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Welcome,

We see LeaderLines as a way to celebrate accomplishments, promote learning from our experiences, and deliver resources and timely updates to you, our volunteers who serve as the engine for our mission.

To that end, we have added a few new elements to LeaderLines. We have a new feature called "Leader Spotlight," which will regularly highlight you, our leaders! Let us know if you have a leader to nominate for a future edition. Because we are an outdoor organization dedicated to learning, we will now feature a monthly "Lessons Learned" story to learn from our own incidents and near-misses in hopes of preventing them from recurring. And as always, we've included useful articles and timely updates for upcoming events, including a Mountaineers-branded hoppy beverage (*sans gluten*)!

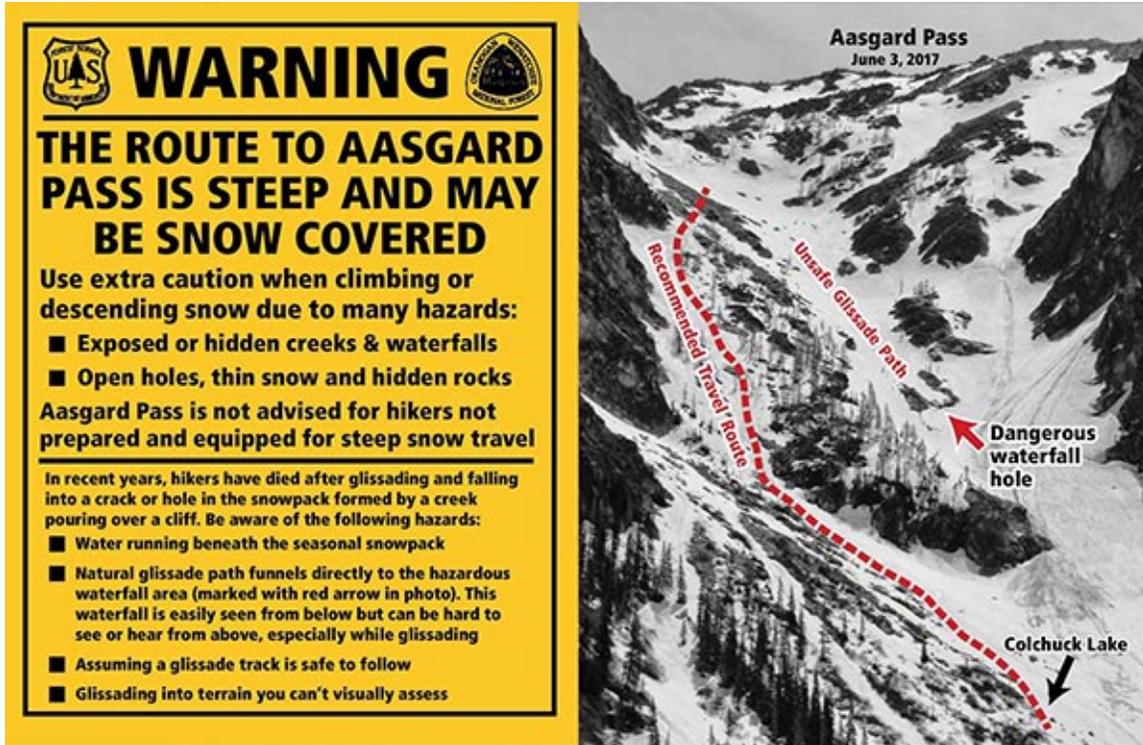
We hope you like our new features and enjoy this issue of LeaderLines.

**Sara and Steve,
Education Managers**

Leader Spotlight

Leader Spotlight is a monthly showcase of the incredible volunteer leadership at The Mountaineers. It is a platform for our leaders to share tips and tricks, favorite memories, and inspiration for new and rising leaders. Meet this month's featured leader: Charlie Michel.

[Read more](#)



Lessons Learned - Steve's Near Miss in Aasgard Pass Brings Awareness to Hidden Hazard

Peter Dunau, Comms Specialist

As many of you know, we recently published Steve Smith's story "[Lessons Learned - Glissading into a 30-foot Hole - Aasgard Pass.](#)"

The response has been pretty astounding. To date, the blog has been viewed 22,708 times with hundreds of shares on social media. Local new outlets took note, leading to an interview with [NWC Life Channel](#) and an upcoming story with KOMO, as well as other requests from various media outlets.

Steve's blog came at the heels of two recent tragedies due to the same hazard. In hopes of preventing future disaster, the community - from new outlets to climbing forums to Facebook users - seized the opportunity to spread the word about Steve's safety takeaways.

In the wake of such overwhelming interest, it seems that there's an even bigger lesson to be learned from Steve's experience: the benefits of sharing one's close call humbly and openly to improve the safety of others.

Of course, the harrowing nature of Steve's story certainly helped it gain visibility, but to me, the readers' words of both support and gratitude in the comments section said a lot - namely that people want to help one another stay safe outside.

On that note, I really look forward to Steve's "Lesson Learned" feature in Leader Lines, and I highly recommend checking out our [Safety blog](#). (Many thanks to Safety Chair Dave Shema for his great posts!). If you saw Steve's presentation at our last Leadership Conference, you'll recall that he focused on the importance of sharing the learning from incidents and near-misses in order to create an organizational culture focused on learning from experience.

Working together to discuss safety is what leads to tangible change. Thanks to the combined efforts of The Mountaineers, Leavenworth Mountain Association, the National Forest Service, and the family of one of the victims, there is now a cautionary sign at the Bridge Creek trailhead notifying people about the hazards of Aasgard Pass.



Mountaineers Moment: A Chance Connection During Intense Basic

While helping instruct during our Intense Basic Climbing course, The Mountaineers CEO Tom Vogl has an unexpected encounter which brings together Mountaineers past and present.

[Read More](#)

Quick Hits

- **Free tonight?** We have a few spots left in our [Small Party Self-Rescue Refresher!](#)
- **Teaching Adults:** Last month we brought you "Andragogy: the art of teaching adults", and here is the [much anticipated part 2](#) by Patrick Feeney (originally published

- **A bold new project benefiting The Mountaineers:** We're excited to [introduce Kick Step IPA](#), a bold and distinctly Northwest India Pale Ale by Ghostfish Brewing, benefiting The Mountaineers! Try it at our launch party July 12, 2017.
- **Share your story:** We're again [looking for speakers](#) for our Walking in the Wild series.
- **Are we there yet?** [A helpful visual](#) from Mountaineers Books author Brendan Leonard to answer that age old question.
- **Communication:** [The Intangible Elements of Leadership](#).
- **Become a Hike or Backpack Leader:** We have two upcoming seminars to help you step up as a hike or backpack leader. [Join us!](#)
- **Travel the world** as a [Mountaineers Global Adventures leader](#).
- **Incredible human feats:** In case you missed it, Alex Honnold just completed his long time goal of [free soloing El Cap](#).
- **And in local human feats:** [Two Washington men make history](#).

Be Safe Out There

Or to put it more accurately:

Assess and Manage the Risks of Your Adventures!

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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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