

WRRA Fall 2023 Newsletter

White River Recreation Association

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

2023 Fall Dinner, Auction, Business Meeting & Elections

We are looking forward to seeing WRRA cabin owners and families Saturday, October 28th, for the Annual Fall Dinner at the Greenwater Community Center. The evening starts at 5:00 pm, and includes social hour, dinner, a silent auction, business updates, and WRRA board elections. The event will be Halloween themed — costumes are encouraged! The food will be catered by Greenwater-based Hanny's Catering. It promises to be a fun, festive, and informative evening. Admission is only \$40 per person, which includes tax and tip. Please join us!

Schedule of Events

4:30-5:00 Arrivals & Check-In

5:00-5:30 Business Meeting/Board Elections

5:30-6:30 Social Hour & Silent Auction

6:30-7:30 Dinner

7:00-7:45 Business Updates

7:45-8:00 Door Prize / Costume Prize Drawing

Please RSVP and Pay in advance.

Reservations are available for purchase online or via check. Go to the Membership page on WRRA.net and select the Online Membership button towards the top of the page, which takes you to the square payment site.

Or, pay by check (\$40 made out to WRRA) and mail it to:

WRRA Treasurer c/o N. Eric Carlsen PO Box 3057 Port Angeles, WA 98362-0338

The maximum number we can serve is 100.

You're most likely to have a space if you pay by the deadline of October 25th. If there is space available after the 25th, you may pay at the door, but will be subject to a \$10 surcharge, per person. The night of the dinner, cash, checks or credit cards will be accepted. There are no refunds for cancellations after October 25, 2023.

We look forward to seeing you in October!

~Kevin Orth, President



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

Silent Auction – Donation of Items Needed!

We are excited to announce we will once again have the WRRA Silent Auction event as part of our Fall Dinner. We encourage everyone to participate in making this a fun part of our evening through bidding on items and also by donating items!

What to donate? Be creative. It can be new, or gently used. Baked goods. Cabin knick-knacks. Cabin-related artwork, sporting goods or tools/equipment. You can solicit donated items from local businesses or your own company. We've had everything from new skis to signed books, event tickets to award-winning pies.

The funds raised are dedicated to our WRRA Cabin Defense Fund. We want to continue to build our reserves for this important cause, so please consider donating items and/or bidding on items.

Bid Forms will be provided at the event to display and price your donations.

Once at the dinner, please do your part and bid generously. Our cabin defense fund is worth growing!

Contact Dennette Wood at dennettew@comcast.net with any questions.

Thank you!

~Kevin Orth, President

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- Snow Plow Season is coming
- Crystal Mountain Updates and More!



President's Message

I hope everyone was able to get up into the mountains and enjoy your cabin and some recreation in our wonderful White River valley this summer. I love summers at the cabin, spending time at Chinook Pass, Sunrise, Crystal Mountain, and Corral



Pass – hiking, mountain biking, playing disc golf, or just enjoying the views, every time I go. As a result, I never seem to get much cabin work done!

In July, we had an incredibly successful Summer Picnic, Cabin Tour, and Highway Cleanup. The events were the best attended in many years. Thank you to all that attended and helped make the events a success! Please see the articles and pictures in this newsletter for additional details.

As I write this, the early September weather is feeling more like fall, which helps me get in the proper mind-set to highlight our upcoming Fall Dinner! We hope to see many of you at the Dinner in late October; this is another great opportunity to get together with your fellow cabin owners, and share camaraderie, food and drink in a fun social setting. The Fall Dinner also features our Silent Auction, which is a great fun way to raise funds for the Cabin Defense Fund.

The Fall Dinner will also include Business Updates, and Elections. Thank you to the members who have agreed to run or re-run for board positions, which we will vote in to office at the Fall Meeting. This organization can only be successful if we continue to get volunteers to help get our important work done. Please consider volunteering to help and support the WRRA organization, by running for a board position in the future. If you aren't sure if you want to join the board just yet, you can always volunteer to help with committees or projects for WRRA. Please consider helping!

I hope you enjoy the wonderful information contained in this newsletter, and please look for additional updates via email and on the WRRA Facebook page. Thank you, and I hope to see you at our upcoming Fall Dinner.

Please drop me a note if you have any questions, concerns, or input, at korth@starbucks.com.

As always, I hope to see you up at the cabins or in the mountains soon!

~Kevin Orth, President

WRRA Fall Board Elections

Election of officers for expiring terms is scheduled to be held at our upcoming Fall Business Meeting and Dinner on October 28, 2023. The following positions are up for election for the two-year term January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2026: Treasurer, Secretary, Dalles Representative, Goat Creek Representative #2, and Silver Springs Representative #2.

Several members are completing their service. Thanks to Ken Ring, SS-156, for serving two terms of office representing Silver Springs. His participation and leadership were so appreciated during that period. Also, thanks go to David and Molly Ebel, D-31, for serving as the Dalles Representative for three terms.

A slate of candidates has been presented to the Board for these open positions. Nominations for any of the positions may also be made from the floor at the annual business meeting. If you are interested or know of someone who may be a good candidate, contact Rena Irwin, Nominations Chair at renairwin1@comcast.net or call at 360-870-5453. Below is the Slate of Officers.

~Rena Irwin, Immediate Past President, Chair Nominations Committee

Incumbent Treasurer, Eric Carlsen

It would be a privilege to serve another term as the WRRA Treasurer. In addition to serving the last two years as Treasurer, I have enjoyed serving as one of your Finance Committee members for the last 7 years. From 2005 to 2021, I served as the Olympia Ski Club treasurer



and stepped down from that role in July. Before that, I was West End Youth League treasurer for 10 years. I grew up at the Cliffhouse (Deep Creek #7) which my dad purchased in 1946. At that time, it was a one room cabin. Our running water consisted of walking fast to

Deep Creek to bring back 2 buckets of water. With my family growing to 3 kids, my dad enclosed the existing porch (new kitchen) to make the cabin a two room structure. We first got water to our outside door in 2014 and finally inside in 2020 with a 6'x8' addition to make a bathroom. My wife, Brenda & I raised three kids with a lot of time being spent there; they first learned to ski at Crystal. My first 23 years were in West Seattle, after graduating from the University of Washington, I moved to Forks and worked for the Dept. Of Natural Resources as a Forest/Logging Engineer. I retired from there and moved to Port Angeles in 2012 where Brenda & I now live. If re-elected, I look forward to serving all the WRRA members in years to come. Thank you for your support.

Incumbent Secretary, Chris Masterson

My husband, Bill and I are blessed to be the permittees of our family cabin, Deep Creek 17. This was the cabin of our beloved cousin, Ken Leader, who we lost in late 2018. The cabin, originally purchased by Elmer and Evelyn (Rosaaen) Leader in 1926 has been in our



family ever since. We have many happy memories of time spent there with family and friends.

Before retiring, I was a University Administrator; the position I held that's most pertinent to my role with WRRA was University Registrar.

I have been honored to be the WRRA Secretary for the last four years. Besides the friendships I've made within the organization, WRRA does important work as advocates for and representatives of the Recreation Residence Program. It would be my pleasure to do what I can to support and grow WRRA; and would be glad to serve as Secretary for another two years.

Dalles Rep, Anne Schopf

Skiing since the age of two and racing Division II for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, I moved to Seattle from upstate New York in 1990 to take a job with Mahlum Architects where I still serve as the Director of Design. With many mountains to ski in the PNW, my husband Jack Kearney and I were immediately drawn to Crystal and



haven't looked back. In 2005 we brought our young daughter, enrolling her in the lesson program then transitioning her into CMAC where she eventually became a

coach. Our winter weekends were always spent on the mountain.

Traveling back and forth to Crystal from Seattle three times a week soon became unbearable. So, in 2015 while looking for a place to rent for the season, we stumbled upon cabin #35 in The Dalles, offered for sale by the Cooks. The modest 450 SF cabin had supported many skiers over the years and was truly rustic, built in 1951 and featured in the 2014 Summer Cabin Tour. It needed a lot of tender loving care, so over the subsequent years, we renovated the cabin, completely changing its appearance inside and out while retaining its original central stone fireplace. It is our happy place and a dream come true to have a cabin in one of the USFS tracts.

Empty nesters now, we continue to improve the cabin. Every winter weekend is still spent up at Crystal where we host hot pizza lunches for our friends out of the back of our truck in Upper C lot after mornings skiing Southback. In the summer I am an avid trail runner. I also enjoy cooking and love our two dogs Izzy and MoMo.

Jack and I both value The Dalles and WRRA community. We are grateful to be among like-minded souls who love the outdoors and want to preserve the legacy of the cabins. It would be my pleasure and honor to represent our community of 31 cabins of The Dalles tract to the Executive Board.

Incumbent Goat Creek Rep #2,

Mike Middleton

My Great Grandparents bought our cabin in 1945 and it has been in the family ever since. I grew up skiing at Crystal Mt and both my kids learned to ski there as well. We enjoy staying at the cabin with family and friends after a good day of skiing or picking huckleberries. I enjoy hiking, fishing, hunting,



skiing and watching the Mariners as they win the World Series!





I have been working as a wildlife biologist my entire career and have studied deer, elk, mountain goat, bear and cougar in the National Forest around the cabin area. I currently work at Sea Tac Airport where I study birds and how to prevent airplane strikes. I'd be happy to represent Goat Creek on the Board!

Silver Springs Rep #2, Martha Hunter

My parents have owned our cabin at Silver Springs 66 since 1959. My sisters and I grew up skiing at Crystal Mountain and spending weekends at the cabin. The highlight was when huckleberries were ripe enough to pick! We continue to spend time at the cabin now with extended family including



nieces and nephews. I love spending time up there and want to do whatever I can to preserve the cabins for generations to come. Throughout my life I've attended various WRRA dinners (even back in the Southcenter Barnaby's days) and have participated in the highway cleanup. I worked in the logistics industry over 25 years recently focusing on US Customs and TSA compliance and I'm now a personal trainer and teach group fitness classes for seniors. I see the benefit of the WRRA and want to contribute more. I'm eager to help where I can and look forward to continuing to meet more WRRA members. Thank you for the opportunity.

WRRA Membership Report

As your WRRA Vice President, my primary responsibility is promoting membership in our association. I want to start by expressing my appreciation to you for your continued support. Your membership and participation is vital to the success and strength of WRRA. It won't be long and we will be kicking off our membership drive for 2024. As you know, the dues have re-

mained at \$40.00 for many years, however the cost of virtually everything has gone up. The printing and mailing of the newsletters and directory, the cost of hosting the summer picnic, the hidden costs for our Spring and Fall dinner meetings, even the annual cost of maintaining insurance, the database and website have all increased considerably. I wanted you to know that your board of directors and area representatives will soon begin discussions regarding the possibility of increasing our yearly membership dues to cover these increased costs. No decisions have been made yet. Please feel free to contract members of the Executive Board or your Area Representative if you would like to provide input.

~Fred Orton, Vice President, Membership

Directory Changes

There are some changes in the 2023-2025 edition of the WRRA directory. The board determined that the primary focus of the directory is to serve as a resource for contact information. Therefore, the decision was made to move the WRRA Constitution and Bylaws, and the Historic Summary of the USDA Forest Service Recreation Residence Program to our website: WRRA.net.

Also, in the front of the directory, where the tract and lot listings are found, it was decided to list all cabins (rather than just those of WRRA members). For those cabins with WRRA members, the names listed are the members. If a cabin had no current WRRA members we listed the individual who is identified by Pierce County Tax records (a public record) as the person of record. Those individuals are identified with an asterisk (*). Thank you to Rena Irwin for scouring those tax records to find the names of those individuals. Only WRRA members and associates are found in the Alphabetical listings, address/phone number section.

By now you've likely received your directory. You may have noticed a change in the distribution. As more cabins have multiple memberships, it made sense to send **two directories to only one of the cabin members** (one directory intended for the cabin, one for their home), with each other cabin member receiving just one directory for their home. Since more and more cabins have multiple WRRA members, it seemed excessive to send 4, 6, 8, even 14 directories to the members of a single cabin. It made fiscal sense, but more importantly, it's better for our environment. Please don't hesitate to contact me at themastersonz@yahoo.com, if you need to update or add to your contact information.

~Chris Masterson, Secretary

Snow Plows are Coming!

Our snowplow and road maintenance program is preparing for this next year. We plan to assess \$350 per cabin this year (\$275 snowplow & \$75 roads), \$25 less than last year. Look for an emailed invoice in mid-October with program details.

In the meantime, please mark your driveway for a plowing punch and clearly mark whatever we need to avoid (well-heads, large rocks, stumps, etc.) with PVC pipes or posts at least 4 feet out of the ground, striped with reflective tape for when we plow at night. Let me know if you have any comments, questions or suggestions for the program at snow-plow410@live.com!

~Robbin Bradburn, Snowplow Coordinator

Road Update

The annual assessment for the road fund this year will be \$75 consistent with the last few years. Randy Iddings, of JR Iddings, Inc., did a significant amount of work in May to tune up the roads, so no further work is needed this fall. Please pay the road assessment along with the snowplow billing that you will be receiving soon. All cabin owners in Deep Creek, Goat Greek, Silver Creek, and Silver Springs tracts are expected to contribute to the road fund as we perform work in all of these areas as needed. If you have any concerns or requests for road repair, please email Barbara Mead at mead5104@comcast.net.

~Barbara Mead, Roads Maintenance Coordinator

Crystal Mountain Update

It has been a very busy summer at Crystal this year.

We opened the Flying Raven Adventure Course and had a blast swinging through the trees with our guests in our first-ever high-ropes course. We worked diligently making updates to our resort operations and offerings, including adding a yurt at Midway (top of Chinook, bottom of Rainier Express) for quick refreshments, snacks, or a meeting location while you explore Crystal this winter. We also added 36 RV spots to parking Lot G that will house both nightly and seasonal RV guests, and we extended the Visitor's Information Center's hours to include winter, so while you travel HWY-410, there is a place to stop and check-in. We didn't stop there.

As you know, the new building is getting close to completion! We are hopeful that the first floor of the Mountain Commons building will open at the begin-

ning of the 23/24 ski season. When you walk into the first level of the building, you'll be greeted by two new venues. Brew 62 Café will provide all the early morning coffee needs, proudly brewing Starbucks coffee and, in the afternoon, have the best PNW brew (beer) on tap, as well as grab-n-go snacks and sandwiches. The other venue on the first level is a new retail space, Crystal Outfitters, where you can find the latest hard goods like helmets and poles or this season's soft goods like The North Face jackets and Dakine gloves. Crystal Outfitters will be the home of Crystal branded gear, shirts, mugs, maps, and more.

The second floor of the Mountain Commons building is dedicated to food and beverage and is expected to open around the holidays. This floor houses a quick-serve style restaurant and overlooks the meadow area with an indoor/outdoor bar. This level will remain closed until it is ready for operation.

This year, we are excited to announce the installation of RFID gates at the base area lifts (Gondola, Chinook, and Discovery). The new gates will mean that once you have your ticket (current pass or new RFID day ticket), you can leave it in your pocket for the day and focus more time on enjoying the hill. To redeem, purchase, or pick up your ticket, you can find the ticket booths, once located in the parking lot, have moved closer to the north end of the Mountain Commons building, and all our ticket pick-up boxes have moved into the new plaza in a concentrated area closer to the bottom of the gondola. We added 5 new, easy-access, transit-style busses to service and will have dedicated bus stops to expedite guests to and from the parking lots.

Once on the hill, you'll notice some additional grading projects have taken place. The "football field" area of Queens Run has been widened, and the steep section flattened out to make for a better experience for our beginner guests. We've regraded the lower section of Mr. Magoo, smoothing it out as well, and put in a



permanent ski way to the Northway area between Snorting Elk Bowl and Gate 4; this will allow easier access for our guests. This will also assist with easier access for the grooming crew to get a snowcat down to the bottom of the lift.

In years past, we've taken many steps in the right direction regarding sustainability. In the last year alone, we dedicated more resources to sorting trash and were able to reduce our landfill runs by 75%. This year, we're taking strides. After receiving a grant for a commercial composter, we will now do all composting on-site, and that in addition to our recycling efforts, we hope to continue to reduce the amount of waste we send to the landfill.

Even with all this change, we continue to look to the future. We have full approval to replace the Rainier Express lift starting in the summer of 2024. As you may remember, Rainier Express (REX) was the first high-speed lift installed in Washington state back in 1988. The new lift will run just about the same line. The bottom terminal will move back slightly to the Southwest, lookers left, of its current location, giving skiers and riders a little more "breathing room" as they get off at the top of Chinook and on at the bottom of REX.

We're honored to call you members of our community. We thank you for your patience during construction and support as we continue to grow. We look forward to seeing you on the hill this winter.

~Perry Turner, SC-2, Director of IT, Crystal Mountain

Summer Picnic and Cabin Tour Recap

We had another incredibly fun and successful WRRA Summer Picnic at the Silver Springs Campground this year, followed by another wonderful Cabin Tour at 5 incredible cabins! Attendance of 140+ at the Picnic, and 60+ on the Tour made them some of the best attended in history! Thank you to everyone who joined us, and who

contributed to help make both events a huge success! Board members provided grills to use and many other supplies, plus lots of labor.





Greenwater Fire once again provided a fire truck and personnel to entertain the young-

sters (and young at heart). The Forest Service had

four attendees and helped judge the pie contest. The Games on the lawn area were well run and super fun (congrats to Silver Creek for winning the tract tug of war again!).





And countless other members helped with organizing, setup, cooking, cleanup, running events, ticket sales, and more.

Thank you as well to the hosts for

the cabin tour, it was wonderful to spend time in each amazing cabin. Its so great to see other cabins, each one is so different and unique. Thank you for opening up your cabins to us and sharing some of your story!

To everyone else who contributed to these events in so many different ways, THANK YOU – its impossible to



list everyone here. We look forward to continuing these very popular events for years to come.

~Kevin Orth



Picnic Pie Contest

The annual pie contest was once again a success along with one notable change. After many years of devotion to coordinating the pie contest, Rena Irwin stepped down as pie contest coordinator and handed over this responsibility to Fred Orton. All the entered pies were delicious! Third place went to Lori Neth (Dalles-26) who baked a combination pear, blueberry and ginger pie. Her prize were attractive stackable

coffee mugs that she and Chuck Gillett can enjoy with their morning cup of Joe. Second place went to Rosalie Vandervoort (SS-136) who entered a combination raspberry boysenberry pie and went home with 8 beautiful kitchen towels. The



grand prize went to Rachelle Rosaaen (DC-17) with her blue-ribbon strawberry cream pie and was awarded a fabulous set of serving dishes perfect for enter-

Per Centure

taining at the cabin. Special thanks go to the 3 judges who had the difficult task of deciding who this year's pie winners were. The lead judge was none other than our new District Ranger, Heather Randall Wilder. Assisting Heather were Jennifer Kingland Prewitt (SS-61) and John Hanson (DC-21).

Congratulations to this year's pie contest winners and please consider entering your own pie next year!

~Fred Orton, Pie Contest Coordinator



WRRA 2023 Calendar

Nat'l Public Lands Day Volunteer Event Sept 30, Cabin area

Fall Board Meeting
Oct 23, Zoom Videoconference

Fall Dinner Meeting
Oct 28, Greenwater Community Ctr

Fall Highway Cleanup: Silver Creek Oct 29, Highway 410

2024 Planning MeetingNovember or December, TBD, Zoom

Summer Highway Cleanup Recap

The July 30th trash pickup was hosted by the Deep Creek tract. In Chuck Gillett's absence, Barbara Mead and David Glaab provided outstanding leadership, and used their vehicle to transport people and pick up all the bags and debris and take it to the DOT site across from the Greenwater Community Center. Afterwards, Janet Curran provided a delicious lunch at her cabin! Many thanks to all!



Silver Creek hosts the next Highway Cleanup, on October 29th, the day after the fall dinner. Please consider participating!

Classified Ad:

FREE: Contractor sized wheelbarrow, well-used, but good condition. Call Diane DeWitt, 425-822-2000. Can be picked up at GC-34.

WRRA

The purpose of White River Recreational Association (WRRA) 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.



2023 WRRA Executive Board		
President Kevin Orth, SC 26 Cell: 206-669-8455 Cabin: 360-663-0164 korth@starbucks.com	Vice President Fred Orton, DC 13 Home: 360-825-9867 Cabin: 360-663-2409 frederick.l.orton@gmail.com	Immediate Past Pres. Rena Irwin, DC 17 Cell: 360-870-5453 Cabin: 360-663-2428 renairwin1@comcast.net
Secretary Chris Masterson, DC 17 Home: 425-228-9410 Cabin: 360-663-2428 themastersonz@yahoo.com	Treasurer Eric Carlsen, DC 7 Home: 360-640-0708 Cabin: 360-663-2488 wrra.t.carlsen54@gmail.com	Dalles Representative David & Molly Ebel, D 31 Home: 206-285-2178 Cabin: 360-663-2493 dalles-rep@wrra.net
Silver Springs Rep #1 Christine Llewellyn, SS 160 Home: 360-708-5621 Cabin: 360-663-2354 info@serendipityfarm.org	Silver Springs Rep #2 Ken Ring, SS 156 Home: 253-582-5461 Cell: 253-312-0118 ss-rep@wrra.net	Silver Creek Rep Dennette Wood, SC 24 Cell: 253-740-5340 Cabin: 360-663-2347 dennettew@comcast.net
Goat Creek Rep #1 Tom Wood, GC 95 Cell: 206-304-4032 tompapawoody@outlook.com	Goat Creek Rep #2 Mike Middleton, GC 92 Home: 253-335-7165 mpm17@comcast.net	Deep Creek Rep Janet Curran, DC 3 Cell: 206-356-0320 Cabin: 360-663-2631 imcurran42@comcast.net

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