



# WRRRA Spring 2024 Newsletter

## White River Recreation Association

REPRESENTING FEDERAL LAND PERMITTEES IN THE UPPER WHITE RIVER VALLEY, MT BAKER-SNOQUALMIE NATIONAL FOREST SINCE 1929

### WRRRA 2024 Spring Dinner – A Spring Break Celebration!

This year’s spring dinner will be held on Saturday, April 20, at the Greenwater Community Center. The event will have a Spring Break theme, and will feature Caribbean themed food and beverages. It will be catered by Hanny’s Catering of Greenwater, who have successfully catered our last several dinner events.

Social hour starts at 6:00pm, with dinner at 7:00pm. There will be short business updates after dinner, but this will largely be a social event.

We will have door prizes at the end of the evening.

Admission is only \$40 per person. Reservations are available for purchase online or via check.

Go to the Membership page on WRRRA.net and select the Online Membership button towards the top of the page, which takes you to the square payment site. Electronic recipients—here’s the [link](#).

Or, pay by check (made out to WRRRA) and mail it to:  
WRRRA Treasurer  
c/o N. Eric Carlsen  
PO Box 3057

Port Angeles, WA 98362-0338

The \$40 price includes tax and tip.

The maximum number of WRRRA members and guests that can be served is 100. You’re most likely to have a space if you pay by the deadline of April 15th.

### President’s Message

Members, its been a strange winter and spring so far, in terms of snow in the area; short storms with lots of snow interspersed between longer drought periods on the mountain. I hope you have had a chance to get up to the cabin and play in the snow or up to



Updates and news items also posted to Facebook Group: White River Recreation Association

Crystal when we have had it! As our thoughts turn to spring, we are excited to announce the latest iteration of our annual **Spring Dinner**, which will be held at the Greenwater Community Center **on Saturday April 20**. Please see the announcement for more details. I hope to see you there!

I also want to prompt you to Save The Date for our traditional **Summer Picnic and Cabin Tour events**, which will be held on the afternoon and evening of **Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>**. Note, this is a date change from what has previously been communicated, so please note the new date. Look for additional details and information coming out as we move into summer.

These social events are a key part of what our organization is all about; they are a great opportunity to get together with fellow cabin owners and others in the community, share camaraderie and stories, and learn what others are doing with their cabins and more. I strongly encourage you all to attend.

In case you were not aware, we have had some changes and turnover in the Forest Service team that work within our forest and in support of our cabin program. Please see the related article for the latest updates. Once things settle and become more stable,

### In this issue:

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- *Hosts needed for Summer Cabin Tour*
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we plan to reestablish our regular cadence of meetings with the Forest Service team to discuss issues and opportunities, but it will likely be mid-summer before we can resume that.

Speaking of working with the Forest Service, I want to encourage everyone to consider attending the upcoming **National Forest Homeowners (NFH) conference on April 25-27, which will be a virtual/online conference this year.** These conferences provide a fantastic opportunity to learn from regional and national Forest Service staff, and leaders of various cabin-related associations, and other cabin owners from across the country. They also provide educational sessions which help us all learn more about the cabin program. And, this year, you don't even need to travel anywhere to attend! Please see the article in this newsletter for additional information.

If rejoining WRRRA has slipped your mind this year, I strongly encourage you to **renew your membership.** If you share your cabin with multiple family members or other owners, be aware that each cabin can have up to four regular memberships, and unlimited associate members; this is a great way to keep additional family members or younger generations informed and involved in WRRRA. Your financial support will enable our organization to stay strong and allow us to continue to keep you informed and advocate for you and for the cabin program with the Forest Service and other organizations. Please go to the website at [www.wrra.net](http://www.wrra.net) to purchase a membership in WRRRA, or to join NFH at our discounted rate.

I am enjoying working with a number of new WRRRA board members; we continue to advocate for you by working on key initiatives and projects. As always, **we need lots of help**, so if you have

any time or interest to dedicate to helping improve the cabin program, being on the board, or supporting any project work, please contact any board member. There is lots to do!

~Kevin Orth, President

## Snowplow 410 Report

Thank you again for a 93% participation in the snowplow program and a 94% participation in the road maintenance program!

It is too soon to provide an "End Of Season" report at this writing because the snow is still falling, but look for one in the next newsletter.

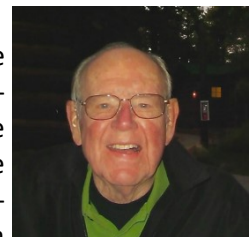
The same two contractors are doing our work. With one big storm done and (as of this writing) a second in progress it seems there is no good time to plow. Too soon and it looks like we did not plow; too late and the early arrivals struggle. Plowing twice solves this but at twice the price! What to do. . . it's a tough call.

In summary, after this early March storm we have enough in our budget for 2-3 more storms. Surplus funds move to next year and lowers the fee.

~Robbin Bradburn, Snowplow 410

## Ken Leader Distinguished Service Award Deadline— May 31st

The Distinguished Service award was established as a tribute honoring Ken Leader. He was a man who never knew life without "the cabin". Throughout his life he served WRRRA as a strong leader and advocate of the cabin program.



It is fitting to recognize others who embody that same spirit and leadership. Albert Pollmar was the first recipient, in fall 2022, for his varied and broad contributions to WRRRA, the Washington State Forest Homeowners and the National Forest Homeowners Association over a prolonged period.



There are many other devoted WRRRA members who have contributed in countless ways. Please consider nominating someone. To read (or refresh your knowledge) about the award and the nomination process, information can be found on the WRRRA website ([wrrra.net/cabin owner resources](http://wrrra.net/cabin-owner-resources)), or follow this [link](#). Nominations are due May 31, 2024.

~Rena Irwin, Chair, Recognition Committee

## Cabin Tour 2024—Looking for Hosts

Hosting your cabin for the cabin tour after the WRRRA annual summer picnic is a fantastic way to meet more members. My family and I recently hosted our cabin last summer and it was a ton of fun! We just opened the doors at 6pm and waited patiently for members to arrive. I didn't know many members before the tour but by the time 9pm arrived, I felt like I had a bunch of new friends in the area.

Hosting is easy to do. The tour will be held on Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Just keep your cabin open from 6pm to 9pm and be available to answer questions. It is a great opportunity for all to learn the history of the cabins. If members are thinking of making some changes to their cabin, the tour is a great way to get ideas and share resources.

All you need to do is call or email me that you would like to host. It is up to you if you want to provide light snacks and beverages during the tour. Prior to the tour, I'll ask for a short bio to include in our tour brochure.

If you are interested in hosting or just have questions about the process, please reach out to me by phone at 253-370-2224 or email at [be-](mailto:be-causeshesaid@gmail.com)

[causeshesaid@gmail.com](mailto:causeshesaid@gmail.com). You may also reach out to your own cabin tract representative.

Thanks for your consideration!

~ Martha Hunter, Silver Springs Rep, SS-66

## Membership Update

I am pleased to report that the 2024 WRRRA membership drive, which ran from January 1<sup>st</sup> to February 15<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. I am excited to share that as of March 16<sup>th</sup> we have 214 paid members. We would like to welcome back several members who have returned to WRRRA as well express our appreciation to the faithful members who have continued to support our organization over the years. We are just 6 memberships away from reaching our goal of 220 members. It is my sincere hope that we will reach this goal. It is not too late to join, however you are reminded that if you didn't join by the deadline, dues increase to \$60.

Thank you to the 73 of you who have joined National Forest Homeowners (NFH), our collective voice in Washington D.C. which fights to protect the rights of cabin owners and the cabin program as a whole. A big thank you to each of you who contributed to the Cabin Defense Fund. During the membership drive, because of your generosity, we have added an additional \$1,490 to the Cabin Defense Fund. Each of us must be aware that the renewal of our permits is not a guarantee and the investments in our cabins must be protected. WRRRA, NFH and the Cabin Defense Fund exists to defend and protect our cherished cabins.

If you have not yet joined WRRRA, NFH or contributed to the Cabin Defense Fund you still can. You can pay on line by going to [www.wrrra.net](http://www.wrrra.net) and click on "Membership" where you can pay by credit card, debit card or ACH. You can also download and print out the form to pay by check. Remember that each cabin can have up to 4 "regular members" and an unlimited number of "associate members".

I am very proud of the support and dedication that you demonstrate by joining WRRRA, NFH and contributing to the Cabin Defense Fund. It is my



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privilege and pleasure to represent you as your Vice President and Membership Chair.

~Fred Orton, Vice President

## Crime Prevention and Reporting

As we approach spring and the “shoulder season” between winter and summer, this time of year is typically when we see an increase in cabin break-ins and criminal activity in the area. Its important everyone knows how to help prevent crime in the cabins, and how to follow up and file reports for any criminal activity in the area.

First, the best way to prevent criminal activity is to spend time at your cabin during the shoulder seasons. If you are up in the area, walk around or drive through the cabins and surroundings; take note of suspicious persons or vehicles. Don’t confront anyone, but do take pictures if possible of persons or vehicles and license plates. This information can be very helpful to solving crimes later.

In addition, we wanted to reiterate how important it is to properly report and log all criminal activity. This is the only way we will be able to successfully lobby for and receive additional law enforcement presence, to get the bad elements out of the dispersed campsites near our cabins, and keep unauthorized activity from taking place in the cabin tracts.

### **Reporting:**

***All issues should be reported to the Forest Service, and also to your board, so that we can have a comprehensive record of all criminal activity in the area.***

In addition, please report:

**Personal or property crimes occurring in or to**

**your cabin to Pierce County Sheriff  
Crimes occurring in the forest to Forest Service  
Law Enforcement.**

### **Contact Information:**

Emergency Response: 911

Forest Service District Ranger:

[Heather.RandallWilder@usda.gov](mailto:Heather.RandallWilder@usda.gov)

WRRR Cabin Board: [president@wrra.net](mailto:president@wrra.net)

Pierce County Sheriff: Sargent Mark Rickerson,  
PCS, 253-798-4990,

[mark.rickerson@piercecountywa.gov](mailto:mark.rickerson@piercecountywa.gov)

Online Incident Report for Pierce County Sheriff:

[www.co.pierce.wa.us/index.aspx?NID=1944](http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/index.aspx?NID=1944)

Forest Service Law Enforcement: Tyler Smith, FS

LEO, 360-802-5314, [tyler.d.smith@usda.gov](mailto:tyler.d.smith@usda.gov)

~Kevin Orth

## Board Elections in Fall ‘24

At our next fall business meeting, we will be selecting officers to fill the following positions. President, Vice President, Goat Creek Representative #1, Deep Creek Representative and Silver Springs Representative #1. Soon our nomination committee will begin identifying individuals for these positions and develop a slate of candidates.

If you’re interested in knowing more about these roles and/or being a candidate, or the nomination process, or wish to suggest a member to consider, please contact, Rena Irwin, Nominations Committee Chair [renairwin1@comcast.net](mailto:renairwin1@comcast.net) or call 360-870-5453. Thank you.

~Rena Irwin, Nominating Committee Chair

## NFH National Conference to be Online Event

The NFH National Conference for 2024 will be a Virtual Conference, all conducted online via Zoom webinars. The dates of the conference are Thursday April 25 – Saturday April 27.

This online conference will be available to all NFH members. If you have never traveled to attend a NFH conference previously, this is a great opportunity to participate in the experience, via Zoom on your computer from your home or office, or cabin if you have a connection.

While this online multi-day event will be different from a live in-person conference, it offers a great way to engage with members who might not typically travel to a regular conference, and will be a way to be more inclusive of all cabin owners across the country.

The theme of the conference is “Stronger Together: Building Relationships that Work”. The theme is about building relationships with one another and the Forest Service. The program includes presentations from NFH, panel discussions, an update from the Forest Service Washington Office, and breakout roundtable sessions. As always, there will also be an “Ask the Experts” panel for cabin owner questions.

Thursday’s kickoff session will include Updates from NFH, and the Keynote Address from a retired deputy chief of the Forest Service. Friday’s sessions will focus on Succession Planning and Trusts, and Building Relationships with the Forest Service. Saturday will have Breakout Sessions including Cabin Insurance, Volunteering in the Forest, Cabin Communications, and Permit Appeals, followed by an update from the Washington DC Forest Service staff, and the Ask The Experts Q&A session.

We hope you can join us online for this valuable and informative program for all cabin owners and permit holders in the Recreation Residence Program. Registration is now open.

Please go to the NFH website at <https://www.nationalforesthomeowners.org/page/2024VirtualConference> to register and for additional information.

~Kevin Orth

## NFH Advocacy: Revisions to Permit Language, and Developing the Cabin Program Restoration Act

The National Forest Homeowners organization (NFH) does tireless work behind the scenes, advocating for all cabin owners across the country, and helping ensure the program remains viable for the future. For cabin owners who are not

familiar with some of the great work NFH does, I thought I would share two recent examples. If you want to continue to see cabin owner advocacy like these examples, I strongly encourage you to support NFH by joining as a member. See below for more details.

### Permit Language Revisions

The Forest Service released a revised Special Use Permit for recreational residences in spring of 2023. This permit was issued only to new cabin owners or during permit transfers at that time but was in essence a preview of language that will be included in all permits when the existing permits are all renewed in a few years.

NFH objected to several aspects of the new permit by identifying two clauses that were inserted into the permit without the required public comment period, thereby making them illegal clauses. The most troubling clause would have

limited use of a cabin to 5 months each year. After repeated and direct pressure from NFH, the Forest Service has removed this and another illegally inserted clause about a national rental policy.

Anyone who received a new permit in 2023, watch for this addendum to your permit. We are grateful their efforts were successful; no permit holder will be subject to the 5-month limit of use.

### Cabin Program Restoration Act

The Cabin Program Restoration Act is legislation that NFH is proposing in Congress, to stop erosion of Recreational Residence cabins nationwide and restore numbers to previous levels.



**Diane Gebenini**  
 Direct: 360-620-7271 • Fax: 360-825-2498  
 Email: [diane@tx3.com](mailto:diane@tx3.com)  
[www.johnlscott.com/DianeGeb](http://www.johnlscott.com/DianeGeb)

**John L. Scott**  
 REAL ESTATE  
 Enumclaw  
 2355 Griffin Avenue  
 Enumclaw, WA 98022



The Recreational Residence Program reached its pinnacle in the 1960s, when there were over 19,000 permits for cabins on National Forests. As of 2022 however, less than 13,800 permitted cabins remain – a loss of more than 5,000 cabins from the program.

The loss of cabins on our National Forests has accelerated due to a number of factors, but largely to wildfires and the inability to rebuild due to lack of insurance, age and will to navigate the FS process. Owners who lose their cabins due to wildfire have not been allowed to sell their remaining improvements and infrastructure to others willing to rebuild; FS practice currently allows only 'rebuilding or vacating the lot' by current owners. Today there are over 5,000 vacant lots which were previously approved for Recreational Residences.

The NFH goal is to see these vacant lots used for their intended recreation purpose. Each cabin built is continued positive revenue to the FS. No additional forest land or lots are needed to correct the decline of this historic program.

The proposed Cabin Program Restoration Act legislation will restore the Program to Congress' original intentions, address the threat of cabin losses and reverse the decline, and protect the rights of permit holders.

This bill seeks to ensure the Recreation Residence Program on National Forests works for permit holders, their families, Forest Service program administration and the many rural communities who share tangible financial benefits.

Look for additional updates, and a call to action (including financial support) for this important legislative action. NFH is undertaking this effort on behalf of all cabin owners nationwide, to help ensure the continued existence of the cabin program.

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These are two excellent examples of how NFH advocates for all cabin owners at the national level, with the Forest Service and government officials. If you would like to support their efforts, it's not too late to become an NFH member this year, even if you have already joined WRRRA. Simply go to our website at [www.wrra.net](http://www.wrra.net) and on the Memberships page, follow instructions to join NFH. Note that WRRRA has long supported NFH and as such, we are a Member Tract which means you can join NFH at a discounted rate versus joining through the NFH site. NFH membership benefits also include newsletters, an extensive library of informational resources, regional and national Forest Service contacts, and a cabin insurance program designed for those who have difficulty obtaining premium quotes elsewhere.

~Kevin Orth

## Forest Service Updates

As previously communicated via email and posted on the WRRRA Facebook page, the Forest Service Special Uses Permit Administrator, Brian Lee, passed away unexpectedly during the holidays. Around the same time, new District Ranger Heather Wilder took some time for personal leave. As a result, WRRRA has been left without a direct conduit to the Forest Service over the past couple

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of months, to address and resolve any open issues or projects.

The Forest has started the process of gathering potential candidates for the permit administrator position and they should hopefully be looking at resumes by the time this is published. Filling the position, even if it’s an assigned detail for now, is a priority – but they do not expect the position to be filled for at least another month – if not two.

For now, members can send in requests to me, and I will send to Acting District Ranger Brian McNeil as District Ranger Heather Wilder comes back up to speed returning from leave, and as a new Special Uses Permit Administrator is hired for the Forest. This will enable me to help keep track of the requests, and ensure all issues get addressed.

Regarding any open projects or other issues, please be aware that no actions will be taken by the FS until they can get someone hired and into the position; we will be keeping an active list to pass on to the new hire, but be aware that we are at least one to two months out from the FS being able to follow up on Rec Resident special uses issues.

Please let me know if you have any issues or questions, or if you would like me to add to the list of projects and issues that need to be addressed as soon as the new permit administrator is up to speed. Send any inputs or pending projects requiring FS input to [president@wrra.net](mailto:president@wrra.net).

Note: Our WRRRA website has common forms, links to resources, and lots of information about how the program works, under Cabin Owner Resources, at: <https://www.wrra.net/resources>

Additionally, on that same link, if you scroll down you can find a link for WRRRA Quick Reference Guide.

That has a document with frequently asked questions, you should find useful.

Please use these resources to try to self-serve and find the information you need, until the Forest Service team has resources in place to fully support us again.

~Kevin Orth

**WRRRA 2024 Calendar\***

**Spring Board Meeting**  
April 15, Zoom Videoconference

**Spring Dinner**  
April 20, Greenwater Community Ctr

**Spring Highway Cleanup: Goat Creek**  
April 21, Highway 410

**NFH Conference**  
April 24-27, Virtual Meeting

**Nat’l Trails Day Volunteer Event**  
June 1, morning, Cabin area

**Summer Board Meeting**  
July 19, evening, Board Member Cabin

**Summer Picnic**  
July 20, Silver Springs Campground

**Cabin Tour**  
July 20, evening, All Tracts

**Summer Highway Cleanup: Silver Springs**  
July 21, morning, Highway 410

**Nat’l Public Lands Day Volunteer Event**  
Sept 28, morning, Cabin area

**Fall Board Meeting**  
Oct 21, Zoom Videoconference

**Fall Dinner Meeting**  
Oct 26, Greenwater Community Ctr

**Fall Highway Cleanup: Dalles**  
Oct 27, Highway 410

**2025 Planning Meeting**  
November or December, TBD, Zoom

\* Dates, locations, and activities are subject to change.



## WRRRA

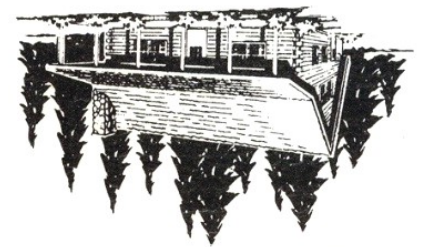
*The purpose of White River Recreational Association (WRRRA) is to promote and protect recreational interests along the Mather Memorial Parkway and throughout the Upper White River Valley; to do any and all things lawful, just and necessary to better the interests of the members of the Association; to secure equitable legislation; and to cooperate with the Forest Service in the protection and administration of all recreational feature.*



## 2024 WRRRA Executive Board

<p><b>President</b> Kevin Orth, SC 26 Cell: 206-669-8455 Cabin: 360-663-0164 <a href="mailto:korth@starbucks.com">korth@starbucks.com</a></p>	<p><b>Vice President</b> Fred Orton, DC 13 Home: 360-825-9867 Cabin: 360-663-2409 <a href="mailto:frederick.l.orton@gmail.com">frederick.l.orton@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Immediate Past Pres.</b> Rena Irwin, DC 17 Home: 503-746-6622 Cabin: 360-663-2428 <a href="mailto:renairwin1@comcast.net">renairwin1@comcast.net</a></p>
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<p><b>Silver Springs Rep #1</b> Christine Llewellyn, SS 160 Cell: 206-708-5621 Cabin: 360-663-2354 <a href="mailto:info@serendityfarm.org">info@serendityfarm.org</a></p>	<p><b>Silver Springs Rep #2</b> Martha Hunter, SS 66 Cell: 253-370-2224 <a href="mailto:becauseshesaid@gmail.com">becauseshesaid@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Silver Creek Rep</b> Brian Brewer, SC 27 Cell: 425-260-1976 <a href="mailto:brianjb76@gmail.com">brianjb76@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Goat Creek Rep #1</b> Tom Wood, GC 95 Cell: 206-304-4032 <a href="mailto:tompa-pawoody@outlook.com">tompa-pawoody@outlook.com</a></p>	<p><b>Goat Creek Rep #2</b> Mike Middleton, GC 92 Home: 253-335-7165 <a href="mailto:mmp17@comcast.net">mmp17@comcast.net</a></p>	<p><b>Deep Creek Rep</b> Janet Curran, DC 3 Cell: 206-356-0320 Cabin: 360-663-2631 <a href="mailto:jmcurran42@comcast.net">jmcurran42@comcast.net</a></p>

## WRRRA Spring 2024 Newsletter



CHRIS MASTERSON  
15632 158th Ave SE  
Renton, WA 98058

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