



WRRRA Winter 2020 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

Happy New Year to all WRRRA Members!

As we quickly slide into 2020, it's time to remind our members that the 2020 membership drive will kick off in January. Everyone receiving a paper newsletter will receive a paper invoice along with the winter newsletter around February 1st. Simply mail in the enclosed membership form with updates to your contact information, along with a check for WRRRA membership, and optional NFH membership and Cabin Defense Fund contribution, and you're all done!

Members on the paperless newsletter option will receive an email invoice with an electronic payment option.

NEW THIS YEAR, we will have a payment button on our wrra.net website that will allow **all** members to pay with a credit card their \$40 membership dues, plus optional NFH membership dues, as well as make a donation to the Cabin Defense fund. It's so easy without any additional cost to you. We highly recommend you try this new option!

This past year we have had a very good boost in second generation membership. This means adult children of long time WRRRA members are stepping up and getting involved in our WRRRA community and their cherished cabins. This is a really encouraging sign and bodes well for the overall health of our cabins and the WRRRA community of the future!

I strongly encourage you to continue your efforts to get your next generation involved in the cabin and have them join WRRRA. It really can be the first step to getting them more involved and aware of our/ their precious cabins in the woods!

~ Tim Curran, VP & Membership Chair



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

President's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying the winter season! Although this ski season got off to a bit of a slow start, January has provided some incredible conditions so far. As of this writing, it also looks like we should have good conditions for our Snowplay Social, on MLK weekend – fingers crossed, as we have had to cancel this event in the past due to lack of snow.

Unfortunately, the recent incredible ski conditions have contributed to extreme crowding at Crystal Mountain, so much so that they have had to change their ticketing and crowd control policies. So many more people are living and recreating in the area – Crystal Mountain in the winter, and Mt Rainier and hiking trails in the summer, are all so much more crowded than they used to be!

To that point, I want to prompt you all to take action to help protect our cabins and strengthen the cabin program, as increased pressures on our recreational residence program will surely continue in the years to come. Here are some things you can do:

- Renew your membership in WRRRA – the small annual dues payment keeps our organization running, and ensures you get valuable



In this issue:

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communications and access to member events.

- Expand your WRRRA cabin membership – each cabin can have 4 memberships, to include shared owners, or younger generation – this helps keep everyone in your cabin informed!
- Donate to the Cabin Defense Fund – these funds are used for legal costs and other expenses associated with protecting the cabins and cabin program.
- Join NFH – this is the national program 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 keep the cabin program strong, and protect your little slice of heaven and your getaway in the woods for the future.

To further help reinforce how WRRRA benefits you, and what we are doing to help keep the cabin program strong, please check out the rest of this newsletter, there are updates on many important things including Membership, Finances, Forest Service Plans, WRRRA 2020 Planning, Cabin History, and more.

Please drop me a note if you have any questions, concerns, or input, at president@wrra.net.

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

~ Kevin Orth

WRRRA 2019 Accomplishments and 2020 Planning

The WRRRA Board met on December 4, to review goals and accomplishments for 2019, and to brainstorm and prioritize goals and plans for the organization for 2020.

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

2019 Key Accomplishments

- **Relationships:** Relationship building with the USFS partners has been very successful; WRRRA also has direct involvement with NFH and WSFHA now with members on their boards.
- **Online Payments:** Piloted program in 2019; very successful and will continue.
- **History:** Committee created, lead established, and collection of documentation initiated.
- **FireWise:** Continued FireWise awareness through newsletter articles, and work with PCFD.
- **Forest Stewardship/Restoration Projects:** National Trails Day work on Goat Falls Trail, and WRRRA/Rotary tree planting project in Goat Creek drainage were both very successful.
- **Security:** Roundtable to discuss ideas was held, and information was shared in newsletters.
- **Tract Events:** Deep Creek held two tract events; other tracts did not schedule anything formal.



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Brainstorming of 2020 Goals

There was general agreement that we have tried to bite off too much in the past – we need to set fewer goals so we can really target our activity!

The brainstorming session to develop and prioritize new goals resulted in the following ranked list:

- **Leadership / Board / Volunteer Recruitment:** Develop plan to solicit more volunteers to help
- **Email/Communication System and Data Management Platform:** Research and develop replacement options
- **Membership Recruitment:** Continue to develop new programs, processes and tools
- **Tract Events:** Hold more tract specific events for socializing and discussion of issues
- **Relationships:** Continue regular meetings with USFS and involvement with NFH and WSFHA
- **Education/Cabin Modifications:** Develop additional information/tools for cabin owners
- **Firewise:** Focus on maintenance and chipping; grow participation in fire contracts
- **History:** Leverage collected documentation into an output
- **Insurance:** Help develop local options

Request for Help

As the first goal notes, 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.

~ Kevin Orth, President

2020 Board Elections

Congratulations and thank you to the newly elected members of the WRRRA Board! At our Fall Dinner Meeting in October, the WRRRA members elected the following people to fill important roles on the WRRRA Board. Kevin Bannon was re-elected as Treasurer for another (and final) two-year term. Chris Masterson stepped up for the benefit of the entire WRRRA and was elected Secretary. Ken Ring was elected as a new Silver Springs representative. David Ebel and Molly Ebel were re-elected/elected as co-reps for the Dalles tract. Martin Rand was re-elected as Goat Creek rep, and Jennae Brannon was re-elected as Silver Creek's tract representative. Thank you to all!

As we look ahead, please keep in mind that the critical Treasurer role will be vacant at the end of 2021. Kevin Bannon has dutifully carried on the WRRRA Treasurer role for years and is ready to pass the torch, leaving the WRRRA in the best financial place it has ever been. Please consider whether you or anyone you know would be willing to take over that position beginning in January 2022. Being part of the WRRRA board is extremely rewarding, and any interested candidates can learn from Kevin while he is still on the job!

Additionally, please join the entire WRRRA board and WRRRA membership in thanking Anne Turner for her years of service as WRRRA Secretary and Mark Wellington for his many years of service as Silver Springs Rep. We are all indebted to you for your committed service to our community. Thank you!

~ David Ebel, Dalles Representative

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Treasurer's Report

Great Financial Health News!

Speaking of WRRRA that is...Your financial team, the Treasurer and Finance Committee, had another active year making sure your assets were well managed.

In February 2019, with the blessing of the board, a new account was opened with Vanguard Investments, creating avenues of investment that were unavailable before. Long-term funds were transferred over.

In accordance with the developed low risk investment policy, those funds were invested in money market funds. With interest rates currently stable, the return is tolerable; 2019 investment returns were the best since 2007.

New financial transaction systems were also put in place. Members signed up for the electronic version of the WRRRA newsletter received renewal notices by email with a pay by credit card feature. About 14 members renewed their memberships this way. The extra costs associated with credit card transaction fees were offset by decreased printing and mailing costs.

Attention was devoted to improving the Brown Paper Ticket experience. The associated fees for WRRRA members were discontinued, and are being paid by the association. The WRRRA has enjoyed great financial success this year, and we're happy to share the fruits of that success with our membership. Noteworthy this year is our credit

card payments for the WRRRA spring dinner exceeded our cash payments.

Brown Paper Tickets, though very handy, has limitations. By September of 2019 we rolled out a new payment portal, Square, and it was used eagerly by patrons of our next event. One advantage of Square - our revenue is received in 24 hours; with Brown Paper Tickets receipt of our revenue took 4 weeks or more.

Square offerings can be customized for the WRRRA. Comments received from the membership were very positive and the usage rate was high. We think many of you may find our Square online store a favorite for membership renewal, and 'tis the season for renewal.

I cannot emphasize enough how important your WRRRA membership is to the success and future of the cabin program. Please join the national association (the NFH) as well. Having a strong WRRRA collective presence at the national level is well worth the small investment made with your annual dues. Thank you, in advance, for beginning or renewing your membership to the NFH. Many cabin members have multiple memberships (to both organizations). So consider encouraging other family members (and friends) who enjoy your cabin to join the WRRRA and NFH.

In mid-summer, the WRRRA received a significant bequest from Ken Leader, who we miss so much. Our best wishes go out to his family and loved ones. Those funds were received with little fuss and quickly deposited into our investment account.

Thanks to their high-quality expertise, your financial team set up a separate tracking account for these funds in compliance with generally accepta-



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ble accounting standards. We worked hard to provide the board soundly thought out and transparent guidelines for the custodianship of these and other loving gifts received. Nothing conveys appreciation and respect better than the deliberative and careful use of a gift.

We hope and like to think our work builds trust and confidence of donors and their families. Our goal is that donors are honored by the outcome of their gifts.

Financial performance and outcomes were strong in 2019, comparable to previous years. Efficiency and attention to good management have provided members an unprecedented string of asset improvement and relatively flat prices. The board works to bring you the best deliverables for the best price. Your financial team will work hard to maintain that success.

Members of the financial team are glad to provide more detail and speak with you personally about your WRRR finances. Financial reports are often available at WRRR events. Questions directed to wrrrtreasurer@outlook.com are always welcome. More to the point—come join the team! Tom Wood always makes and serves delightful cookies.

Last but not least—may your cabins be your peace and joy this year. May all else in 2020 go well for you too; thank you for the good things you have done for WRRR.

~ Kevin Bannon, WRRR Treasurer

WRRR History Task Force

WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP. The task force, working on a multi-year WRRR History Project, is comprised of Diane DeWitt, Lead, Rena Irwin, Kevin Bannon, Fred Orton, and Kevin Orth. The Task Force is looking for any old records for the WRRR History Project. Thanks to Brian Brewer, SC 27 and Eric Carlsen, DC 7, who found and donated several of the missing WRRR Directories (referenced in the last newsletter.)

We are still missing Directories for 1987, 1989, 1991, 1998, 2003 and 2006. We are also missing the Cabin Tour Booklets for 2014 and 2018.

If you have any items to donate to the WRRR archives, please email Diane DeWitt at diane@vocpsy.com and/or phone 425-822-2000.

A Look Back

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

A Humble Beginning

This should make you smile – how times have changed.

In 1937, the WRRR's annual dues were \$1 per year, and on August 21st that year there was \$52.63 in the WRRR treasury. Five dollars in dues were collected that year, and \$22.12 was spent, so only \$35.51 was carried over. Then by the end of 1938 the balance had grown to \$112.63. By January 3, 1940, the treasury contained \$126.08. The expenditures were: stationery, ledger books, postage, printing, membership cards, and one phone call that cost 40 cents! The records seem to go silent during World War II and resume in 1947, with a treasury balance of \$206.52, but the dues were still only \$1 per year. The 84 individuals who paid dues in 1948 are listed by name, not by cabin lot number. Many surnames are the same ones found in our most recent WRRR directory.

~ Diane DeWitt, History Task Force Lead

Memories

My parents always loved to ski on the hill at Cayuse Pass. Not much of a ski area, but the price was right and the rope tow was preferable to the herringbone waltz up to Tipsoo. Back in the day an advantage of spring skiing is if one exercised good demeanor, a skier could hitch a ride on a snow plow.

Dad was emphatic; my brother had to outgrow the skis before I inherited them and got my turn. True to his word, upon the magic age of 5, I got bro's skis and got to go on hikes and fishing trips too. By that time, the ski hill at Cayuse was history.

Not a problem. Just over the hill is White Pass. And the highway was open all year. Often skiing trips involved my Uncle and cousins too. My Dad and Uncle had a system. One would buy a chair ticket and one a tow ticket. The one with the tow ticket stayed downhill with the kids. Lunch time was when roles were reversed. They traded parkas so the other could ski the upper runs.

On this particular trip there are a couple of memories that stand out. The first one—my uncle who had kid duty on the p.m. shift gave me his all. We practiced and practiced and with his coaching I mastered the art of riding the rope tow. The second memory is while enjoying the upper runs my Dad missed a turn and skied into a hole. The ski patrol pulled him out but he had broken ribs and could not drive.

A volunteer put Dad in his ski patrol litter in the back of his truck and drove him back to Seattle. Another volunteer drove Dad's car back home, with me riding shotgun.

Once home, Dad fell into the loving hands of WRRRA member Dr. Jack Morrison (present day Scarff cabin, DC-4). Until the day Morrison died I oft heard the tale from his lips how Dad refused to be fitted in a cast, and refused to stay in the hospital.

Dad was a tough guy. Even as a 5 year old I could see my Dad was so badly hurt, and I was shaken no little bit. He did heal, as he did from many other scrapes over the years—many years indeed. Something about the outdoor life, the vigorous activity can set you up for a long life.

We managed to ski, fish, hike, and sail many times. His boats, some hand built by him broke a lot of white water in the high seas, and we spelled each other on the helm until one day a stroke brought him down.

For my uncle, he was a great skier who hung it up at a very late age. I think he wore out his welcome at Crystal because every Monday he was there for his free 70+ ticket. It was always a hoot to join him. Earlier this year just after his 97 birthday he passed too. I miss them both.

No doubt my experience will strike you as quaint - walking up hills, rope tows and such. Not so fast, I say! Doesn't matter your generation or the way you go about it, you're making your own special memories with your families and friends at your cabins. Memories others can only envy. Enjoy those days.

~ Kevin Bannon, History Task Force Member

General Updates from the Forest Service

General Updates from the Forest Service

On December 5, 2019, Kevin Orth (President), Rena Irwin (Past President), Tim Curran (Vice President) and Tom Wood (GC Rep) of WRRRA met with Martie Schramm (District Ranger) and Brian Lee (Permit Administrator) of the Forest Service, at the North Bend Ranger Station, to get updates and discuss issues. Here are notes and updates on some of the key topics.

Goat Creek Culvert and Walking Bridge

Temporary signage for the walking bridge was created and installed by WRRRA members. The Forest Service team will follow up with the plan for additional directional and official signage.

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.

Springtime should offer some further updates on these topics.

Inspections Process and Permits

Self-inspections continue to trickle in to Brian. There is no good mechanism to determine which are missing. Brian will conduct inspections next year for any self-inspections not received. If anyone needs a self-inspection form please contact Brian, or your WRRRA board (these were attached to previous communications).

The Forest Service has mailed out all Permits; some were returned undeliverable. If you

haven't received yours, please contact Brian or your board for help.

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. WRRR will work to continue to educate cabin owners on this topic. A few clarifications and updates include:

- 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 Roofs Requests are also NOT subject to the Open Request window timing; the relatively new metal roof request and approval process is working well

Recreational Updates

Impediments to snowmobiles and ATVs have been added at the gate on Corral Pass Road.

Hopefully the road will open this summer but it depends on conditions of danger trees and the road bed, which will be evaluated this spring. When the road does open, the area will be day use only.

The Snoquera Analysis is coming into Implementation phase, and the Forest Service will reach out to all key stakeholders and user groups soon regarding next steps. The FS may want help identifying and mapping Dispersed Campsites throughout the White River valley; more information will be shared this spring.

Forest Stewardship

WRRR was able to demonstrate our partnership with the Forest Service and our stewardship of the forest and area through participation in two volunteer events: Trail work on the Goat Falls Trail in June (in support of National Trails Day), and tree planting in the Goat Creek drainage in October.

Future events will be scheduled annually with WRRR participation on National Trails Day (June) and National Public Lands Day (October).

Forest Service Personnel Updates

Nicole Brandt is new Deputy Director of the Mt Baker - Snoqualmie National Forest; Jamie Kingsberry remains in the Director role.

We met Hans Redlinger, the new Zone Fire Management Officer; he can offer Firewise consulting to members, and WRRR leadership will follow up on this for future dinner meetings.

There is also a new botanist coming on; depending on her area of expertise, she might be good speaker or special event guide for WRRR.

Summary

Overall, we had a lot of great discussion and 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. If anyone would like to see all the detailed notes from the meeting, please let us know. And, 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, President

Mother Nature got an Assist from WRRR Volunteers

On Saturday, October 27, 2019, 9 WRRR members joined volunteers from the Mercer Island Rotary club to plant seedlings in the Goat Creek area. Five hundred and twenty Douglas and Noble firs were planted, to help restore what was lost in the 2017 Norse Creek fire.

Clyde and Shirley Cherberg, GC 100, hosted the group of 24 at their cabin, serving a continental breakfast before and a lunch after the planting. The Goat Creek and Corral Pass areas were heavily damaged by the fire, and came within 500 feet of the Cherberg's cabin. The steep terrain and fallen trees made the planting more challenging, but even still, the job was completed ahead of schedule, in only 2.5 hours.



Snow Play Social a Big Success!

Thanks to all who came out and participated in the WRRRA winter snow play social! The event was a huge success, and all attendees had loads of fun. Throughout the event, we had well over 50 attendees, which included lots of kids sledding and tubing and having fun playing in the snow, and lots of adults socializing, and even making a few runs on their own. The conditions were perfect, with a fast course that was made very safe by grooming before the event. Lights and tiki torches helped ensure the run was well illuminated after it got dark. A great time was had by all participants. We hope to see you all again next year!





WAHOO!



Many thanks to our Fall 2019 Highway cleanup volunteers!

WRRRA 2020 Calendar

Winter Snowplay Social

Jan 19, Sledding Hill, Dependent on Snow

Winter Board Meeting

Feb 10, Gallianos Cucina, Tukwila

Spring Board Meeting

April 13, Board Member Home

Spring Dinner

April 18, Greenwater

Spring Highway Cleanup: The Dalles

April 19, Highway 410

NFH 2020 Conference, Vancouver WA

April 24-25

Nat'l Trails Day Volunteer Event

June 6, Location TBD

Summer Board Meeting

July 24, Board Member Cabin

Summer Picnic

July 25, Silver Springs Campground

Cabin Tour

July 25, All Tracts

Summer Highway Cleanup: Goat Creek

July 26, Highway 410

Nat'l Public Lands Day Volunteer Event

Sept 26, Location TBD

Fall Board Meeting

Oct 19, Board Member Home

Fall Dinner Meeting

Oct 24, Greenwater

Fall Highway Cleanup: Silver Springs

Oct 25, Highway 410

2021 Planning Meeting

Nov/Dec Date TBD, Seattle Area

WRRRA

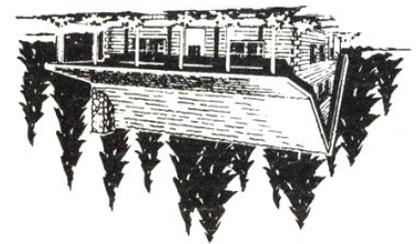
The purpose of White River Recreational Association (WRRRA) is to promote and protect recreational interests along the Mather Memorial Parkway and throughout the Upper White River Valley; to do any and all things lawful, just and necessary to better the interests of the members of the Association; to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



2020 WRRRA Executive Board

President Kevin Orth, SC 26 Home: 206-232-1764 Cabin: 360-663-0164 president@wrra.net	Vice President Tim Curran, DC 3 Home: 425-641-9335 Cabin: 360-663-2631 vp@wrra.net	Immediate Past Pres. Rena Irwin, DC 17 Home: 503-746-6622 Cabin: 360-663-2428 renairwin1@comcast.net
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Goat Creek Rep #1 Tom Wood, GC 95 Cell: 206-304-4032 gc-rep@wrra.net	Goat Creek Rep #2 Martin Rand, GC 40 Home: 206-612-8395 Cabin: 360-663-0118 gc-rep@wrra.net	Deep Creek Rep Josh and Brittany Gaydeski, DC 7 Home: 360-640-0995 dc-rep@wrra.net

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