



# WRRRA Summer 2023 Newsletter

## White River Recreation Association

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

## WRRRA Summer Picnic and Cabin Tour!

### Summer Picnic

We are looking forward to seeing WRRRA cabin owners and families Saturday, July 29th, at the Annual Summer Picnic at Silver Springs campground. The picnic starts at 12:00 pm at the Group Picnic Site, and includes food, drink and lots of fun. We are hoping for another successful pie contest, and once again there will be lots of games including sack races and a tract tug of war!

The WRRRA Picnic is free for WRRRA members. Guests are welcome and encouraged; guests will be charged \$10 for each adult, children under 12 are free. WRRRA will provide grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, and chicken with all the trimmings. Beer and wine (for those over 21) and nonalcoholic beverages will also be provided.

- Many volunteers are needed! Help is needed before, during and after the event. Setup, prep and cooking, cleanup, pie contest, games coordination, and more. Sign up to volunteer on SignUp-Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B054CABA62CA1FB6-wrra2>, or email [president@wrra.net](mailto:president@wrra.net) to help.
- Parking is extremely limited at the picnic site; please carpool, and if possible park in the Silver Springs cabin area and walk over to the site.
- Please bring a salad, side dish or dessert that will feed at least 8 people.
- Bring chairs and sun shades as needed for your family.
- Pie contest: We need lots of entries to make it a real contest - bakers, pull out your favorite recipe and bake a winner!

~Kevin Orth, President

### Cabin Tour

The WRRRA Annual Cabin Tour will again follow the Summer Picnic on July 29th. The Tour is a great opportunity to socialize and more closely appreciate the wonderful variety that makes up our WRRRA Tract. Volunteer hosts provide a look into each cabin's unique story and history.

We are grateful for some early volunteers but still need a few cabins TO HOST a tour stop. It can be rewarding and fun to open up your cabin; the only requirement is that someone be there to show people around, share history, and answer questions. It's a great way to participate more fully in the community if you will be attending the picnic weekend! If you are at all interested or have questions, please contact Ken Ring at [kenlynnr@msn.com](mailto:kenlynnr@msn.com).

The cost of the Cabin Tour is \$9 per person or \$18 per family/group, no matter how many members. This nominal fee benefits the WRRRA cabin defense fund after expenses for the event itself. Tickets can be purchased at the picnic. You receive a brochure with a map showing the cabin locations, and cabin

### In this issue:

- *Summer Picnic and Cabin Tour*
- *Message from the President*
- *Spring Dinner Recap*
- *Nominating Committee Update*
- *Snowplow Report*
- *National Trails Day Report*
- *Roads Report*
- *Wildfire Preparedness*
- *NFH Conference Recap*
- *Spring Highway Cleanup*
- *Update your directory info now!*



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



descriptions. The Tour begins at 6:00 and will last until 9:00 pm. Do join in!

~Ken Ring, SS Tract Rep

## President's Message

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful spring; I had a few fantastic days of spring skiing in the sunshine at Crystal Mountain in April and was loving that the mountain stayed open to be able to do that. More sunshine and warmer temperatures have arrived already, and I look forward to spending summer days at the cabin hiking, relaxing, working on projects, and more, as I am sure you all do too.



We are getting excited to see you at our annual Summer Picnic and Cabin Tour events at the end of July! The Picnic will be at the Silver Springs Campground, at the group picnic site. There is limited parking at the picnic site; we are asking people to please carpool, and try to park offsite or park in the cabin tract and walk to the picnic site.

The picnic is always a fun event, but we need lots of help to make it a success – with setup, cooking, and cleanup of course. Plus this year we need new volunteers to run the pie contest and the kids games. Please contact me or use the SignUp Genius at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B054CABA62CA1FB6-wrra2> to volunteer to help.

After the picnic, there will be the wonderful Cabin Tour, where several owners open up their cabins for all of us to visit and see. This is always a great event; every cabin is so different and unique, and each has interesting history to share. If you would be willing to host an “open cabin” for this event please contact Ken Ring at [ken-lynnr@msn.com](mailto:ken-lynnr@msn.com). We need hosts!

A few additional quick updates as we move into summer season:

Summer is wildfire season, and as always I want to take the opportunity to remind people of two things:

Please pay your Fire Protection Contract to the Greenwater Fire Department, to help ensure they can continue to provide support to us for fire and other emergencies. You do not pay any fees for Fire or EMS in your Pierce County taxes, so this fee is the only payment you make for these support services.

Additionally, please see the article in this newsletter about Fire Preparedness to help ready your cabin for the fire season. There are a few simple things we can all do to help be better prepared.

Summer is a time when many members do work on their cabins. Please remember to follow the process to get approval from the Forest Service for any projects you plan to undertake. Doing work without permission can be cause for termination of your permit. Please see additional detail about the cabin project review process on the WRRRA website.

As always, your WRRRA board continues to actively work with the Forest Service and other agencies to advocate for all association members, and for the recreational residence program as a whole. Please let your board know if you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to help us.

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

~Kevin Orth, President

## Spring Dinner Recap

The WRRRA Spring Dinner member event was held April 29, 2023, at the Greenwater Community Center. It was attended by just under 50 cabin

owners, friends and family members – so the turnout was a bit less than typical.

The event was catered by Darci Anderson of Greenwater (Hanny's Catering), and the theme was Cinco De Mayo. The food was excellent and there were many positive comments about the variety and quality of the offerings.

The Spring Dinner is largely social in nature; in addition to a social hour prior to dinner, there was also lots of great conversation during dinner. President Kevin Orth then provided brief updates on key topics for members.

We started by thanking those in attendance for renewing or starting their WRRRA membership, and asked new members to stand and be recognized. Our membership for the year is just shy of 210, which will allow the organization to remain on good financial footing. Thank you! We also welcomed and thanked new board members Janet Curran (Deep Creek Rep), Mike Middleton (Goat Creek Rep) and Christine Lewellyn (Silver Springs Rep). There will be some additional board vacancies coming at the end of this year, including the Dalles Rep and a Silver Creek Rep, so we encourage all members to consider helping the board either through a board role or helping on committees.

Janet Curran has also volunteered to be the WRRRA liaison with the Washington State Forest Homeowners Association and has started to get involved with that important organization which looks out for cabin owners and discusses issues at the state level. Look for future updates from her.

For Forest Service updates, Kevin said there seems to be growing momentum to possibly keeping the Enumclaw office open. Politicians and state reps are engaged in this issue now. We obviously feel that would be a big win for our corridor. Members can continue to send letters; please see previous newsletters for information.

We have a new District Ranger for the USFS, Heather Randall Wilder; Martie Schramm retired earlier this year. The WRRRA board was planning to meet with Heather and Brian and to drive the cabin tracts and discuss issues the day of the spring dinner meeting, but had to cancel due to

illness. We are working on rescheduling this meeting, and will provide Heather's contact information once we have met with her.

Tyler Smith from USFS Law Enforcement provided some brief updates, and took questions after. Some members expressed concerns about the dispersed campsites across 410 leading to crime in the cabin area. This will be a topic of additional discussion with the Forest Service.

Road work will be done again this summer by Randy Iddings as part of our annual road maintenance plan, including some grading and gravel. If you have any requests to address problem areas, please contact Barbara Mead who manages the roads program for WRRRA.

Prompts to attend/participate in the NFH Conference and in the National Trails Day Volunteer Event were made, plus helping volunteer to support the Summer Picnic and Cabin Tour events; see articles for additional details on these activities.

Lastly, the evening concluded with door prizes doled out by Rena Irwin.

Thank you to everyone who attended; we hope to see even more of you at the next dinner!

~Kevin Orth, President

## Nominating Committee Update

In our last newsletter we communicated that at our Fall Dinner and Business Meeting (on October 21st) we will conduct elections for our Association



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open board positions. These include Secretary, Treasurer, the Dalles Representative, and Silver Springs Representative and Goat Creek Representative. Since then, we have had some of our current board members (incumbents) and members respond with interest in some of these positions.

Even so, any member can run for any of the open positions. We are also always seeking volunteers to take part in our activities. We need and appreciate help on social and fund-raising committees.

If interested in either, please contact Rena Irwin at 360-870-5453 or [renairwin1@comcast.net](mailto:renairwin1@comcast.net).

Pictures and bios for all candidates will be included in the Fall Newsletter.

~Rena Irwin, Nominating Committee Chair

## Snowplow Report

Hello Cabin Owners,

Thank you for your participation in the snowplow and road maintenance program! We hope you got to your cabins with a minimum of fuss and trouble during our storms. (Love storms but . . . plowing!)

Here are the Snowplow410 program income & expenses for the 4 divisions we service:

- \* \$11,020 End of 2021-2022 season funds
- \* \$9,400 Collected from delinquent cabins on 2/2022 Supplemental billing (19 cabins declined to pay or were uncollectable)
- \* \$41,550 Collected for snowplowing (12 cabins did not participate)
- \* \$10,550 Collected for road maintenance (10 cabins did not participate)

- \* \$72,520 Total 2022-2023 season starting funds
- \* \$14,910 Disbursed for December, January, February, and March machine rental
- \* \$11,502 Disbursed to C&J Excavation Services (Chet Mowbray) for plowing work
- \* \$10,550 Disbursed for the road maintenance program
- \* \$1,634 Disbursed to J.R. Iddings Inc. (Randy Iddings) for plowing work
- \* \$20 Interest income
- \* \$33,944 Funds on hand

The fund still needs to receive and pay the invoice from Gibbon Winter Service for their work to date on Deep Creek plowing.

Our goal was to finish the year with \$20,000 in the account; we expect to finish the year with \$25,000.

We expect next year to invoice about \$25 less than this year for the plowing.

We spend about half of our time (= expense) clearing the main roads and about half clearing driveways and parking spots.

Some suggestions have been made and are under consideration:

- Each cabin receives a similar driveway punch that can take 3 vehicles and not a generous plowing for some and a short stab for others (Possible)
- Allow a choice: main road plowing only or main road and driveway plowing (Possible)
- Buy our own machine (Expensive)
- Bill each cabin for actual work cost (Complicated)

Please let me know if you have any comments, questions or suggestions for the program. Now is the time!

~Robbin Bradburn, Snowplow 410 Coordinator,  
[snowplow410@live.com](mailto:snowplow410@live.com)

## National Trails Day Report

It was a small but mighty group who participated in the National Trails Day on June 3rd. Linda Piper was the only WRRRA member who was in attendance (way to go, Linda!) Five Snoqualmie Forest Lookouts Association members and US Forest Service folks were also there. Despite the small group they tackled a HUGE job and GOT IT DONE!

Thanks to their time, efforts, and muscle, the White River trail is fully passable for humans, bikes, and horses from end to end.

During



Before



After



During



## Roads Report

During May, road work was completed by our contractor, Randy Iddings of J.R. Iddings, Inc. in Deep Creek, Silver Creek, Silver Springs, and Goat Creek. 246 tons of crushed rock was laid and grading and sump cleaning was performed on various places throughout the cabin area. The Corral Pass road had gravel laid between cabins 16 and 94. Silver Creek had new gravel between cabins 128-130 and 23-24. Silver Springs had new gravel by cabin 80, 140-143, 147-148, and 154-157. Deep Creek didn't need gravel but had the culvert sump cleaning done. Total cost of this work was \$13,327 and we have \$6,708 remaining in the road fund account. If you have a request for road repairs please contact Barbara Mead at [mead5104@comcast.net](mailto:mead5104@comcast.net).

~Barbara Mead, Roads Maintenance Coordinator

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## Notes on Wildfires Preparedness

As we move into summer, please be aware that the threat of wildfire increases every summer, even on our relatively wet side of the Cascades. Over the last several years, nearly 500 cabins have been lost to wildfire in western states, and this season is shaping up to be another hot one. It's been six years since the Norse Peak Fire in our forest, and it's important that we do everything we can to prepare for the possibility of fire in our area again.

First and foremost, I want to encourage all cabin owners to pay your Fire Protection Contract fee to Pierce County Fire; this will help keep the Greenwater Fire Department strong and able to protect and support our cabin community in the event of wildfires, structure fires, or medical events at the cabins.

Everyone should have received a payment notice from PCFD 26 in April; if you did not receive one or are not sure if you have paid, please contact Teresa Steel at 360-663-2626. There is additional information about the fire protection contract fee structure and more on the WRRRA website.

Secondly, everyone should implement Firewise principles at your cabin; harden your cabin and lot against fire in case it comes, by maintaining the lot and structure. This includes removing all branches and needles from cabin roofs and from around the exterior of the cabin, to thirty feet from the structure. Trim branches up to six feet above ground, and cut back branches that restrict access to your cabin by firefighting equipment. Maintain the fire lines established around all our structures by the firefighters that supported us during the Norse Peak

Fire, by removing all debris. Ensure your chimney is functioning properly, and has a screen on it. Make sure wood piles and fuel tanks are located well away from your cabin.

Lastly, everyone needs to pay attention to burn bans and other restrictions on use of outdoor equipment throughout the summer. Burn restrictions are usually posted in multiple places on the highway (departing Enumclaw, and entering Forest Service land), and are online as well (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/mbs/fire>). Be smart about outdoor burning at all times, regardless of burn bans. Use gas powered tools only when the restrictions allow it.

Doing these simple things will go a long way to helping to minimize wildfire potential and impact in our cabin tracts.

~Kevin Orth

## National Forest Homeowners Conference Recap

The NFH Annual Conference was held at Lake Tahoe at The Village at Palisades Resort (formerly Squaw Alpine Valley) on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. It was still winter up there, every day featured snowfall outside, but it was warm and toasty in the hotel and conference rooms.

WRRRA President Kevin Orth represented our interests as the WRRRA attendee; he is also a director for NFH and gave one of the presentations. WRRRA was also a sponsoring organization for the conference, to show our support for the great work this organization does on behalf of all cabin owners.

The conference was heavily attended by California cabin owners of course, but there were cabin owners from across the country in attendance too. The meeting events included a tour of local cabin tracts for board members (including seeing some of the devastated cabin tracts from the Caldor Fire), a Tract Leaders Meeting which was hybrid (both in-person and online), as well as





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multiple speakers and presentations, breakouts and roundtable discussions, and social opportunities to engage with other cabin owners to discuss common issues.

The conference theme was Resilience. The key presentations supported this theme, including Forest Resilience, Organizing for Fire and Other Emergencies, and Advocacy 101. Other presentations and roundtable sessions included Citizen Science, Permit Continuance, Stewardship and Volunteerism, Cabin Insurance, and Trusts / Passing the Cabin to the Next Generation.

There were excellent opportunities to hear from and interact with Region 5 USFS Regional and District staff as well as national leaders from Washington D.C., in person and virtually, plus many other leaders and cabin owners from other cabin organizations and tracts from all of the US.

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 all of this valuable information is one of the benefits of NFH membership.

~Kevin Orth

## Spring Highway Cleanup Recap

The April 30th trash pickup was hosted by the Silver Springs tract. 40 bags of trash plus car parts and stereo equipment were collected! They got in their miles that day, as they cleaned up all the way from the lookout to the Loge (Alta Crystal) entrance. Ken Ring provided an outstanding lunch at his cabin afterwards! Many thanks to all!



## WRRRA 2023 Calendar

### Summer Board Meeting

July 28, Board Member Cabin

### Summer Picnic

July 29, Silver Springs Campground

### Cabin Tour

July 29, All Tracts

### Summer Highway Cleanup: Deep Creek

July 30, Highway 410

### Nat'l Public Lands Day Volunteer Event

Sept 30, Cabin area

### Fall Board Meeting

Oct 16, Zoom Videoconference

### Fall Dinner Meeting

Oct 21, Greenwater Community Ctr

### Fall Highway Cleanup: Silver Creek

Oct 22, Highway 410

### 2024 Planning Meeting

November or December, TBD, Zoom

## Summer Highway Cleanup

The Summer Highway cleanup is on July 30, the day after the picnic and cabin tour and being hosted by Deep Creek. Lunch will follow at the Curran cabin (DC-3). Don't miss this event that caps off a wonderful weekend!

## 2023-2025 Directory

Have you moved? Or have one or more of your phone numbers changed? If yes, have you updated WRRRA regarding your new information? If not, contact the Secretary, Chris Masterson, at [wrra-moderator@wrra.net](mailto:wrra-moderator@wrra.net). The directory will be going to press in July and arriving in your mailboxes toward the end of summer, so update us now. Thank you!

## WRRRA

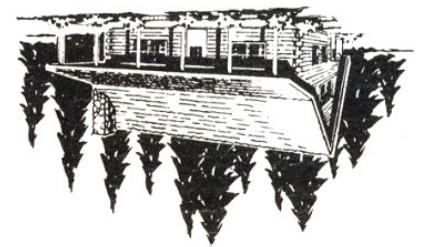
*The purpose of White River Recreational Association (WRRRA) is to promote and protect recreational interests along the Mather Memorial Parkway and throughout the Upper White River Valley; to do any and all things lawful, just and necessary to better the interests of the members of the Association; to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



## 2023 WRRRA Executive Board

<b>President</b> Kevin Orth, SC 26 Cell: 206-669-8455 Cabin: 360-663-0164 <a href="mailto:president@wrra.net">president@wrra.net</a>	<b>Vice President</b> Fred Orton, DC 13 Home: 360-825-9867 Cabin: 360-663-2409 <a href="mailto:vp@wrra.net">vp@wrra.net</a>	<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>
<b>Secretary</b> Chris Masterson, DC 17 Home: 425-228-9410 Cabin: 360-663-2428 <a href="mailto:wrra-moderator@wrra.net">wrra-moderator@wrra.net</a>	<b>Treasurer</b> Eric Carlsen, DC 7 Home: 360-640-0708 Cabin: 360-663-2488 <a href="mailto:treasurer@wrra.net">treasurer@wrra.net</a>	<b>Dalles Representative</b> David & Molly Ebel, D 31 Home: 206-285-2178 Cabin: 360-663-2493 <a href="mailto:dalles-rep@wrra.net">dalles-rep@wrra.net</a>
<b>Silver Springs Rep #1</b> Christine Llewellyn, SS 160 Home: 360-708-0263 Cabin: 360-663-2354 <a href="mailto:ss-rep@wrra.net">ss-rep@wrra.net</a>	<b>Silver Springs Rep #2</b> Ken Ring, SS 156 Home: 253-582-5461 Cell: 253-312-0118 <a href="mailto:ss-rep@wrra.net">ss-rep@wrra.net</a>	<b>Silver Creek Rep</b> Denette Wood, SC 24 Cell: 253-740-5340 Cabin: 360-663-2347 <a href="mailto:sc-rep@wrra.net">sc-rep@wrra.net</a>
<b>Goat Creek Rep #1</b> Tom Wood, GC 95 Cell: 206-304-4032 <a href="mailto:gc-rep@wrra.net">gc-rep@wrra.net</a>	<b>Goat Creek Rep #2</b> Mike Middleton, GC 92 Home: 253-335-7165 <a href="mailto:gc-rep@wrra.net">gc-rep@wrra.net</a>	<b>Deep Creek Rep</b> Janet Curran, DC 3 Cell: 206-356-0320 Cabin: 360-663-2631 <a href="mailto:dc-rep@wrra.net">dc-rep@wrra.net</a>

## WRRRA Summer 2023 Newsletter



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