



# WRRRA Winter 2021 Newsletter

## White River Recreation Association

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

### Renew your Membership Now

We hope you are doing well and have had the opportunity to enjoy your cabin during this wonderful time of year. It's that time again—our annual WRRRA membership renewal period. The process is slightly different this year. The primary difference is the due date has been moved up. Renewing your membership early helps your board in planning and budgeting.

By now you should have received an email renewal notice (assuming we have your current email address.) In that email there was a “pay” button which you could use to pay your renewals by credit card, debit card or ACH. Many of you have already done so. Thank you! For those who haven't and to save you the trouble of hunting for that email, you can go to [www.wrra.net](http://www.wrra.net).

WRRRA membership dues are still just \$40 and each cabin can have up to 4 members. You are also encouraged to join NFH at this time at an annual cost of \$50. This is also an excellent time to donate to the WRRRA Cabin Defense Fund.

If you'd like to pay my check, you can still do so. **You'll find the payment form on page 9 of this newsletter.**

Please pay your membership renewal by Monday, February 15th.

I look forward to serving you as your Vice President of Membership. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our association!

~Fred Orton, Vice President, Membership

### President's Message

First, I'd like to thank all the members, for electing me to serve you as president of WRRRA for another term. I must admit, my experiences of the past four years have not always been positive ones; I have had the difficult and time-consuming task of managing the organization through fire, floods, and pestilence! I am hoping for a calmer and more “normal” term as we start 2021.

Alas, it appears that the impacts from the coronavirus and Covid-19 are going to be with us for quite a while yet, and will continue to impact our lives in many ways. Last year, we had to cancel most of our WRRRA social and volunteer events, and this year may see similar impacts. We have already cancelled our Winter Snowplay Social in



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



January, and our Spring Dinner in April is likely in jeopardy. The current ski season is also heavily impacted, with Crystal Mountain requiring advance reservations, social distancing on the slopes, limited attendance, and no indoor dining.

WRRRA business marches on despite the global pandemic, and your board has continued to conduct meetings via videoconference. This includes board meetings, committee meetings, meetings with the Forest Service, and more. All organizations have had to adapt to the new normal way of doing things, and overall it has proven to work well to conduct these meetings online.

NFH held their first online national conference in October (see related article), and it was very successful. Similarly, WRRRA held our Fall Member Meeting and Elections online in October; unfortunately, participation was not as strong as hoped, and we didn't have enough members in the meeting to form a quorum to elect representatives for two of our tracts. If we need to or opt to hold future member meetings online rather than in-person, I am curious if any of you have any thoughts as to how we can drive more participation in the event?

Lastly, I want to remind you that in these trying times, its important that we keep our organization strong and work to protect our

cabin program, and to that point, I want to prompt you all to take action:

- Renew your membership in WRRRA – the small annual payment keeps our organization running, and ensures you get valuable communications and access to member events.
- Expand your WRRRA cabin membership – each cabin can have 4 memberships, to include shared owners, or a younger generation – this helps keep everyone in your cabin informed!
- Donate to the Cabin Defense Fund – used for legal costs and other expenses associated with protecting the cabins and cabin program.
- Join NFH – this is the national organization that works with leaders in Washington D.C. to represent the interests of all cabin owners.
- Get Involved! Volunteer to help the WRRRA – join the board, or help a committee or with a project. The board can't do it all on our own, we need more member participation. If you have any interests in cabin related issues, we could use your help!
- By doing these things, you can help ensure the viability of the cabin program for the future.

Please drop me a note if you have any questions, concerns, or input, at [president@wrra.net](mailto:president@wrra.net). I hope to see you up at the cabins or in the mountains soon!

~ Kevin Orth, President

## 2021 Board Elections

At our Fall Meeting on October 24, 2020, we held (via zoom) our annual WRRRA board elections for the expiring terms, and the 21/22 term.

The following five positions were up for election this year: President, Vice President, Goat Creek tract rep. #1, Silver Springs tract rep. #1, and Deep Creek tract rep. The Board Nominating Committee sought candidates for these open positions throughout the year and in the Spring Newsletter. The results of the election at the meeting are as follows: 1) Kevin Orth was re-elected President for a new term, 2) Fred Orton was elected Vice-President, and 3) Josh and Brittany Gaydeski were re-elected as co-representatives for the Deep Creek tract. All voting was unanimous at the meeting. Unfortunately there wasn't a quorum from the Goat Creek or Silver Creek tracts so, as per the by-laws, the board, at a subsequent meeting, voted to have Tom Wood and Bill Vlases installed as representatives for the Goat Creek, and Silver Springs tracts, respectively. Thank you to all who participated in the election, and especially to those board members willing to serve our community for the upcoming term. Special thanks also goes to Tim Curran, who rolled off the Board after many years of service as the WRRRA Vice President; we are grateful for his commitment to the community.

If you are interested in being part of the board, we have positions up for election in the next year, please let your tract rep know or David Ebel (at [debel@schwabe.com](mailto:debel@schwabe.com)).

~David Ebel, Dalles Representative

## WRRRA History Task Force A Look Back

*The WRRRA History Task Force is producing a series of newsletter articles to honor the past and inform our future.*

### A View of the WRRRA Summer Picnic, Nearly a Lifetime Ago

The July 26, 1952 WRRRA Picnic was also the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Member Meeting. They met at 6 p.m. at the Silver Springs Ranger Station. Twice the invitation underlined the words “*standard time*” – but the emphasis was unexplained. WRRRA provided the coffee, cream, sugar and ice cream (no flavor mentioned) and everyone was encouraged to bring their own picnic supper. There were games and music, arranged and/or provided by George Robinson. Guests included “*some of the Forest officials.*” People were encouraged to bring younger members of their families so that they could become familiar with “*the problems of our organization*” which were listed as “*winter protection, financing different projects, skiing, etc.*”

To my surprise, and likely yours, George Robinson and Ranger McCullough called for a WRRRA member work party to show up at 10 a.m. on the day of Picnic and Annual Meeting to build a set of permanent new picnic tables and benches for the Silver Springs Picnic Area. Robinson and McCullough had previously

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arranged for the delivery of the table and bench materials. They asked people to bring saws, hammers, squares, shovels, adzes, and picks. (Editors Note: an adze is a tool similar to an ax, with an arched blade at right angles to the handle.) The plan was to make sure that, as Frank Jones Clark, the apparent author of the Summer Bulletin, wrote *"Many hands will make light work."* By the way annual dues was still \$1 per year and 107 out of 168 had paid by June. Some paid \$5 per year, the extra \$4 was to pay for a regular safety patrol person who would routinely check cabins for problems, especially during the winter months.

~ Diane DeWitt, History Task Force Lead

## General Updates from the Forest Service

On December 10, 2020, Kevin Orth (President), Rena Irwin (Past President), Fred Orton (Vice President), Tim Curran (Past Vice President), Kevin Bannon (Treasurer) and Martin Rand (GC Rep) of WRRRA met with Martie Schramm (District Ranger) and Brian Lee (Permit Administrator) of the Forest Service, via Zoom videoconference, to discuss issues and share updates.

Here are notes on some of the key topics discussed:

### Permit Renewal Payments

The Forest Service instituted a new system where the permit renewal bills were sent out via email to members with email addresses on file. Payment collection and communication is being led by a new group called the Central Billing Team.

This caused confusion with members, and in some cases, the billings were not received.

WRRRA will send out a communication to members addressing questions and concerns, and provide contact information for members with questions.

### Goat Creek Culvert Replacement

Regarding the plan to replace the culvert, there is no change in status from what was previously reported: A replacement culvert has been identified and reserved for use, but the Forest Service is not ready to commit to a specific timetable for replacement at this time. Covid and budget cutbacks have slowed the process and planned replacement schedule. We hope that the Forest Service will include the replacement in their 2021 budget, for installation summer of 2022.

### Open Request Process and Cabin Improvement Projects

The Open Request Process for submitting cabin improvement projects for review is working well overall; the key opportunity is making sure new cabin owners understand the processes and timing. The Open Request window for project submissions for next year ended earlier this past fall.

Cabin owners should have heard back on all previously submitted projects (submitted last year); the only exception to this would be significant ground disturbing projects, or significant cabin exterior modifications, which might impact historical designation; these projects require more detailed review and a longer timeline.

A few clarifications:

- Septic Systems need Pierce County approval, but the Forest Service should also be kept in the loop on the perk test, design and implementation.
- Hazard Tree Removals, and Basic In-Kind Replacements, are NOT subject to the Open Request window.
- Metal Roof Requests are also NOT subject to the Open Request window timing.

### Recreational Updates

Hopefully the Corral Pass road will open this summer. The ongoing closure has allowed for additional work to be completed on the road and at the parking area, including installation of an outhouse, and fencing to discourage off-road access. When the road does open, the area will be day use only.

### Forest Stewardship

Due to health guidelines, WRRRA was not able to partner with the Forest Service in support of our two calendared volunteer events last year for National Trails Day and National Public Lands Day. Plans for 2021 are to be determined, but hopefully we can once again support these events with work parties to help with trails and forest spaces near our cabins.

### Forest Service Personnel Updates

Mary Coughlin, who has been working in our area in many different capacities for many years, will be retiring this next year. She will be joining our former permit administrator, Denny Coughlin, in retirement.

Tracy Kremer, from the Regional office based in Oregon, with whom we worked to get metal roofs approved, has also recently retired.

### Summary

We discussed many other topics; we had two hours of great discussion, and we are continuing to build a strong and positive relationship with our key contacts within the Forest Service. We will continue to meet with them approximately three times per year for these general discussions. Please let your board know if you have any issues or concerns that we may not be aware of, that you would like raised in future meetings.

~Kevin Orth

## NFH Conference Recap

Due to the impacts of Covid and limitations on travel, the NFH Annual Conference was held on-line, via Zoom videoconference seminars, on October 16th and 17th. It took a lot of planning and work to execute a completely new concept, but the conference was a big success.

Attendance at the on-line conference was strong. Over 350 people registered to participate, from 6 of the 9 Forest Service Regions across the country. There were nearly 200 first-time participants in a NFH conference. Participants could opt to attend as many or as few sessions as they had interest in, and as their schedule allowed; participation in the various sessions averaged in the 120-160 range.



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The theme of the conference was Resiliency, which seemed appropriate with everyone dealing with a global pandemic, plus wildfires impacting cabins all up and down the West coast. Seminars included Fire Resiliency, Cabin Permits, Sustainable Cabins, and an Ask The Experts session with Forest Service staff from across the country.

Videos of the sessions, copies of speaker presentations, Q&A, and other reference material from the Conference are posted on the NFH website. Access to this valuable information is a benefit of NFH membership. Here are some brief recaps of some of the sessions, and new NFH services to note:

#### **Fire Resilience**

This presentation focused on three key areas: **Before the Fire:** Planning, Hardening of Cabins, Firewise Principles, and Insurance Coverage.

**During the Fire:** Evacuation levels, Monitoring updates, and Firefighting principles & practices.

**After the Fire:** BAER Assessment, Access and Closures, and Cleaning Up.

There are a lot of important things to be aware of when it comes to fire in our cabins on Forest Service land, and many things we all have learned from the wildfires we have experienced in the last few years.

#### **Responsible Cabin Ownership**

This presentation reviewed how to work with the Forest Service, how to navigate your Permit rules and regulations, other Policies and Guidelines to pay attention to, some specifics around use of your cabin within the Permit regulations, how the Fee structure works, and what type of Improvements are allowed under the terms of the Permit.

#### **Sustainable Cabins**

This session consisted of two presentations. The first was on Solar Power for cabins; what are the design considerations, how does it get set up, and things to know as you consider going off the grid.

The second was on Heating With Wood, and focused on fireplaces and wood burning stoves, all the options and considerations around how to heat your cabin in a more efficient, environmentally-friendly way.

#### **NEW - NFH Fire Relief Fund**

Nearly 200 cabins were lost to wildfire in 2020. NFH has established a Fire Relief Fund to help rebuild those cabins lost. All donations go directly to impacted cabin tracts to support the rebuilding effort. Go to the NFH home page if you would like to contribute.

#### **NEW - AirMedCare Benefit**

A new benefit for NFH members was introduced at the conference, which provides air ambulance service from your cabin or home if needed, via AirMedCare for \$65 per year (\$20 savings through NFH). See the NFH home page for additional information.

#### **Upcoming Events**

The next scheduled NFH conference will be on October 15 and 16, 2021, in Squaw Valley, CA.

This event, and some or all future NFH conferences or forum meetings, may also be offered on-line, based on the success of this past conference and the very positive evaluations from attendees.

### Membership Value

Lastly, I want to put in a plug for NFH, and why you should be a member. NFH's reason for existing is to assist and represent cabin owners and the cabin program. NFH makes sure that cabin owners get a fair shake and, at the same time, bridge the gap between cabin owners and the USFS. To have credibility and continue to be the voice for all cabin owners, NFH needs cabin owners to be members of the organization. There is strength in numbers, so a small investment in annual NFH membership makes a big difference to all cabin owners across the country.

~ Kevin Orth

## 2021 WRRR Planning and Goals

The WRRR Board met on November 17, to review goals and accomplishments for 2020, and to brainstorm and prioritize goals and plans for the organization for 2021.

Here is a brief overview of our key accomplishments, and the Ranked Priorities for the upcoming year.

### 2020 Key Accomplishments

With the gathering restrictions from Covid affecting the board activities for the majority of the year, it certainly impacted our ability to accomplish some things we had planned. But overall we were still successful in a few key areas:

- **Relationships:** Relationship building with the USFS personnel continued to be very

successful; WRRR also has direct involvement with NFH and WSFHA with members on each of their boards.

- **FireWise:** Continued to develop awareness through newsletter articles, and work with PCFD.
- **Cabin Improvements:** Provided guidance to members via a number of communications and newsletter articles, focused on metal roofs and more.
- **Security:** Best practices and security ideas were shared in various communications.
- **History:** Gathering of records and materials continued; archiving at UW was set up.
- **Recognition:** Committee created, lead established, and development of various recognition types was initiated, with the preliminary focus on developing a Ken Leader Outstanding Service Award; criteria, nomination forms, and processes are in development.

### Brainstorming of 2021 Goals

The brainstorming session to develop and prioritize new goals resulted in the following ranked list for the board and our organization to focus on in 2021:

- **Board Roles and Responsibilities:** Resolve role crossover and develop better role clarity (for example treasurer and secretary duties).

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- **Data Management Systems:** Develop proposals for new tools and systems to manage our data which meet the needs of all impacted persons (treasurer, secretary, and members).
- **Recruitment / Nominations:** Develop plans and tactics to recruit members for board, committee, or project support (current key focus – treasurer backfill).
- **Internet Access:** Develop systems to provide ease of internet access to members from their cabins, particularly during this period of working/schooling from Sa-home.
- **Fire Preparation:** Develop a plan on getting tracts Firewise certified, continue working to improve PCFD Contracts participation, and develop a road maintenance (brushing) plan.
- **Relationships:** Continue to build existing relationships with Forest Service staff, with NFH, Pierce County Fire and WSFHA; develop relationships with the Muckleshoot Tribe, and the Greenwater community.

### Request for Help

As always, the board can only do so much on our own; we need help, and hope that some of you will volunteer to participate in the committees or project teams that will work on these topics.

If any of these topics are of interest to you, or if you would like any additional information on any of the above topics, please contact any board member to volunteer to help us or for more info.

## WRRRA 2021 Calendar\*

### Winter Snowplay Social—cancelled

#### Winter Board Meeting

Feb 22, Gallianos Cucina, Tukwila

#### Spring Board Meeting

April 19, Board Member Home

#### Spring Meeting (if zoom)

April 22, Zoom Videoconference

#### Spring Dinner (if in person)

April 24, Greenwater Community Ctr

#### Spring Highway Cleanup: Deep Creek

April 25, Highway 410

#### Nat'l Trails Day Volunteer Event

June 5, Cabin area

#### Summer Board Meeting

July 23, Board Member Cabin

#### Summer Picnic

July 24, Silver Springs Campground

#### Cabin Tour

July 24, All Tracts

#### Summer Highway Cleanup: Silver Creek

July 25, Highway 410

#### Nat'l Public Lands Day Volunteer Event

Sept 25, Cabin area

#### Fall Board Meeting

Oct 18, Board Member Home

#### Fall Dinner Meeting

Oct 23, Greenwater Community Ctr

#### Fall Highway Cleanup: Goat Creek

Oct 24, Highway 410

#### 2022 Planning Meeting

November TBD, Seattle Area

\* All event dates, locations, and activities are subject to change, due to State Health and Safety Guidance.

**WRRRA Membership Dues  
2021**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**White River Recreation Association Dues** \$40.00

**National Forest Homeowners Dues (\$50.00 Optional)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Contribution to Cabin Defense Fund (Optional)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

New membership? (yes) (no)    Tract/Cabin # \_\_\_\_\_ Permit Holder? (yes) (no)

*If you are a new member, please print contact information below. Continuing members, please print your contact information below, so our databases can be verified for accuracy.*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cabin Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

*Contact information is shared discretely in accordance with the WRRRA privacy policy. If you would like your information excluded from the directory, please contact the WRRRA Secretary at [wrra-moderator@wrra.net](mailto:wrra-moderator@wrra.net).*

Want to go green? Sign up for email delivery of the WRRRA Newsletter: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

NFH is adding Group & Lifetime membership options. Want to learn more? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Want to volunteer to help WRRRA? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

*Are there cabin partners or family members, who are associated with your cabin & not WRRRA members that could be contacted in an emergency? (Only enrolled WRRRA members will receive the newsletter.)*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Relationship</i>	<i>Mailing Address</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>

**Make your check payable to WRRRA. Return the completed statement, with payment by February 15, 2021 to:**

**Kevin Bannon, W.R.R.A. Treasurer  
4637 S. 168<sup>th</sup> Street  
Seattle, WA 98188**

## WRRRA

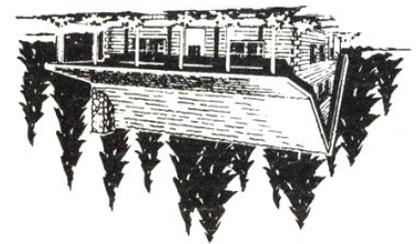
*The purpose of White River Recreational Association (WRRRA) is to promote and protect recreational interests along the Mather Memorial Parkway and throughout the Upper White River Valley; to do any and all things lawful, just and necessary to better the interests of the members of the Association; to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



## 2021 WRRRA Executive Board

<p><b>President</b> Kevin Orth, SC 26 Cell: 206-669-8455 Cabin: 360-663-0164 <a href="mailto:president@wrrra.net">president@wrrra.net</a></p>	<p><b>Vice President</b> Fred Orton, DC 13 Home: 360-825-9867 Cabin: 360-663-2409 <a href="mailto:vp@wrrra.net">vp@wrrra.net</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>
<p><b>Secretary</b> Chris Masterson, DC 17 Home: 425-228-9410 Cabin: 360-663-2428 <a href="mailto:wrrra-moderator@wrrra.net">wrrra-moderator@wrrra.net</a></p>	<p><b>Treasurer</b> Kevin Bannon, SS 155 Home: 206-244-9683 <a href="mailto:treasurer@wrrra.net">treasurer@wrrra.net</a></p>	<p><b>Dalles Representative</b> David &amp; Molly Ebel, D 31 Home: 206-285-2178 Cabin: 360-663-2493 <a href="mailto:dalles-rep@wrrra.net">dalles-rep@wrrra.net</a></p>
<p><b>Silver Springs Rep #1</b> Bill Vlases, SS 80 Home: 206-878-2541 Cabin: 360-663-7752 <a href="mailto:ss-rep@wrrra.net">ss-rep@wrrra.net</a></p>	<p><b>Silver Springs Rep #2</b> Ken Ring, SS 156 Home: 253-582-5461 Cell: 253-312-0118 <a href="mailto:ss-rep@wrrra.net">ss-rep@wrrra.net</a></p>	<p><b>Silver Creek Rep</b> Jennae &amp; Patrick Brannon, SC 45 Home: 253-332-1235 Cabin: 360-663-2569 <a href="mailto:sc-rep@wrrra.net">sc-rep@wrrra.net</a></p>
<p><b>Goat Creek Rep #1</b> Tom Wood, GC 95 Cell: 206-304-4032 <a href="mailto:gc-rep@wrrra.net">gc-rep@wrrra.net</a></p>	<p><b>Goat Creek Rep #2</b> Martin Rand, GC 40 Home: 206-612-8395 Cabin: 360-663-0118 <a href="mailto:gc-rep@wrrra.net">gc-rep@wrrra.net</a></p>	<p><b>Deep Creek Rep</b> Josh &amp; Brittany Gaydeski, DC 7 Home: 360-640-0995 <a href="mailto:dc-rep@wrrra.net">dc-rep@wrrra.net</a></p>

## WRRRA Winter 2021 Newsletter



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