BOOKS: Giving away \$8,000 worth of books feels pretty good already, but we'd love to donate even more books this year and we're looking for individuals who could help underwrite this program. If you'd like to help us out, please email LaceT@mountaineersbooks.org. Whether you want to contribute 5, 10 or 100 books, the impact of your gift will ripple out to help dozens of non-profit groups, including Mountaineers Books.

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A portrait of Alex Honnold, a man with dark hair and a slight beard, wearing a blue and black North Face hoodie. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with trees and sunlight filtering through the leaves.

Alex Honnold

a world-view climber

by Suzanne Gerber, Publications Manager

Portrait of Alex Honnold. Photo by Andrew Burr

Alex Honnold was on an academic and expected track – at least for the type of lifestyle he grew up in. Before his international climbing career, he was at the top of his class in a prestigious high school in Sacramento, California. Berkeley was his next step, with engineering as his major.

However, his heart wasn't in his classes – it was at the crags and on the rock faces in national parks. When his father died, a year into college, Alex re-evaluated his path in life. His father was the one who had taken him to a rock gym for the first time and spent countless hours patiently belaying him through grade school. He was also the one who pushed Alex to go to college. So after one year at Berkeley, Alex decided to leave school and take to the road with his climbing gear (along with his mom's approval) to explore the country "Fred Beckey style." This opportunity to follow his passion was one he couldn't resist.

Creating a niche

Alex made a name for himself – not by being loud and competitive, but by being focused and capable. He caught the attention of notable climbers, climbers who inspired him, simply by being out there and doing what he loves. This past April, he was awarded a 2015 Piolet d'Or, along with Tommy Caldwell, for a full traverse of the Fitz Roy massif. Over the course of five days, the duo climbed seven famous Patagonia summits with 13,000 feet of collective vertical gain. It was the first time it had ever been done. When he got back to civilization – at least to the part of Patagonia where climbers hang out and plan their next adventure – he met up with Northwest favorite, Colin Haley. Together, they came very close

to completing a one-day Torre Traverse – over Cerro Standhardt, Punta Herron, Torre Egger, and Cerro Torre. Harsh winds forced them to turn around just two pitches below the final summit.

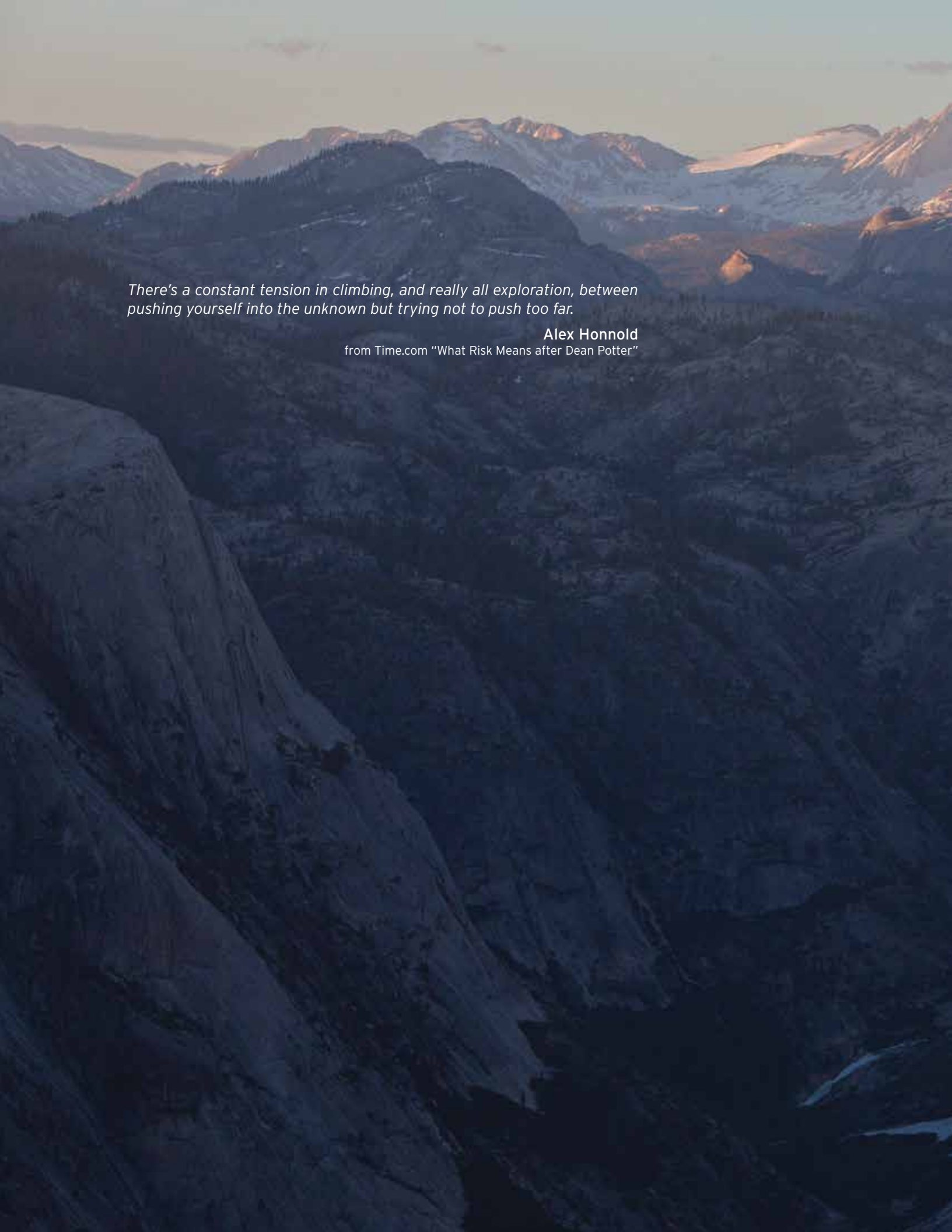
Recognition for Alex didn't start with his alpine ascents and traverses though. He's best known for his free solos of big walls – which he completes with record speed. Of course, he doesn't have ropes and safety gear to slow him down. He soloed Yosemite's Triple Crown – Mt. Watkins, El Capitan and Half Dome – in less than 19 hours, free-climbing 90% of the way in 2012. A few weeks later, he teamed up with Hans Florine and the two broke the record for speed climbing the Nose of Yosemite's El Capitan.

Alex is known for one other notable, or rather, noble accomplishment: his charity work. Three years ago, Alex started the Honnold Foundation, which focuses on bringing clean energy to impoverished communities around the globe. His climbs have brought him to developing countries like Chad and Namibia and opened his eyes to the daily struggles of so many who simply can't afford basic amenities – a stark contrast from his southern California upbringing. Not only does he appreciate opportunities that he has come across in life, but he knows how to share them.

"I have this opportunity," says Alex. "I may as well try to use it. To do as much as possible. I wouldn't call it a moral obligation, but it's something I'm able to do."

When I interviewed Alex, I was impressed, but not surprised, by how well-read he is. When not climbing and socializing (or being interviewed), he's reading. His main focus right now is the same

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There's a constant tension in climbing, and really all exploration, between pushing yourself into the unknown but trying not to push too far.

Alex Honnold

from Time.com "What Risk Means after Dean Potter"



Alex Honnold on the NW Face of Half Dome (VI 5.12a) Yosemite, CA. Photo by Jimmy Chin



Alex on a freesolo climb for REEL ROCKS. Photo courtesy of Alex Honnold

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as it's been for years: environmental non-fiction. It helped spur his foundation and his interest in solar-powered energy.

I asked why he picked solar. "It seems the most striking and obvious solution to environmental issues like climate change," Alex explains. "But it also helps transparent issues like lifting people out of poverty and closing the equality gap. It just seems like a nice way to help the world, and also help these people. And the thing is – especially in the third world – nobody cares about environmental issues because they're too worried about their actual life. Or they're too worried about meeting their basic needs and caring for their family and all those sort of things. So, it's good way to try and solve both issues at the same time."

Two birds with one stone. I like it. And as Alex points out, "that's a big part of climbing too. I love efficiency and doing things right. Doing things cleanly."

Alex likes to get the most out of anything he puts his mind to. That's another reason he decided to start a foundation now, rather than later. Part of his inspiration came from climber Ron Kauk – who Alex calls "an icon of the last generation."

"He started this nonprofit called Sacred Rok, which takes underprivileged kids from the local community and brings them on backpacks and day trips to teach them life skills, and gives them access to the outdoors," Alex explains. Ron created his

nonprofit after he retired from climbing, and Alex thought to himself, "if he started that when he was in his prime, and just devoted a little bit of attention to it, he could have turned it into something bigger. And I don't know if he cares about that or if those were his interests, but I saw it as 'I should start my foundation now, so that when I'm older and I'm even more passionate about that kind of stuff, it will already be in place.'"

So Alex put together his foundation – on somewhat of an experimental level – based on his own interests and passion in clean energy. "I'm three years in and I told myself, I'd do five years and see what it's all about. And it's pretty awesome." It's not his main focus right now, but it's been able to grow organically with the help of others. The tagline is "improving lives through sustainability."

It's not all hands-off for Alex either – he's been known to install a solar panel or two. He even pulled his Sufferfest adventure partner, Cedar Wright, into a project with him in the Kayenta Region of the Navajo Nation. For this one, Alex's foundation partnered with Elephant Energy to install solar power systems into homes and solar lights into schools. It was documented in Cedar and Alex's second Sufferfest tour. The first one brought them to Colorado where the duo climbed all the classic 14'ers, commuting between on bikes (no solar projects on that one). Taking part in an environmental project was a good way to end

their second biking tour, climbing iconic desert towers in the Southwest. Of his foundation work, Alex said, "I'm definitely getting into it more and more. I mean, by the time I'm 40, I'll be really psyched on this kind of thing. We'll see what happens by then. The foundation will sort of have a life of its own. If nothing else, there's no harm in trying."

Inspiring the future

There's no better validation to a decision made to drop out of Berkeley than your high school calling up requesting an inspiring speech about your life. And Alex's school did just that. "My high school teacher asked me to come back and tell the students that they didn't need to go to college to be successful." But Alex added, "That's because the program I went through in high school churns out Ivy League kids. Their parents are ultra-high pressure and you know ALL kids are going to become doctors and stuff. So, my teacher just wanted me to put it out there that you don't HAVE to go to college, to do something with yourself. As long as you're motivated and working hard and follow that in different directions."

So Alex went back to his hometown of Sacramento and gave a travel slide-show about climbing around the world to let the students know there are other options in life. "The thing is," he said, "I really value the education I got in high school - it was super-good for me, but I wish I hadn't gone to college at all. I kind of wasted one year of my life."

From a man who lives for efficiency, those are strong words - but Alex has made up for lost time - achieving more than most do in a lifetime, at 29.

He even has a book coming out this fall about his life, titled "Alone on the Wall." It's coauthored by writer and climber, David Roberts. "He took everything I've ever written," Alex said, "and then decided it was best to split the book into a two-person - a narrator voice, which is him, and my voice. He felt that my voice doesn't really explain how big or rad any of the climbs are or anything. He felt like I needed some sort of third-person voice to put things into proper perspective."

Alex might understate the nature of his climbs, but he certainly has a good perspective of the world. In brainstorming what to write for this article, I was originally going to say that Alex is a trailblazer for the next generation. Then I realized, I am just hoping that he will be. Not only did he step out of a traditional path to follow his passion, free-soloing walls nobody thought possible and breaking speed records and traversing iconic alpine ranges, he's found ways to help make the world a better place along the way.

If you want to learn more about the projects that Alex's foundation takes part in, or find out how to help, go to honnoldfoundation.squarespace.com. To learn more about his upcoming book, go to www.alexhonnold.com/aloneonthewall.



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BREAKTHROUGH: expect the unexpected

thank you from The Mountaineers

This spring, we had our most successful fundraising event to date – BREAKTHROUGH, on April 11. Thank you to all who attended and supported us.

Legendary mountaineer Fred Beckey was honored that evening with The Mountaineers *Lifetime Achievement Award* – presented by alpinist Colin Haley. Our featured guest was professional climber, Alex Honnold who conversed on stage with Pacific Northwest favorite, Mike Gauthier. Alex, Colin and Mike topped off the event with a surprise Tyrolean traverse over the crowd.

With your help, gross proceeds of more than \$300,000 were raised to support efforts to get young people outside to create a new generation of fierce protectors of our natural world.

Our heartfelt thanks and gratitude go to the following corporations who have generously provided sponsorship support to make this year's BREAKTHROUGH event possible. Please join us in acknowledging their support and dedication.

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A person is running on a dirt trail that winds through a hilly, brush-covered landscape. The sky is a mix of soft pinks, oranges, and blues, indicating sunset or sunrise. The runner is seen from behind, wearing a red shirt and dark shorts, with a backpack. The trail leads into the distance, following the contours of the hills.

Elevation & Elation

the fastest thru-running crew with a cause

by Jack Murphy

Joe runs up a section of the PCT. Photo by Michael Dillon

Joe McConaughy broke the speed record last summer when he ran the Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Canada. He did it to raise money for CancerCare, in honor of his cousin Colin, who died of Neuroblastoma at the age of two. Joe had the assistance of his three good friends, Jordan Hamm, Michael "Dills" Dillon, and the author of this piece, Jack Murphy. They put together a team called Run for Colin. The following is a journal re-count of their most challenging mishap and their final few days on the trail.

- Suzanne Gerber, Publications Manager

Day 52: White Chuck River, Washington

It's 1:50am. The faded beam of my headlamp illuminates the narrow trail ahead. A river rages somewhere in the distance, like static from an unseen television. My legs are jelly. My back is soaked in sweat. The rhythmic crunch of two sets of feet behind me keeps my body pushing forward. The crew – Jordan, Dills, and I – have been hiking for six grueling hours, gaining 2,000 feet in elevation before winding around Lost Creek Ridge, and now sinking back to sea level as we near the river

We were trying to convene with Joe, 51 days into his Pacific Crest Trail speed record attempt. The plan was to meet Joe at mile 2,522 of the PCT, but we vastly miscalculated the imposing eminence of the Cascade Mountains. We are now four hours past the scheduled meet up time, and still no closer to finding the PCT. The thought of Joe alone, freezing, hungry, without a tent, or a plan keeps our spirits trekking on long after our bodies beg for bed.

How did we get into this mess?

Rewind to Day 8: Lake Arrowhead, California

One week into the PCT record attempt. Joe's body has been holding out well – some shin splints, some blisters, some chafage, but nothing he can't handle. The crew has fallen into a groove. We awake around four, before the sun has even had a midnight snack. Jordan makes breakfast- oatmeal, bagels, fruit- while Dills and I pack up camp.

Joe is on trail by 5am. He wears a Camelbak loaded with two liters of water, about a thousand calories of food, maps, and a satellite phone. The crew drives to the next campground, highway crossing, Jeep road, or trailhead. There, we resupply Joe's pack and give him some shade, company, and bad jokes.

Right now, we're posted up at the end of a long, straight desert road outside of Lake Arrowhead. The lake is a myth though. I am playing guitar, waiting for Joe's bony frame to emerge through the sand and refracted heat waves. One thought I may never get used to – Joe has run 40+ miles every day for a week now, and has to keep doing this every single day for the next couple of months. How? Why? What makes a person want to do this?

...

Joe grew up in Seattle. As a boy scout, he went on many multi-day fifty milers on the PCT. In junior high, Joe discovered he was a runner. He starred on Boston College's track and cross country teams. His senior year of college, Joe began conceiving a trip that could combine his passions for distance running and multi-day camping trips. He came up with the crazy notion to run the Pacific Crest Trail.

story continues >>



Always on the move, Joe eats while hiking. Photo by Michael Dillon

In February of 2012, Joe got a phone call from his father. Devastating news. Colin McConaughy, Joe's two year old cousin, passed away. Colin had been suffering headaches for months. He was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a rare childhood brain cancer. Just nine days after his diagnosis, Colin passed. Joe vowed to honor and celebrate this short life by doing something incredible, and raising money for charity in Colin's name. He created a website- runforcolin.com- and set his intentions to hike the PCT faster than anyone has before while raising money for a noble cause.

Joe recruited his college teammate, Jordan Hamm, who had hiked the Wonderland Trail around Rainier, to lead the crew. In the spring, Mike Dillon and I completed the four-man Run for Colin team. Before we could really understand what we got ourselves into, it was happening.

...

Back on the PCT in Arrowhead, Joe collapses into his camp chair. He downs half a liter of Gatorade in one gulp. Jordan slaps a wet bandana on the runner's head, and Joe sighs deeply, eyes closed. There are salty lines on his forehead and cheeks. His scruffy beard is coming in patches on his neck. Two sweat lines on his Gortex shirt match his Camelbak straps. Joe's bare, veiny feet stick out like spotlights against his tan and filthy legs.

When he arrives at a checkpoint, Joe is comatose. But after some water, food, and rest, he is back to his joyful, goofy self. The man is possessed by some kind of reckless optimism and tapped into a bountiful energy that never runs dry. The crew makes PBandJs, fills his pack with fresh water and snacks, and discusses the next checkpoint as Joe rests for a painfully brief time. Soon he is back on trail, always looking ahead, moving to the next mile, next meet-up, next town, next step. We are all consumed by this restless desire to be on the go. To move, move, move! And we inch up the country at a record setting pace.

The infinite deserts filled with cacti and Dr. Seuss looking trees soon give rise to the Sierra Mountains. These vast, pristine, austere beauties watch over us with ancient fortitude. We are trying to conquer them, they know this. They laugh. As fresh water sources become more frequent around Mt. Whitney, Joe travels alone for longer time periods. He has two back to back forty mile days in the Sierras. The crew keeps moving, too,

constantly mapping, writing, filming, doing laundry, and eating... always eating.

In Shasta, we post up at a cafe in the shadow of that cylindrical, magic mountain. Joe takes a bath in Odell Lake, Oregon, beneath dalmatian mountains and a Monet sky. The crew takes turns running shorter stretches with Joe, keeping track of our mileage to see which crew member logs the most. The PCT is a runner's dream- two thousand miles of uncharted waters, new obstacles around every bend in the trail.

Joe's body ebbs and flows with the milage. A couple times a day, Jordan rubs his legs out with a pie roller - the same kind your grandma uses to make apple pie. Joe pops ibuprofen every morning. He eats about 8,000 calories per day, yet weight drips off his lanky body like sweat. His spirit never wavers, and we all pray his body can keep up with his endless energy.

Day 51: Lost Creek Ridge, Washington

Joe sets out for a fifty five mile day from our placid campsite near Stevens Pass. With no checkpoints until tonight's camp, the crew grabs a couple more hours of sleep. As we pack up the tent later that morning, Dills finds Joe's yellow and black satellite phone hiding beneath a sleeping pad. This means Joe has no way of contacting us, and we have no way of contacting him. We try not to think much of it at the time, but it haunts us in the coming hours.

Around five in the evening, Jordan, Dills, and I fill our packs with rations for Joe. He's in the midst of one of the toughest sections of the PCT, and doing many long miles without support. The crew sets out for what we believe is a nine mile hike to the PCT crossing. It's immediately uphill. I sweat through my t-shirt within thirty minutes. No one speaks a word until Jordan announces switchback number fifty. And this is only the beginning.

After what feels like hours, Dills asks how much longer. "Do you really wanna know?" Jordan asks. Yes. "Six and a half miles... by crow."

This is the first sign something's gone wrong. We bust out our headlamps as it gets dark, but still lose the trail twice in very quick succession. The path is littered with snowfields, and for unfathomable reasons, we keep crisscrossing back and forth over the mountain crest. The three of us continue long into the night,

even though we know we're lost, late, and exhausted. We simply cannot leave Joe out there. We have to try.

For over an hour, our Halfmile GPS app puts us consistently one mile from the PCT. We go down switchback after switchback as the trail becomes less and less maintained. We scooch under fallen tree trunks, hop over more, our legs jelly, our feet destroyed. At one point, the trail simply stops. Dills drops his pack and scales a tree trunk, but in the midnight blackness, cannot see a clear path. Jordan is particularly quiet. He feels nauseous, clearly dehydrated. Even though we know it's an awful plan, we have no choice but to make camp right where we've crashed, sleep a few hours, and wait until daylight to try again.

...

Joe is less than one mile away from us, but may as well be in another time zone. After a long day of running through the majestic, infinite Cascades, he reaches mile 2,552, where he expects his crew to be waiting with open arms. However, the mile marker is as lonely as the past fifty five. It's 11:30pm, and without any means of communication, Joe has no idea where his crew is.

He goes into survival mode. A true boy scout, Joe gathers huckleberry branches and constructs a makeshift blanket. He lays down on pine needles to stop his body heat from escaping into the ground. His dinner, usually 3,000+ calories, consists of a bag of nuts and lone Nature Valley bar. Joe drifts in and out of sleep for the next few torturous hours. He scribbles in his journal, 'if hell froze over, it would still be hell.'

At 4:09am, unable to shiver in the freezing, frigid night any longer, he starts hiking. His half-baked plan is to go fifty eight miles to the nearest ranger station, in which he'd hopefully get a sleeping bag, warmth, and sustenance. How he going to walk almost sixty miles through impossible North Cascade wilderness with no food,

on no sleep, is a total mystery.

Joe spends a total of nineteen hours on trail. He makes it those excruciating fifty eight miles by bumming snacks off everyone he meets. No man is an island, not even in the mountains, and the generosity of strangers literally fueled Joe's quest. The ranger gave him a sleeping bag and more food at the end of the day. Joe fell asleep only twenty miles from Rainy Pass, our next and final checkpoint of the PCT – where we finally meet up with him.

Day 53 (last day on the trail): Rainy Pass, Washington

We send Joe off one last time into the infinite wilderness, that just isn't infinite enough. Nestled among hazy, smoky mountains, we make Joe food for now and later as he changes and fills his pack. We are sixty miles from the Canadian border, and Joe is going to tackle the last stretch alone. No one wants to risk another Lost Creek Ridge mishap, so we load his night pack, AKA "goliath," with all the essentials that'll get him to Canada.

Joe completes the Pacific Crest Trail in fifty three days, six hours, and thirty seven minutes. This is faster than anyone has ever completed the 2,660 mile road of dirt and rock. At the Canadian border, we alternate between laughter and tears, all of us drained and at a loss for words. Joe tacks a photo of Colin to the monuments, parting ways with the picture he carried every mile of the PCT. We cherish the last few moments of this journey, inhaling the fresh mountain air, and reluctantly hike back to Manning Park. It is the first time that all four of the *Run for Colin* team are hiking together as one.

Jack Murphy is a writer & adventurer from Buffalo, NY. He currently lives in Spain, teaching English. Follow him on Instagram @jack_murphy_stadium.



The entire *Run for Colin* crew at the PCT terminus. From left to right: Jack Murphy, Joe McConaughy, Michael Dillon, Jordan Hamm. Photo courtesy of Michael Dillon

retrorewind

John Davis a true lifetime member

an excerpt from *The Mountaineers: A History*, with an introduction by Mary Hsue

John and Ruth Davis on Mount Olympus - 1961. Photo courtesy of John Davis Jr.

John Davis' imprint on Seattle is inspiring. In addition to being the founder of Davis, Wright, Tremaine law firm in 1944, John served on the boards of many nonprofits, including Whitman College, the Pacific Science Center, and the Seattle Symphony. The Mountaineers was also a recipient of John's strong commitment to giving back to his community. He volunteered as a leader at

The Mountaineers serving as board president in 1968, climbing committee chair in 1967, as an editor of the second edition of *Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills*, and as a co-founder of the Mountaineers Foundation. A lifetime member since 1959, John passed away in April of this year at the age of 101.



Equipment Check, John, Ruth and their six children, about 1960
Photo courtesy of John Davis Jr.

*"I love to go a-wandering, Along the mountain track,
And as I go, I love to sing, My knapsack on my back."*

"Dad loved to sing songs as a family when we were out of doors. One favorite song was The Happy Wanderer," Said Bruce Davis, one of John and Ruth Davis' six children. "As dad was close to dying, we as a family surrounded his bed and sang the song. Dad sang along with us. Mountain climbing was more than recreation - it was his spiritual practice."

It's clear that John Davis' outdoor experience was deeply important to him. "My brother and I were Boy Scouts and my dad was a Boy Scout leader," Bruce recalls. "Most of the Boy Scout leaders were Mountaineers. One of the leader's was Warren Spickard, a famous mountaineer and world-class climber." It was through that experience that John became very involved with The Mountaineers.

When Bruce was 14 years-old, he took The Mountaineers basic climbing course with his dad and mom. He recounts, "That summer Pete Schoening was leading a Mountaineers climb up the Emmons Glacier on Mt. Rainier. I remember Pete counseling us to breathe deeply to help deal with the elevation. Dad, mom and I made up one rope team, and we summited Rainier at 9:30 am." That was the first of several climbs they did that summer. "When I was 15 years-old we climbed the 6 majors together."

John was clearly a proud Mountaineer who was passionate about sharing his love of the outdoors with his family and with many Mountaineers members. In a little known story below, you'll see how The Mountaineers benefited from John's commitment to offering legal expertise at a time when it's clubhouse was threatened in 1982. The story below is an excerpt from (my favorite book) *The Mountaineers: A History*, published by Mountaineers Books.

Since its founding and until The Mountaineers moved into its current home in Magnuson Park, meeting places varied from Seattle Chamber of Commerce Hall to the Rialto Building downtown, to Pike street above the Green Apple Cafe on Capitol Hill.

The Mountaineers bought the building for eighty thousand dollars and in 1968, after much renovation, moved in. The board learned to live with the tavern music that drifted up from (the restaurant and tavern) below, and eventually the young Mountaineers Books operation also moved into the space. The club remained at that site for fifteen years without further discussion of moving, and might still be there if the property hadn't been so desirable for development.

But on December 27, 1982, the ax began to fall. Club officials were advised that the proposed Washington State Convention and Trade Center was considering a freeway lid on Pike Street as one of three potential sites. This would require taking over most of The Mountaineers property.

The state proposed to offer "fair market value," but that amount was far less than its actual resale value, and the convention center threatened condemnation if The Mountaineers refused to sell. Convention center developers quickly obtained permission to buy out all adjacent property owners, leaving The Mountaineers as the lone holdout.

President Errol Nelson wrote to the convention center, outlining The Mountaineers' requirements for selling: It could incur no capital debt or mortgage costs; future operating costs could not measurably exceed present operating costs; if temporary relocation were necessary, these expenses would be paid by the convention center.

The letter was ignored. Nelson was forced to report back to the club that the convention center apparently assumed there was no reason to listen to The Mountaineers because they could simply condemn the property. The club needed a heavyweight in the ring to slug it out for them.

John Davis weighed in. An attorney and past club president, Davis wrote to the chairman of the Washington State Convention and Trade Center Commission on February 16, 1983, advising him that if the center chose the freeway site it should be prepared to leave the club's property alone. Copies were sent to every member of the commission. This was no idle warning from a minor downtown lawyer but a shot across the bow from a high-powered gun. Many of the people Davis contacted were long-standing friends and knew his abilities in court. A prolonged fight could hold up the convention center, which was on a fast track. The commission responded quickly, saying the input of The Mountaineers was

story continues >>



The Mountaineers clubrooms of the 1960s located directly above the Caballero tavern. Photo by Tom Green, Mountaineers Books collection

important, but it was still considering which site to choose.

However, when Nelson asked to present the findings of an architect hired by the club to explore building options, he was granted only five minutes at the next meeting. At about this time, Davis was joined by one of the most unlikely allies in the long history of the club, downtown developer Martin Selig. A new club member, Selig had agreed to become part of the negotiating team for The Mountaineers.

Suddenly, the convention center found itself in a fair fight. Everybody knew Selig, who had a reputation for shrewd bargaining and courtroom dogfights from which he seemed to emerge unscathed.

Just as suddenly, an attorney for the convention center called Davis and asked for permission to negotiate on behalf of The Mountaineers to sell the club property in a complex real estate transaction in which the developer would purchase the property for resale to the convention center. Since the developer already owned most of the other property in the area, all would be sold together as a package deal.

The hitch was that the offer was for only \$200 per square foot. The Mountaineers had looked at the Norway Center near the Seattle waterfront as the most practical clubhouse site available, and the club needed \$278 per square foot, or \$2 million, for its property in order to buy the Norway Center. Selig sat down with Davis and the convention center attorney to spell out The Mountaineers' position.

The club prepared its own offer of \$2 million in cash for the Norway Center, contingent on being able to negotiate the sale of its Pike Street building by an August 15 deadline. Nelson advised the convention center and its lawyers that if negotiations were not completed by that date, The Mountaineers "probably would be content to stay at its present site" and hold up the convention center in court.

After complex negotiations, The Mountaineers agreed to sell its property to the developer for \$2,065,000, with the developer to pay the club's moving costs. The Mountaineers assigned its right to purchase the Norway Center to the developer, which was to buy the Norway Center for the club, then let the title pass directly to The Mountaineers. This complicated real estate agreement, which could only have been thought up by people with long experience in downtown property transactions, closed on September 8, 1983.

The Seattle Weekly newspaper summed up the negotiations on September 28: "Sidelight on Washington State Convention Center negotiations: It pays to know with whom you're dealing. A few months ago, Convention Center types were rather loudly offering to cajole, legally condemn or bully The Mountaineers into giving up their little clubhouse on the center site. Then the venerable outdoor group brought in its own pair of negotiator members: skyscraper king Martin Selig and high-powered attorney John Davis from Davis, Wright, Todd, Riese and Jones. The Mountaineers are now happily settling into a newly purchased home at the Norway Center."

The Mountaineers clubhouse remained at the former Norway Center at 300 Third Avenue West for some twenty five years until the organization moved to its current location in Magnuson Park. ▲▲



Sherman Rock about 1960, climbing lesson, John, Ruth and their six children.
Photo courtesy of John Davis Jr.

Backcountry Ski Lodges

by Craig Miller

Assiniboine Lodge. Photo courtesy of Assiniboine Lodge

British Columbia has many wonderful backcountry ski lodges, huts, and yurts. With colder, drier snow than our Pacific "Northwest," and mountains just as beautiful, there's no better place to ski and glide.

This February, we'll be venturing to Mount Assiniboine Provincial Park: a UNESCO World Heritage site. It's a magnificent place of shimmering alpine lakes, glacier-clad mountains, sky scraping peaks, and alpine meadows filled with wildflowers and larch trees. World renowned Mount Assiniboine, at an elevation of 12,000 feet, straddles the Continental Divide. The mountain sits in beautiful isolation and soars above its neighbors. It's distinctive for its size and pyramidal shape and is often referred to as the "Matterhorn of the Canadian Rockies."

If you want to experience it yourself, join us as we venture north to the historic Assiniboine Lodge. The outing is fully guided and catered. We'll helicopter in and ski out (with an option to helicopter out too).

Assiniboine Lodge includes a main lodge and several beautifully crafted log cabins. Built in 1928, Assiniboine Lodge is the first ski lodge in the Canadian Rockies. Retaining its rustic charm

of the past, the comfortable and cozy accommodations are the perfect base to explore the spectacular surroundings. The full service lodge welcomes guests for ski touring, fresh hearty food, saunas, warm showers, and goose down duvets. The Assiniboine family welcomes people with an adventurous spirit who are ready to be inspired by the mountains and beautiful meadows.

The Mount Assiniboine area gets several meters of deep powder snow each year. Assiniboine's fully certified ACMG ski guides will cater the day to suit your ability and interest. Your safety is the highest priority, and the lodge provides guests with all the safety gear you need (avalanche transceiver, shovel, and probe pole). The meadows and mountains around Assiniboine Lodge offer some of the best traditional ski touring in the Canadian Rockies. A classic day includes traversing scenic meadows with the great peak towering above you, climbing to a viewpoint, then sliding and turning through powder back to the lodge.

There is something for everyone: a short tour to Lizzie Rummel's historic cabin, an ascent of the Nublet with terrific views, powder turns in Terrapin Bowl, or a climb to the summit of Ely's Dome. From rolling meadows to alpine summits, Assiniboine has it all.

Explore the world with The Mountaineers Global Adventures – value, quality & friends

Rock Climb Greece

Oct. 30 - Nov. 10, 2015

Sport climb in Kalymnos, Greece on limestone/tufted walls. Amazing views of the blue Mediterranean Sea all day. Experience deep water soloing as a day adventure. All climbing walls are a short scooter ride away from our hotel. We will also have several days to sightsee in old Athens before returning home. **Price:** \$1,700. **Leader:** Loni Uchytel loniuchytel@msn.com

XC or Backcountry Ski the Canadian Rockies

February 15 - 21, 2016

Beginner to intermediate cross country and backcountry skiers

will love the Canadian Rockies' spectacular scenery and powder snow. Mt. Assiniboine is the "Matterhorn of the Rockies". Deluxe beautiful Assiniboine Lodge has a main lodge, indoor flush toilet, private bedrooms, heated log cabins, bedding and towels, hot showers, sauna, avalanche gear, and famous history! This outing is fully guided and catered. Helicopter in and ski out (option to helicopter out). **Price:** \$2,000. Register online by August 1. **Leader:** Craig Miller, craigmiller@comcast.net

Backpack Patagonia's Lakes, Volcanoes, and Rainforests

Feb 28 - March 10, 2016 with

optional extension to March 15. Explore and backpack for nine days on high ridges among innumerable lakes and 3,000-year-old rainforest trees to the huge Tronador volcano in Argentina's Switzerland - Nahuel Huapi National Park. Join an optional six-day extension into Chile on the famed 'Andes Crossing' ferry, dayhike high on the flanks of two more snow-capped volcanoes, and explore the unspoiled Cochamo valley, the "Yosemite of Chile." **Price:** \$3,000 + \$2,100 extension, due by Aug. 1, 2015. **Leader:** Cheryl Talbert, cascadehiker@earthlink.net.

Ski/Winter-Walk France

March 4-20, 2016

Begin by staying in and touring Annecy, "The Venice of France" before moving to a small traditional French village with a ski-in/ski-out hotel which with views of mountains in all directions. Finish skiing in Val d'Isère before going to Geneva to fly home. Land transportation, American buffet breakfast and multi-course dinners included, except dinner in Annecy and Geneva, shared rooms, and tour of Annecy. **Price:** \$2,750 **Leader:** Patti Polinsky, MeanySports@me.com, 206 525 7464

To sign up for a trip online, go to www.mountaineers.org and click on the Explore tab, then search "Global Adventures."

Ready for Adventure?

The Go Guide offers **just a sampling** of the thousands of Mountaineers trips, outings and events each year. Please go online to www.mountaineers.org to gain a fully-detailed view of all up-to-the-minute listings. Many of our activities - especially day hikes and urban adventures - are open to the general public who sign up as guests, as an introduction to Mountaineers activities.

If you are looking for camaraderie with a particular branch of The Mountaineers, check out the color-designated abbreviations at the end of each listing: **BEL** = Bellingham, **EVT** = Everett, **FH** = Foothills, **KIT** = Kitsap, **OLY** = Olympia, **SEA** = Seattle, **TAC** = Tacoma. **SIGN UP** for the trip or event of your choice online, and remember that you may register for an event or course in any branch, regardless of the one you belong to.

*note: Events and trips **require registration** unless otherwise noted. You will also need a current **waiver** on file with The Mountaineers to participate. Following are guides and keys to interpreting the trip listings.*

Mountaineers Ten Essential System

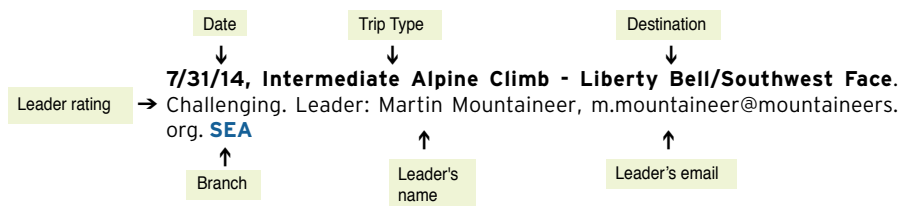
required on all Mountaineers trips:

1. Navigation
2. Sun protection
3. Insulation
4. Illumination
5. First aid supplies
6. Fire starter
7. Repair kit and tools
8. Nutrition (extra food)
9. Hydration (extra water)
10. Emergency shelter

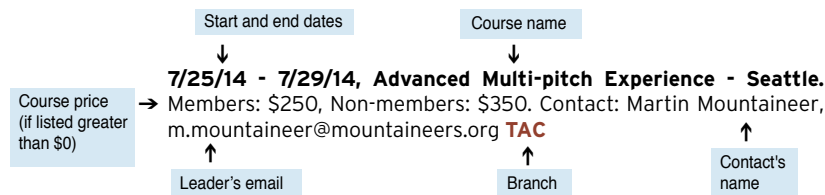
List of potential abbreviations:

CG—Campground	E, W, N, S—East . . .
USGS—US Geological Survey	GT—Green Trails
Hwy—Highway	I—Interstate
ITC—Issaquah Trail Cntr	Jct—Junction
MRNP—Mt. Rainier	NP—National Park
NWFP—NW Forest Pass (fee)	mi—miles
FS—Forest Service	P&R—Park and Ride
Rd—Road	RS—Ranger Station
RT—Round Trip	SP—State Park
SR—State Route	TH—Trailhead

ACTIVITY LISTING KEY



COURSE LISTING KEY



How to use the Go Guide:

We use the same category names as online, so if you find an activity or course you would like to sign up for, just go to our website and click on the *Explore* or *Learn* tab. You can then filter your search by category (for example, *Day Hiking*). We've recently updated our privacy guidelines, and are no longer listing the volunteer leaders' phone numbers in this public format, unless requested.

How do you use the activity section of the Go Guide?

We have been talking with volunteer leaders, committee chairs, and members to best understand how this Go Guide is used. Overwhelmingly, we are finding that most people use the website in order to find and sign up for activities and courses. What do you think? How do you use the Go Guide? We are looking into getting rid of our activity section - possibly as soon as the next issue - and want to hear from you if you feel this would have an impact on how you look for and sign up for activities.

If you have any suggestions, questions or feedback, please send an email to Suzanne Gerber, publications manager, at suzanne@mountaineers.org.

activities

Below is just a sampling of The Mountaineers activities. To see the full listing, go to www.mountaineers.org.

note: the activity section of the Go Guide may be going away. We acknowledge that these listings are often out-of-date and incomplete in print format. Contact Suzanne (suzanneg@mountaineers.org) if you have an opinion on the use of the Go Guide.

backpacking

7/3/15-7/5/15, Backpack - Shi Shi Beach (Easy) Leader: Dick Hayek, richardhayek@aol.com. **TAC**

7/10/15-7/12/15, Backpack - Park Butte (Moderate) Leader: Sarah Hess, hess@whidbey.com. **FH**

7/11/15-7/12/15, Backpack - Gothic Basin (Challenging) Leader: Nic Tormohlen, sneega@gmail.com. **FH**

7/24/15-7/26/15, Backpack - Chain & Doelle Lakes (Moderate) Leader: Dale Shoup, dshoup@comcast.net. **Foothills**

7/29/15-8/1/15, Backpack - Northern Loop (Mount Rainier) (Challenging) Leader: Heidrun Eberhardt, heioeberhardt@comcast.net. **FH**

7/31/15-8/2/15, Backpack - Second Beach (Easy) Leader: Dick Hayek, richardhayek@aol.com. **TAC**

8/10/15-8/14/15, Backpack - Eagle Cap Lakes Basin Loop (Oregon) (Challenging) Leader: Cheryl Talbert, cascadehiker@earthlink.net. **FH**

7/3/15-7/5/15, Backpack - North Fork Sauk River (Challenging) Leader: Monty Pratt, westseattle207@yahoo.com. **FH**

7/11/15-7/11/15, Day Hike - Spruce Railroad Trail (Easy) Leader: Dick Hayek, richardhayek@aol.com. **TAC**

7/18/15-7/19/15, Backpack - Kachess Ridge (Challenging) Leader: Brian Lewis, brianle8@gmail.com. **FH**

8/8/15-8/9/15, Backpack - Talapus & Olallie Lakes (Easy) Leader: Dick Hayek, richardhayek@aol.com. **TAC**

8/29/15-8/30/15, Backpack - Glacier Lake (Goat Rocks) (Moderate) Leader: Dick Hayek, richardhayek@aol.com. **TAC**

climbing

7/1/15-7/3/15, Glacier Climb - Mount Shuksan/Sulphide Glacier (Moderate) Leader: Mike McIntosh, free_2_climb@yahoo.com. **OLY**

7/1/15, Intermediate Alpine Climb - Liberty Bell/Southwest Face (Moderate) Leader: Sandra Corso, sandracorso@yahoo.com. **SEA**

7/2/15-7/5/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Mount Spickard/South Ridge & Mount Redoubt/South Face (Challenging) Leader: Lisa Loper, thelopers@comcast.net. **EVT**

7/2/15, Intermediate Alpine Climb - Liberty Bell & Concord Tower (Moderate) Leader: Sandra Corso, sandracorso@yahoo.com. **SEA**

7/2/15-7/3/15, Intermediate Alpine Climb - Forbidden Peak/West Ridge (Challenging) Leader: Stephen Bobick, sbobick2@gmail.com. **EVT**

7/3/15, Basic Alpine Climb - South Early Winter Spire/South Ar_te Leader: Fred Luck, f-luck@hotmail.com. **SEA**

7/3/15-7/5/15, Intermediate Alpine Climb - Squamish (Challenging) Leader: Takeo Kuraishi, takeo.kuraishi@gmail.com. **SEA**

7/3/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Snowfield Peak/Neve Glacier (Challenging) Leader: John Leo, leo@halfaya.org. **SEA**

7/4/15-7/5/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Snowfield Peak/Neve Glacier Leader: Fred Luck, f-luck@hotmail.com. **SEA**

7/5/15, Basic Alpine Climb - South Early Winter Spire/South Ar_te Leader: Jim Nelson, jim@promountainssports.com. **SEA**

7/9/15, Basic Alpine Climb - South Early Winter Spire/South Ar_te (Moderate) Leader: Mark Scheffer, mark_scheffer@yahoo.com. **SEA**

7/10/15, Intermediate Alpine Climb - Liberty Bell/Southwest Face (Moderate) Leader: Brian Starlin, brian.starlin@comcast.net. **SEA**

7/10/15, Intermediate Alpine Climb - South Early Winter Spire/West Face/Southwest Rib (Challenging) Leader: Ian Dickson, ipd@yellowleaf.org. **SEA**

7/10/15-7/12/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Mount Rainier/Emmons Glacier (Challenging) Leader: Marla Molskness, marla.molskness@gmail.com. **SEA**

7/11/15-7/12/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Little Tahoma/East Shoulder (Moderate) Leader: Colt de Wolf, colt0045@gmail.com. **SEA**

7/11/15, Basic Alpine Climb - South Early Winter Spire/South Ar_te (Moderate) Leader: Brian Starlin, brian.starlin@comcast.net. **SEA**

7/11/15-7/12/15, Crag Rock Climb - Snow Creek Wall/Outer Space (Challenging) Leader: Christopher Dessert, christopher.dessert@gmail.com. **SEA**

7/11/15-7/12/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Eldorado Peak/Inspiration Glacier (Moderate) Leader: Paul Gehlsen, paul.r.gehlsen@boeing.com. **EVT**

7/11/15-7/12/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Sloan Peak/Corkscrew Route (Moderate) Leader: Damien Scott, damien.r.scott@gmail.com. **EVT**

7/12/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Kangaroo Temple/North Face (Challenging) Leader: Brian Starlin, brian.starlin@comcast.net. **SEA**

7/12/15, Intermediate Alpine Climb - Mount Stuart/West Ridge (Challenging) Leader: John Leo, leo@halfaya.org. **SEA**

7/13/15-7/14/15, Glacier Climb - Mount Rainier/Emmons Glacier (Challenging) Leader: Mike McIntosh, free_2_climb@yahoo.com. **OLY**

7/18/15, Alpine Scramble - Del Campo Peak (Challenging) Leader: Hadi Al-Saadoon, bluehadoo@comcast.net. **SEA**

7/18/15-7/19/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Mount Shuksan/Fisher Chimneys (Challenging) Leader: Stephen Sugiyama, sss@qahill.com. **SEA**

7/18/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Kangaroo Temple/North Face (For Beginners (Getting Started Series)) Leader: Fred Luck, f-luck@hotmail.com. **SEA**

7/18/15, Intermediate Alpine Climb - Ingalls Peak/East Ridge (For Beginners (Getting Started Series)) Leader: John Leo, leo@halfaya.org. **SEA**

7/18/15, Basic Alpine Climb - The Tooth/South Face (For Beginners (Getting Started Series)) Leader: Suzy Diesen, sdiesen@wavecable.com. **KIT**

7/18/15-7/20/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Mount Rainier/Emmons Glacier (Challenging) Leader: Mindy Roberts, jefacita@gmail.com. **TAC**

Climbing 7/19/15-7/19/15, Intermediate Alpine Climb - Mount Stuart/West Ridge (Challenging) Leader: Logan Sailer, logan.sailer@gmail.com. **TAC**

Climbing 7/19/15-7/19/15, Intermediate Alpine Climb - Liberty Bell/Southwest Face (For Beginners (Getting Started Series)) Leader: Fred Luck, f-luck@hotmail.com. **SEA**

7/21/15, Basic Alpine Climb - South Early Winter Spire/South Ar_te (Moderate) Leader: Mark Scheffer, mark_scheffer@yahoo.com. **SEA**

7/24/15, Glacier Climb - Mount Baker/Easton Glacier (Moderate) Leader: John Bell, jbclimber@yahoo.com. **SEA**

7/24/15-7/26/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Snowfield Peak/Neve Glacier (Challenging) Leader: Jeffrey Wirtz, jrwirtz73@gmail.com. **TAC**

7/25/15, Basic Alpine Climb - North Twin Sister/West Ridge (For Beginners (Getting Started Series)) Leader: John Leo, leo@halfaya.org. **SEA**

7/25/15-7/26/15, Intermediate Alpine Climb - Mount Stuart/West Ridge Leader: Matt Palubinskas, mpalubinskas@gmail.com. **SEA**

7/25/15-7/26/15, Glacier Climb - Mount Baker/Easton Glacier (Moderate) Leader: Jon Ewen, jon.rewen@gmail.com. **OLY**

7/26/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Sloan Peak/Corkscrew Route (For Beginners (Getting Started Series)) Leader: John Leo, leo@halfaya.org. **SEA**

7/27/15, Intermediate Alpine Climb - South Early Winter Spire/West Face/Southwest Rib (For Beginners (Getting Started Series)) Leader: Jim Pitts, jim@pitts.org. **SEA**

7/28/15, Intermediate Alpine Climb - Ingalls Peak/East Ridge (Challenging) Leader: Mark Scheffer, mark_scheffer@yahoo.com. **SEA**

7/31/15-8/3/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Mount Olympus/Blue Glacier (For Beginners (Getting Started Series)) Leader: Jan Abendroth, jan.abendroth@gmail.com. **SEA**

7/31/15-8/2/15, Intermediate Alpine Climb - Mount Stuart/West Ridge (Moderate) Leader: Ann Ziegler, ziegler_ann@yahoo.com. **SEA**

8/1/15-8/2/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Slippery Slab Tower/Northeast Face (Moderate) Leader: Bob Keranen, keranen@hcc.net. **OLY**

8/1/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Kangaroo Temple/North Face (Easy) Leader: Michael Rowswell, mnrowswell@hotmail.com. **OLY**

8/1/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Sahale Peak/Quien Sabe Glacier (Challenging) Leader: Lisa Loper, thelopers@comcast.net. **Everett**

8/1/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Ingalls Peak/South Ridge (Moderate) Leader: Chase Gruszewski, cwgruszewski@gmail.com. **KIT**

8/2/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Kangaroo Temple/North Face (Moderate) Leader: Tim Nagle, climb.tim@gmail.com. **OLY**

8/2/15, Intermediate Alpine Climb - South Early Winter Spire/West Face/Southwest Rib (Moderate) Leader: Sarah Holt, sarah.hlt@gmail.com. **TAC**

8/5/15-8/9/15, Intermediate Alpine Climb - Southern Picket Range (Challenging) Leader: Andy Boos, alpineandy@yahoo.com. **EVT**

8/7/15-8/9/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Glacier Peak/Disappointment Peak Cleaver (Moderate) Leader: Jeffrey Wirtz, jrwirtz73@gmail.com. **TAC**

8/7/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Ingalls Peak/South Ridge (For Beginners (Getting Started Series)) Leader: Jim Pitts, jim@pitts.org. **SEA**

8/8/15-8/9/15, Intermediate Alpine Climb - Mount Thompson/West Ridge (Moderate) Leader: Ann Ziegler, ziegler_ann@yahoo.com. **SEA**

8/8/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Mount Rexford/West Ridge (Moderate) Leader: Matthew Mussallem, bizmattmuss@yahoo.com. **SEA**

8/13/15-8/16/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Mount Logan/Fremont Glacier (Challenging) Leader: Paul Gehlsen, paul.r.gehlsen@boeing.com. **EVT**

8/15/15, Glacier Climb - Sahale Peak/Quien

Sabe Glacier (Challenging) Leader: Mike Warren, mwarren@pivotalawgroup.com. **SEA**

8/16/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Kangaroo Temple/North Face (For Beginners (Getting Started Series)) Leader: Jim Pitts, jim@pitts.org. **SEA**

8/21/15-8/23/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Mount Spickard/South Ridge & Mount Redoubt/South Face (Challenging) Leader: John Leo, leo@halfaya.org. **SEA**

8/22/15, Basic Alpine Climb - South Early Winter Spire/South Ar_te (Moderate) Leader: Mindy Roberts, jefacita@gmail.com. **TAC**

8/22/15-8/23/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Sloan Peak/Corkscrew Route (Moderate) Leader: Paul Gehlsen, paul.r.gehlsen@boeing.com. **EVT**

8/22/15, Basic Alpine Climb - South Early Winter Spire/South Ar_te (Challenging) Leader: Marla Molskness, marla.molskness@gmail.com. **SEA**

8/23/15, Intermediate Alpine Climb - Cutthroat Peak/Southeast Buttress Leader: Hadi Al-Saadoon, bluehadoo@comcast.net. **SEA**

8/23/15, Intermediate Alpine Climb - Sloan Peak/West Face Leader: Jim Pitts, jim@pitts.org. **SEA**

8/29/15-8/30/15, Intermediate Alpine Climb - Chiwawa Mountain/Lyman Glacier (Moderate) Leader: Curtis Stock, cstock34@msn.com. **TAC**

8/29/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Ingalls Peak/South Ridge (Challenging) Leader: Marla Molskness, marla.molskness@gmail.com. **SEA**

8/30/15, Intermediate Alpine Climb - Ingalls Peak/East Ridge (Challenging) Leader: Marla Molskness, marla.molskness@gmail.com. **SEA**

7/30/15-7/31/15, Alpine Scramble - Wellesley & Sentinel Peaks (Challenging) Leader: Dave Morgan, go.climbing@gmail.com. **SEA**

8/15/15-8/16/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Ruth Mountain & Icy Peak Traverse Leader: John Bell, jbellclimber@yahoo.com. **SEA**

day hiking

7/3/15, Day Hike - Owyhigh Lakes (Mount Rainier) (Moderate) Leader: Bern Lamarca, mountain_babe@comcast.net. **Everett**

7/5/15, Day Hike - Noble Knob via Twenty-eight Mile Road (For Beginners (Getting Started Series)) Leader: Donna Kreuger, djkreuger@comcast.net. **OLY**

7/6/15, Day Hike - Eagle Creek to Tunnel Falls (Moderate) Leader: Michael Mellors, beta618@gmail.com. **OLY**

7/11/15, Day Hike - Annette Lake (For Beginners (Getting Started Series)) Leader: Donna Kreuger, djkreuger@comcast.net. **OLY**

7/12/15, Day Hike - Sol Duc Falls Leader: Dick Hayek, richardhayek@aol.com. **TAC**

7/19/15, Day Hike - Dirty Harrys Balcony (For Beginners (Getting Started Series)) Leader: Donna Kreuger, djkreuger@comcast.net. **OLY**

7/25/15, Day Hike - Oyster Dome (Moderate) Leader: Rhonda Bell, rjbell@gmail.com. **FH**

7/26/15, Day Hike - Mount Sawyer & Tonga Ridge (Moderate) Leader: Michael Mellors, beta618@gmail.com. **OLY**

7/26/15, Day Hike - Mount Dickerman (Moderate) Leader: Eldon Ball eldonball@juno.com. **SEA**

7/28/15, Day Hike - Snow and Gem Lakes (Moderate) Leader: Eldon Ball eldonball@juno.com. **SEA**

8/2/15, Day Hike - Grand Park (Mount Rainier) (Moderate) Leader: Bob Pankl, pankl@earthlink.net. **SEA**

8/4/15, Day Hike - Hidden Lake (Mount Rainier) (Moderate) Leader: Dick Hayek, richardhayek@aol.com. **TAC**

8/7/15, Day Hike - Spray Park (Moderate) Leader: John Krawczyk, chickentravell@yahoo.com. **KIT**

Day Hiking 8/8/15-8/8/15, Day Hike - Lake Stuart (Moderate) Leader: Donna Kreuger, djkreuger@comcast.net. **OLY**

Day Hiking 8/8/15-8/8/15, Day Hike - Wallace Lake (For Beginners (Getting Started Series)) Leader: Donna Kreuger, djkreuger@comcast.net. **OLY**

8/13/15, Day Hike - Deer & Sand Lakes (Easy) Leader: Dick Hayek, richardhayek@aol.com. **Tacoma**

8/15/15, Day Hike - Red Pass via Commonwealth Basin (Moderate) Leader: Eldon Ball eldonball@juno.com. **SEA**

8/15/15, Day Hike - Mount Sawyer & Tonga Ridge (Moderate) Leader: Rhonda Bell, rjbell@gmail.com. **FH**

8/16/15, Day Hike - Palisades Lakes (Mount Rainier) (For Beginners (Getting Started Series)) Leader: Donna Kreuger, djkreuger@comcast.net. **OLY**

8/27/15, Day Hike - Snowgrass Flats & Goat Lake Basin (Moderate) Leader: Greg Lovelady, gregl12@comcast.net. **Olympia**

8/27/15, Urban Adventure - Seward Park (Easy) Leader: Muriel Stoker, murstoker@hotmail.com. **SEA**

exploring nature

7/25/15, Day Hike - Yellow Aster Butte (Challenging) Leader: Stewart Hougen, sehouden@comcast.net. **SEA**

7/12/15, Day Hike - Mount Aix (Challenging) Leader: Gary Brill, garyalanbrill@gmail.com. **SEA**

8/24/15, Day Hike - Crystal Peak (Mount Rainier) (Moderate) Leader: David Shema, david.shema@gmail.com. **SEA**

scrambling

7/1/15, Alpine Scramble - Silver, Tinkham & Abiel Peaks (Challenging) Leader: Bill Borom, jabahut1234@yahoo.com. **SEA**

7/11/15, Alpine Scramble - Eagle Peak (For Beginners (Getting Started Series)) Leader: Tom Eckhout, teckhout@msn.com. **OLY**

7/17/15-7/19/15, Alpine Scramble - Mount Adams/South Spur (Challenging) Leader: Nancy Lloyd, nanlloy@gmail.com. **OLY**

7/25/15, Alpine Scramble - McClellan Butte (Moderate) Leader: Allan Maas, amaas@parametrix.com. **TAC**

8/1/15, Basic Alpine Climb - Mount Stuart/Cascadian Couloir (Challenging) Leader: Hadi Al-Saadoon, bluehadoo@comcast.net. **SEA**

8/21/15-8/23/15, Alpine Scramble - Mount Scott (Challenging) Leader: Steve Townsend, swtownsend@yahoo.com. **TAC**

8/22/15-8/23/15, Alpine Scramble - Dumbell & Greenwood Mountains (Challenging) Leader: Susan Shih, sueshih@live.com. **SEA**

8/28/15-8/30/15, Alpine Scramble - Mount Stuart/Cascadian Couloir (Challenging)

Leader: Craig S., craig.mountaineers@gmail.com. **SEA**

sea kayak

7/2/15-7/3/15, Sea Kayak - Doe Island (Moderate) Leader: Michael Kennedy, michael.kennedy5@comcast.net. **SEA**

7/5/15-7/5/15, Sea Kayak - Wauna to Cutts Island (Easy) Leader: Alison Reinbold, areinbold@comcast.net. **TAC**

7/14/15-7/14/15, Sea Kayak - Everett Harbor & Jetty Island (Moderate) Leader: John Morton, john.mplus5@gmail.com. **EVT**

7/26/15-8/1/15, Sea Kayak - God's Pocket (British Columbia) (Challenging) Leader: Michael Everett, mikeedvm@aol.com. **TAC**

8/1/15, Sea Kayak - Hammersley Inlet (Moderate) Leader: John Dunlap, j.b.dunlap1@gmail.com. **OLY**

8/19/15-8/29/15, Sea Kayak - KYUQUOT SOUND, VANCOUVER ISLAND, BC (Challenging) Leader: Lisa Johnson, lajbkayak@yahoo.com. **OLY**

8/22/15-8/23/15, Sea Kayak - Hope Island (Moderate) Leader: Mike Courts, mrcourts@gmail.com. **TAC**

7/8/15, Sea Kayak - Lions Park (Easy) Leader: Charlie Michel, michel99@btopenworld.com. **KIT**

urban adventure

7/8/15, Urban Adventure - Bellevue Botanical Garden (Easy) Leader: Storm Yanicks, syanicks@earthlink.net. **SEA**

7/12/15, Game Night and Snacks - Phinney Neighborhood Center (Easy) Leader: Eldon Ball, eldonball@juno.com. **SEA**

7/21/15, Urban Adventure - Green Lake (Seattle) (Easy) Leader: June Skidmore, juneskidmore@comcast.net. **SEA**

8/14/15, Game Night and Snacks - Phinney Neighborhood Center (Easy) Leader: Eldon Ball, eldonball@juno.com. **SEA**

8/18/15, Urban Adventure - Green Lake (Seattle) (Easy) Leader: June Skidmore, juneskidmore@comcast.net. **SEA**

For the most up-to-date activities, go to www.mountaineers.org and click on the Explore tab.

courses

Below is just a sampling of courses offered. See www.mountaineers.org for up-to-date listings.

climbing

7/22/15-8/2/15, Introduction to Alpine Ice - Everett - 2015. Members: \$300, Non-members: \$400. Contact: Ivan Breen, ivanbreen@yahoo.com. **EVT**

9/10/15-9/26/15, Self Rescue I Fundamental Techniques - Everett - 2015. Members: \$100, Non-members: \$150. Contact: Pie Schwegler, jon.schwegler@outlook.com. **EVT**

first aid

First Aid 10/3/15-10/18/15, MOFA Fall - Olympia, 2015. Mountaineering Oriented First Aid - Olympia, including CPR, First Aid and Mofa instruction, with integrated Scenarios- 32 hours. This class exceeds all the requirements of Wilderness First Aid(WFA). Members: \$150, Non-members: \$250. Contact: Bob Keranen, keranen@hcc.net. **OLY**

scrambling

Scrambling 10/31/15-10/31/15, Alpine Scrambling Course - Seattle - 2015. Members: \$250, Non-members: \$350. Contact: John Gilbert, johngilbertwentclimbing@hotmail.com. **SEA**

Scrambling 10/31/15-10/31/15, Alpine

Scrambling Course - Seattle - 2015. Members: \$250, Non-members: \$350. Contact: Kirk Peterson, strongcord@gmail.com. **SEA**

youth

Youth 7/6/15-7/10/15, Kitsap Forest Adventure Camp - Week 1- 2015. Kitsap Forest Adventure Camp - Week 1 Members: \$260, Non-members: \$310. Contact: Gala Lindvall, galabaskets@comcast.net. **The Mountaineers**

Youth 7/6/15-7/10/15, Summer Camp - Survivor Week - The Mountaineers - 2015. Kids will learn wilderness survival skills during this week of camp! Members: \$350, Non-members: \$425. Contact: Caitlin O'Brien, caitlino@mountaineers.org. **The Mountaineers**

Youth 7/13/15-7/17/15, Seattle Transportation - Kitsap Forest Adventure Camp Week 2 - 2015. Seattle transportation (Week 2) from the Seattle ferry dock to Kitsap Forest Adventure Camp and back again. Members: \$110, Non-members: \$110. Contact: Gala Lindvall, galabaskets@comcast.net. **The Mountaineers**

Youth 7/13/15-7/17/15, Summer Camp - Water Week - The Mountaineers - 2015. Kids will learn all about outdoor water activities during this week of camp! Members: \$405, Non-members: \$480. Contact: Caitlin

O'Brien, caitlino@mountaineers.org. **The Mountaineers**

Youth 7/27/15-7/31/15, Summer Camp - Mountains Week - 2015. Kids will learn all about Mountain activities during this week of camp! Members: \$350, Non-members: \$425. Contact: Caitlin O'Brien, caitlino@mountaineers.org. **The Mountaineers**

Youth 8/3/15-8/7/15, Summer Camp - Wilderness Discovery Week - 2015. Kids will learn all about Wilderness Discovery activities during this week of camp! Members: \$350, Non-members: \$425. Contact: Scott Hess, scottington@gmail.com. **The Mountaineers**

Youth 8/10/15-8/14/15, Summer Camp - Water Week - The Mountaineers - 2015. Kids will learn all about outdoor water activities during this week of camp! Members: \$405, Non-members: \$480. Contact: Caitlin O'Brien, caitlino@mountaineers.org. **The Mountaineers**

Youth 9/16/15-8/31/16, Explorers - Seattle - 2015. For youth ages 10-13 who are interested in spending time outdoors. Members: \$400, Non-members: \$400. Contact: Josh Gannis, joshg@mountaineers.org. **Seattle**

For the most up-to-date courses, go to www.mountaineers.org and click on the Learn tab.

Propelled by dedicated and skilled volunteers, all branches offer a number of courses and seminars. Many courses, such as climbing, scrambling, kayaking, backcountry skiing and others, require a set of learned skills to enjoy safely and follow a common curriculum from branch to branch. See course events in the "Go Guide" section of this magazine. Although our program curricula are coordinated to meet Mountaineers-wide standards and policies, each branch offers a slightly different flavor or character to its offerings. Though you may want to join the branch nearest to your home, you may join any branch of your choosing.

For current activities and links to branch websites, visit www.mountaineers.org.

BELLINGHAM

Vice Chair: Minda Paul
mindapaul@hotmail.com

Website: www.bellinghammountaineers.com

The Bellingham Branch was founded in 1983 with 50 members. You will find it tucked alongside the craggy expanse of the North Cascades. It features a vital, close-knit community courses in first aid, basic and intermediate mountaineering.

It is also home to one of the most popular Mountaineers getaway destinations, Mt. Baker Lodge. From the lodge, Mountaineers and guests can also recreate to their heart's content year-round. In addition to the courses noted above, Bellingham also offers hiking trips and snowshoe tours.

BRANCH MEETINGS: Public Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and Branch Committee Meetings are on the 4th Tuesday of each month. See the website for time and locations.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: We would love to have additional hike and snowshoe leaders along with backcountry ski and youth program coordinators. We are also currently looking for a branch treasurer and a branch chair-elect. Email Minda for details.

EVERETT

Chair: Matt Vadnal,
matthewvadnal@aol.com

Website: everettmountaineers.org

The Everett Branch of The Mountaineers was founded in 1910 by H.B. Linman, an Everett dentist. The new organization successfully sponsored over a dozen hikes that year. Its first outing was a hike to Lake Isabelle. Several hundred members of the public attended "stereopticon" presentations at the Everett

High School auditorium. Dr. Linman, his wife, and seven other branch members reached the summit of Glacier Peak in August 1910 during The Mountaineers' annual outing. The branch was not "officially" founded until 1911 when The Mountaineers charter was amended to provide for branches. This anomaly allowed the branch to hold its centennial celebration in 2010 and 2011!

Everett members share a wide variety of activities. Please explore the branch website or attend one of the branch monthly meetings to discover more about the branch.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS: To learn more about branch activities and meet some nice people who happen to be Mountaineers, attend the monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of most months and often feature a guest presentation. The meetings take summer off and resume in September. Members, guests and the general public are invited to join us at 7 p.m. in the Snohomish County East Administration Building, 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Rm F107 in downtown Everett.

The Everett Branch has unlimited volunteer opportunities for those who want to lead climbs, hikes, scrambles, ski tours, kayak trips and trail maintenance activities.

FOOTHILLS

Chair: Steve LeBrun,
stevelebrun@comcast.net

Board of Directors Branch Representative:
Cheryl Talbert
cascadehiker@earthlink.net

Website: foothillsmountaineers.org

The newest Mountaineers branch, founded ten years ago, the Foothills branch encompasses the eastside communities along the I-90 and I-405 corridors. The "little branch that could" sponsors activities and classes that focus on backcountry skiing, hiking, backpacking, first aid, navigation, and snowshoeing. Our signature programs include a comprehensive Backpacking Building Blocks (B3) backpacking course, and our Foothills Winter Program which offers Ski & Snowboard Mountaineering, Multi-Week Ski Lessons, Avalanche Awareness, AIARE Avalanche Certification and Glacier Travel & Crevasse Rescue courses.

Visit the Foothills Branch web page often for information on upcoming activities, film and speaker events, trips, classes and courses.

The Foothills branch also seeks to be a vital community presence in promoting safe and enjoyable recreation along with conservation advocacy.

Are there activities you would like to Foothills to do or do more of? More hikes or backpack or ski trips of a certain kind? Additional training in outdoor skills? Certain special events or speaker topics? Let us know, and we'll try to make it happen. Email branch chair Steve with your comments or ideas. Do you want to stay better informed about Foothills plans and

activities? Then consider a Foothills branch affiliation by accessing "Your Account" on the club website.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS: Branch Membership meetings as well as Branch Council meetings (open to all members) are held from time to time at Issaquah, Mercer Island or Bellevue locations. See the branch website and calendar for specific events and meeting dates. Membership meeting are social in nature, and typically include a guest speaker, outdoor-themed film, or a slideshow presentation of backpacking and global adventure trips taken by members.

VOLUNTEERING: Are you looking to develop or utilize your knowledge and skills while making new friends and working with like-minded outdoor enthusiasts? The Foothills branch welcomes new activity and trip leaders, course content developers and instructors, writers, and event planners. The branch offers the training and mentoring support to help those interested become a confident hike and backpack trip leaders. We also appreciate volunteer support with administrative tasks such as bookkeeping, publicity, website blogging scheduling - the sometimes mundane work vital to the success of the branch.

The Foothills Branch - your Eastside community of outdoor friends & recreationists.

KITSAP

Chair: Jeff Schreppe,
avdfan@aol.com

Website: Kitsap Branch on www.mountaineers.org

Founded on March 6, 2003 the Kitsap branch counts in its backyard the trails, waters, and mountains of both the Kitsap and Olympic peninsulas. Over slightly more than a decade this branch has developed very strong climbing, hiking, and sea kayaking programs and in the past year its conservation/education program has also grown significantly. Other Kitsap Branch courses and activities include snowshoe/winter travel, navigation, first aid, wilderness basics, hiking & backpacking basics, and trail running. The branch is currently exploring the possibility of starting a naturalist committee.

Our activity committees sponsor four or more stewardship efforts each year and recurring events include our spring and fall Salmon Safaris. The branch hosts an Annual General Membership meeting in the Silverdale Community Center every October. A major goal of the branch is to add more family activities in 2015.

Most branch meetings and courses are held at the historic Kitsap Cabin at 3153 Seabeck Highway, which is located on the Kitsap Forest Theater/Rhododendron Reserve property between Silverdale and Bremerton. However, some meetings may be held at other locations throughout Kitsap, Jefferson, or Clallam Counties depending upon the activity or the audience to be reached. Branch council

meetings are held quarterly on the third Thursday of the designated month at 5:30 pm. To find the day and location of the council meetings please check the Kitsap Branch event calendar of the Mountaineers website.

OLYMPIA

Chair: Greg Lovelady, GregL12@comcast.net

Website: www.olympiamountaineers.org

CHAIR: Greg Lovelady, GregL12@comcast.net

WEBSITE: www.olympiamountaineers.org

The monthly Potluck and Adventure Speaker Series returns on Wednesday, September 2.

SUMMER PICNIC: ATTEND THE BRANCH'S SUMMER picnic at Burfoot Park on July 23, starting at 6 p.m. This is a great opportunity to connect with your fellow Mountaineers and to get to know new members. However, you must register by emailing carlajonientz@yahoo.com by July 20 with you and your guest(s) names. This helps us know how much food to order. The branch will provide meat and a salad. You should bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert, and your tableware, beverage, chairs, and a blanket. You can bring your library books to return.

VOLUNTEERS OR NOMINATIONS FOR BRANCH OFFICERS. Contact Kim Pohlman at olynominees@gmail.com to volunteer or nominate others for the officers' committee positions of Chair-Elect, Treasurer, and Social Chair. Terms begin on October 1.

SERVICE AWARD: Provide your nominations for the branch service award by August 16 to Carolyn Burrenson at cbburrenson@q.com. Be sure to include a description of why this Olympia Mountaineer is special by describing their sustained and important contributions to the club.

PINS AND PATCHES: Check the branch website for details and pull your paperwork together for pins or patches you have earned. Send your completed paperwork (please don't use links) by September 15 to Kerry Lowry, kerryndon@comcast.net, 360-456-2694. Send your paddle pin paperwork to Jean Fisher at wb2jean@yahoo.com.

THE BRANCH OFFICERS meet the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St NW. The next meetings are July 8 and August 12. Members are encouraged to attend.

BRANCH LIBRARY: Contact Maxine at 360-786-6512 (8 a.m. to 8 p.m.) or maxdunk@comcast.net if you'd like to come by to browse, check out or return materials, or request items for pickup at the monthly potluck. The catalog is listed on the branch website and includes bear resistant containers to borrow.

SEATTLE

Chair: Timmy Williams,
mntnrtimmy@clearwire.net

Website: www.mountaineers.org/about/branches-committees/seattle-branch

The largest of our branches, Seattle gives lovers of the outdoors an opportunity to try out hiking, backpacking, scrambling, climbing, skiing, snowshoeing, wilderness navigation, first aid, family activities, folk dances, leadership training, naturalist study, photography, singles events, Retired Rovers activities, Under the Hill Rovers activities and sailing.

MEET THE MOUNTAINEERS: The Seattle Branch holds a Meet The Mountaineers open house at The Mountaineers Program Center periodically. These allow new members and prospective members to learn about The Mountaineers offerings. Keep an eye on the website for information about the next one.

FREE HIKING SEMINARS: Do you have the hiking or backpacking bug but you just need to know a little more about how to get started in the Pacific Northwest? The Seattle Branch offers a free Beginning Hiking Seminar most months at The Mountaineers Seattle Program Center. Though seminars are free, participants are urged to register for them on line to make sure there is enough seating.

INTRO TO MAP AND COMPASS: Learn the basics of how to keep from getting lost in the wilderness. See website to register.

GAMES NIGHT 5-8 & 6-12, Fri - Games Night and Snacks. 7 P.M. at the Phinney Neighborhood Center, 6532 Phinney Ave. N., #3. Bring a snack or beverage (with cups) to share & a game if you want. No sign up.

TACOMA

Chair: Scott Davidson,
scott.davidson@tacomamountaineers.org

Website: www.tacomamountaineers.org

The second largest of all seven branches, Tacoma maintains not only its own program center in the Old Town neighborhood of Tacoma, but a property close to Mt. Rainier, the Irish Cabin on the Carbon River. Tacoma Branch offers an extensive list of activities and courses, including backpacking, hiking, conservation, scrambling, climbing, first aid, snowshoeing, skiing, sea kayaking, sailing, bicycling, singles events, wilderness navigation, avalanche awareness, folk dancing, photography and family activities.

Learn more about us by visiting our branch website to view our activities, our events calendar and other offerings.

MEET THE TACOMA MOUNTAINEERS: Tacoma Branch holds a free meeting on the third Friday of every month (except June-August and December) to introduce prospective and new members to the branch. The meeting starts at 7pm with a presentation about The Mountaineers, followed by an interlude to talk with various activity reps (hiking, climbing, sea kayaking to name a few of the 22 activities).

MOUNTAINEERS-WIDE Players-Kitsap Forest Theater

Players - Kitsap Forest Theater

Theater Inspired by a Magical Place - Escape to the Kitsap Forest Theater! Join us for a grand adventure as you stroll down the forested trail to our unique and breathtaking theater. Our 2015 season brings two popular movies to life on our unique stage. These uplifting and family-friendly musicals will appeal to young and old alike - treat yourself to a "day away" in the forest and enjoy theater inspired by a magical place. Generations of theatergoers have enjoyed the scenic drive or ferry ride to the theater, and often come early to picnic under the firs before the trail to the theater opens at 1:00 pm. Walk on the 11:10 am Bremerton ferry and take our shuttle to the theater (reservations required - call 206-542-7815 to reserve your spot).



Summer 2015: Shrek - July 25-26, Aug 1-2, 8-9, 15-16. Based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks Animation film, Shrek is a TONY Award-winning fairy tale adventure featuring all-new songs, a sidesplitting story and great dancing. Shrek brings all the beloved characters you know from the film to life on stage, and proves there's more to the story than meets the ears.

Tickets are available for shows at www.ForestTheater.com/tickets. Purchase our two-show package and save even more. There is no fee for purchasing tickets on-line. Tickets also available through The Mountaineers (by phone and in person).

Help Wanted

The Mountaineers Players are looking for help with set building, costume sewing, prop collecting, cooking for cast and crew, etc. Please contact us at players@Foresttheater.com or call 206-542-7815 to join a fun and supportive community and help us produce the best outdoor theater in the area.

The Kitsap Forest Theater, Kitsap Cabin and Yurt are available for rental. Please see the "Kitsap Cabin" section of the Go-Guide for further information about rentals or call 206-542-7815 for more information.

For current activities and links to branch websites, visit www.mountaineers.org.



Baker Lodge in August. Photo by Rich Lawrence

Baker Lodge

The Mountaineers Mt. Baker Lodge is nestled in the spectacular beauty of the North Cascades and just a short walk from the upper access to eight ski lifts of the Mt. Baker Ski Area (www.mtbaker.us). The ski lifts are closed for the season but there could be adequate snow for backcountry ski touring. Visit the Baker Lodge website (www.mountaineers.org/about/locations-reservations/baker-lodge) for our current schedule, rates and other information about the lodge and call Bill Woodcock, 206-457-5452 or Dale Kisker, 206-365-9508 if you have any questions.

Summer Schedule: Come to the lodge in Aug. & Sept. and enjoy hiking on a great variety of trails. Numerous trails are within walking distance or a short drive from the Lodge. Many are suitable for children. Depending on the amount of snow on trails the summer hiking season usually starts late July and ends Sept. 29th. On the Baker Lodge website (address above) click on "Calendar and Reservations" for our current schedule and rates.

Reservations & Cancellation: To make a reservation click on "Calendar and Reservations" on the Baker Lodge website. Payments are made at time of reservation with credit card. Register online through Brown Paper Tickets (www.brownpapertickets.com/profile/10559) or call the club (206) 521-6001. When registering through Brown Paper Tickets you must register for each night you will be staying at the lodge. For most weekend events, reservations close at noon on Thursday before the weekend. Cancellations must be made by the reservation closing date/time to obtain a refund.

The lodge usually is open by 7 or 8 p.m. on Fridays. Call the hosts listed on the schedule if you have questions about the lodge or opening time. If you arrive after 10:30 p.m. be prepared with a flashlight or headlamp. Each person should bring a sleeping bag, pillow, lunches (unless provided), personal gear, and a flashlight and/or headlamp. Unless otherwise indicated the lodge provides Saturday & Sunday breakfasts and Saturday dinner. Baker Lodge welcomes the public, all ages and abilities. Families

with children 5 years or younger should call the host prior to registering to learn about accommodations, hazards, diapers, etc

Groups at Baker: The Mt. Baker Committee encourages groups, such as scouts, school/youth, or family and friends gatherings, to consider using the lodge whether or not they are members. Not only does the area offer many options for outdoor activities, but also it is especially appropriate for experiential classes in outdoor related skills and activities. Contact Arlene Woodcock (206-457-5452) (happyhen2000@gmail.com) for group reservations.

Get involved: Do you enjoy hosting people at parties, special events or in your home? Do you enjoy being a part of a team that puts meals together for others? If so, Baker Lodge may be your next opportunity. The Baker Lodge Committee is looking for energetic individuals/couples/families to assist with general operations throughout the year. You can become hosts for Baker Lodge with just two weekends of training. Specific duties range from opening and closing the lodge, assisting with and/or supervising meal preparations, and coordinating lodge activities--the possibilities are limited only by your imagination. We are interested in exploring new ideas for maximizing this "beautiful little gem of a lodge" that sits in the shadow of Mt. Baker with a fantastic view of Mt. Shuksan. Couples or friends can team up with other couples or singles to serve as hosts. Families could come together and welcome other families for a family weekend, etc. Hosts stay for free!

Driving directions: Drive N. on I-5 to Bellingham, take Exit 255, the Mt. Baker Highway, and go E. on SR-542 about 54.6 mi. to the ski area. At the Firs Chalet, turn right onto the one-way loop road that leads 0.3 mi. to the lodge parking lot on the right side of the road. Park in the lot and walk the trail (driveway) on your right to the lodge. The lodge is in the trees and difficult to see from the road. Driving time is approximately 1½ hours from Bellingham and 3 hours from Seattle.

Kitsap Cabin

Kitsap Cabin, built mostly by Mountaineers women in 1918, is the social hub of the Kitsap Forest Theater, the Kitsap property and Kitsap Branch. It is the spring and summer home base for The Mountaineers Players as they rehearse and perform at the beautiful Kitsap Forest Theater. It is also the home base of the Kitsap Forest Adventure Camp and The Mountaineers Kitsap Branch. The Kitsap yurt was installed on the property several years ago and is a perfect meeting and gathering space.

Kitsap Cabin and yurt are surrounded by the Rhododendron Preserve, a 460-acre private reserve operated by The Mountaineers Foundation. The preserve is one of the largest remaining parcels of Puget Sound Lowland old growth forest in the Puget Sound Basin, and acts as a buffer protecting the Kitsap Forest Theater and salmon spawning creeks from encroaching development.

Rent the Kitsap Forest Theater, Kitsap Cabin and/or the Kitsap Yurt: Are you looking for a unique venue for your event or celebration - weddings, meetings, birthday celebrations, corporate events, concerts, workshops, reunions or retreats?

The Kitsap Forest Theater, Kitsap Cabin and the Kitsap Yurt are perfect "getaways" for you and your family, friends, business or group. Kitsap Forest Theater is a perfect venue for outdoor weddings, concerts, performances and presentations. Kitsap Cabin is outfitted with wireless internet, tables, benches, a fully functioning kitchen, dishes/silverware/glasses etc., fireplace and outdoor ambience. The Kitsap Yurt is a 27' diameter yurt with an oak floor and electricity and lighting. We also have a bunkhouse with bunk beds and mattresses (guys and gals side) and many tent sites around the property if you want to rent for an overnight event.

There are hikes available on the property (20 acres) and on the adjacent Rhododendron Preserve. "Big Tree" is a popular destination and is one of the largest old growth firs on the Kitsap peninsula.

During our show season (spring and summer) we have limited weekend availability, but there are several available summer weekends, and the fall is a great time to visit this unique and special place. During the week we have much more availability. Get away from the city and stress and enjoy our peaceful and magical venue.

Please contact us for details and pricing: 206-542-7815

Meany Lodge

The Meany Family Hike/Bike Weekend:

Come up to hike, bike or just lounge around. You would be surprised just how peaceful Meany can be during the summer. And you can drive all the way to the lodge no less

Do you have friends that you have been trying to come up, but they don't want to commit to a Winter Weekend? Well this is one of the best ways of getting them to come up and see what Meany is all about without the winter luggage. Go to www.meanylodge.org or the following link:

www.meanylodge.org/activities/family_weekend/family_weekend.html

Work Parties: Check out the workparty page and see what they are proposing to do. If you are interested in helping contact Ray Nelson

Meany Rentals - Meany is available for private rentals and Mountaineers events. If you want a nice secluded cabin for a retreat or seminar, visit our website at www.meanylodge.org Go to "Contacts" and send the chair an email telling him that you are interested; we will check the Meany calendar. You can also make a reservation online through Brown Paper Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/5822>

If you are part of a group that is looking for a place to hold a meeting, retreat, reunion or other kind of overnight get together, PLEASE consider bringing your group to Meany.

We are open to groups as small as 12-15 folks and can make room for up to 90. We're planning to keep our prices at \$45/person/night inclusive of the same quality food we always serve.

Stevens Lodge

The Mountaineers has a fantastic facility for members to enjoy at Stevens Pass. Located just above Lot 4 at the Stevens Pass Ski Area, Stevens Lodge is one of the only ski-in, ski-out facility on the pass. We are open every weekend from December to April, including holiday Mondays in January and February.

The lodge has three dorms with 12-24 bunks in each dorm. Bathrooms are shared and there is a shower in each restroom. The main living area has a large dining room and lounge area with a fireplace. Meals are included in your price of lodging: breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday and dinner on Saturday. Meals are prepared by volunteers and served family-style at a posted time. Please note any dietary restrictions when making your reservation.

Guests are asked to contribute to the running of the lodge by picking up at least one "chore" a day, which can be shoveling snow, serving dinner or hauling firewood. This community effort is what keeps the lodge ticking.

It's easy to make a reservation to stay at Stevens Lodge during the season. Visit The Mountaineers website and click through to Stevens Lodge, then register under "Lodges and Centers." You can also make a reservation online through Brown Paper Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com/profile/248152

We welcome individuals as well as group reservations for birthday parties, youth groups, etc. Please call Member Services at 206-521-6001 if you have any questions about visiting Stevens Lodge.

Cancellations for lodges and outdoor centers must be made before noon of the Thursday prior to the weekend of the reservation. They will be refunded minus a small service fee.



Kitsap Forest Theatre sign (now spelled 'theater' in all publications). Photo by Kristina Ciari

businessdirectory

Mountaineers Business Members are a community within the community of The Mountaineers - all sharing the same interest and passion for the outdoors. The Business Membership gives business owners *who are already Mountaineers Members* the chance to showcase their services and support for our organization in front of our entire membership. We thank the following Mountaineers business owners for their support.

ARCHITECTURE

Grace Kim (Joined 2001)
Schemata Workshop
www.schemataworkshop.com
grace@schemataworkshop.com
206-285-1589

AUTOMOTIVE

Lee Wilcox (Joined 1995)
Lynnwood Auto and Truck Service
www.lynnwoodautoandtruckservice.com
lynnwoodautotruckservice@gmail.com
425-776-5888

CONSTRUCTION

Louie Coglas (Joined 1987)
Louie Company - Roofing Specialist
www.LouieCompany.com
earthhumor@comcast.net
206-963-4521
WA Lic #: LOUIEC902C6

Matthew Eads (Joined 2007)
Terrain Build, Inc.
www.terrainbuild.com
matt@terrainbuild.com
206-607-7761

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Mearl Bergeson (Joined 2011)
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management
www.fa.ml.com/mearl_bergeson
mearl_bergeson@ml.com
206-464-5632

Diane Jochimsen, CFP® (Joined 1987)
White Raven Financial Services
www.whiteravenfs.com
diane@whiteravenfs.com
360-653-0198

Leah Schulz (Joined 2006)
Tri Star Finance
www.leahdschulz.com
leah@TriStarFinance.com
206-523-1288

LEGAL SERVICES

Justin Elder (Joined 2014)
Justin Elder Law Office PLLC
www.justinelderlaw.com
justin@justinelderlaw.com
206-818-2406

MAPS

Coburn Family (Joined 2008)
Green Trails Maps
www.GreenTrailsMaps.com
alan@greentrailsmaps.com
206-546-6277

MIND AND BODY

Dhammadinna Davis (Joined 2013)
Bodhiheart Sangha Buddhist
Meditation Center®
bodhiheart.wordpress.com
bodhi.community@gmail.com
206-383-4959

Hope Maltz (Joined 2007)
Moving Into Comfort -
Feldenkrais Method®
www.MovingIntoComfort.com
hope@MovingIntoComfort.com
425-998-6683

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Barbara & George Gronseth (Joined 2009)
Kayak Academy/Issaquah Paddle Sports
www.kayakacademy.com;
www.issaquahpaddlesports.com
info@kayakacademy.com, 206-527-1825

Jennifer Robinson (Joined 2014)
Deep Forest Challenge LLC®
www.deepforestchallenge.com
jenniferrobinson@deepforestchallenge.com
253-970-0807

REAL ESTATE

Leah D. Schulz (Joined 2006)
The Force Realty
www.RealEstateByLeah.com
leah@leahdschulz.com
206-523-1288

Want to become a Mountaineers Business Member?

To find out more about increasing your small business' visibility with The Mountaineers membership and to become a supporting business member of this group, please contact our Membership & Marketing Manager, Kristina Ciari, kristinac@mountaineers.org or 206-521-6023.

As in all things Mountaineers, the idea for a Business Member category was started by a dedicated volunteer and board member, Leah Schulz, who saw this as a means to strengthen support for the organization and the benefits of Mountaineers membership. To find out more about opportunities to get more involved with this group, contact Leah: leah@leahdschulz.com or 206-523-1288.

And remember: since The Mountaineers is a mission-based and volunteer-driven 501(c)(3) non-profit, your membership dues are tax-deductible.

In recognition for their increased level of support, Business Members - in addition to all the regular benefits of Mountaineers membership - receive the following:

- Business Member Directory listing on the Mountaineers website, including link to business member's website
- Business Member Directory listing in the *Mountaineer* magazine
- A 25% discount on advertising in the *Mountaineer* magazine
- Business Member Directory included in new-member packets distributed to all new members
- Opportunity to publicly showcase support of Mountaineers organization

Certainty

By Steve Scher

A climber assesses his route on Unicorn Peak, Mount Rainier National Park. Photo by Ida Vincent

A climber, staring up from below, already has the summit in mind. The cracks and crevices might be as thick as an interstate on a highway map or as faint as a Jeep trail. The route will emerge.

Training, strength, conditioning, practice – these are the reliable vehicles a smart athlete commandeers to make it to the top.

Certainty powers the journey. This is the certainty that comes from inside, where she has tested and retested herself until she knows her skills and her limits.

Because outside, beyond the training and the practice, out in the world where wind can howl and snow can blow, there is no certainty.

Rock is deceptive. Andesite cracks. Granite chips. Schist splits.

Glaciers shift. Crevasses widen. Trails vanish.

A stumble here. A misstep there. You never know. The very earth can grind against itself and slough off clinging souls like so much dry skin.

In language, you might read that the opposite of certainty is doubt. Doubt will hold you at base camp. Doubt could undermine all that work you've done to get to the starting point. Because you could think that doubt means that there is certainty to be had all around you, but you don't have it.

Philosophers of all stripes have been grappling with certainty for centuries, and all temper certainty with doubt.

Bertrand Russell, "In all affairs it's a healthy thing now and then to hang a question mark on the things you have long taken for granted." Benjamin Franklin, of course, opined, "in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." Franklin is right about the first, but more than a few have managed to avoid the second. But leave that.

The early 20th century logician Ludwig Wittgenstein has written a whole book, "On Certainty." He is most stressed by the notion. He wonders if holding the certain idea that unicorns do not exist calls into question the existence of, say, armchairs as well.

Wittgenstein himself turns inward at the end. "I act with complete certainty, but this certainty is my own."

On a mountain, backed by training, testing and the understanding of our own limits, that kind of certainty can be a guide.

Without something beyond intuition and feelings to go on, who is to be trusted beyond yourself. Woe be to an acolyte of a rigidly certain leader. The followers of Mao and Stalin can attest to that.

Einstein believed in intuition and inspiration. He may have felt he was right, he has written, but he didn't know it. For that, he turned to science. And science is full of uncertainty and doubt.

The problem today is that the certain people aren't thinking scientifically. A hundred and sixty years ago Charles Darwin had the same problem.

"Ignorance more frequently begets confidence than does knowledge."

Where the sword has given way to the power of the purse and the law, those enamored of their certainties call down an avalanche of punishments.

Better that certainties and doubts walk hand in hand. Tony Schwartz, the journalist and author says it well. "Let go of certainty. The opposite isn't uncertainty. It's openness, curiosity and a willingness to embrace paradox, rather than choose up sides."

Now, that kind of thinking won't convince the zealots, but it will get you to the summit. If you've trained for it.

WHAT'S MISSING FROM THIS PICTURE?

(besides the top of the mountain.)

ANSWER: YOU

Get in the picture! Pick up **MAP 332S – Mount St Helens National Volcanic Monument**, brand new for 2015. Waterproof, tear resistant, ultralight, solar powered, and just mapped by Green Trails boots on the ground crews in 2014. Available at Mountaineers bookstore and all the best outdoor stores.