



WRRRA Spring 2019 Newsletter

White River Recreation Association

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

WRRRA Spring Dinner

**Greenwater Fire Station and Community Center
Saturday, April 27, 2019 starting at 5:00 PM**

Spring is here and the WRRRA Spring Dinner is coming up soon! This year's dinner will once again be held at the Greenwater Community Center. Come join your fellow cabin owners and families at this fun annual event. This year's theme will be Earth Day. Menu will feature Mediterranean Salad; Pesto Spaghetti; Creamed Peas and Onions; Roasted Asparagus; Broccoli Salad; Seafood Stew; Potato Rolls and Butter; Coffee; and Dirt Cake.

Schedule

4:30 PM	Arrival, registration, name badges
5:00 PM	Social Hour
6:00 PM	Dinner
7:15-7:30 PM	Door Prizes

Please take a moment to purchase your tickets in advance to help reduce the onsite check in efforts for our volunteers.

Tickets to this year's dinner are \$35.00 and are available for purchase online or via check:

- <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4202143>
- Mail your check to made out to WRRRA: Kevin Bannon, 4637 S. 168th St., Seattle, WA 98188 (see page 7 for form)

Spring Dinner Policy & Cost:

Cost will be \$35.00 per person, tax and tip included. The maximum number of WRRRA members and guests that can be served is 100. To guarantee a place at the table, your reservation must be received by Monday, April 22, 2018. Those who miss the deadline but wish to attend will be subject to a \$10.00 surcharge if space is available. No refunds or cancellations after April 22, 2018.

President's Message

Another good winter ski season is coming to a close; Easter weekend is the last day of operations at Crystal Mountain this year. I know I didn't get up to the cabin and skiing as much as I hoped to; hopefully some of you were better able to take advantage of the later snow season this year than I was. The late winter also resulted in another cancelation of our Winter Snowplay Social at the cabin – maybe weather patterns are conspiring against us, but I sure hope we can make it work again next year!

This winter also resulted in the unfortunate loss of several WRRRA members. It is always sad when our small and tight-knit community loses members, but it is also uplifting to see how we all come together in these times of pain and of remembrance and celebrations of their lives. Please continue to share memories, and support each other, during these difficult times.

Turning the page, with spring now coming we have a transition to new activities and events in our community, and as such, there are a few things I want to prompt all of you on. First of all, I want to encourage you all to attend our upcoming **Spring Dinner and social event**, which will be held in Greenwater at the Community Center, on the evening of **Saturday, April 27**. I also want to prompt you to Save The Date – please make sure you have on your calendar our tradi-



In this issue:

- *2019 Spring Dinner*
- *WRRRA's 90th Anniversary*
- *Treasurer Updates*
- *WSFHA Meeting*
- *In Memoriam: Mary Anne Gillett*
- *USFS & Snowplow Updates*

tional **Summer Picnic and Cabin Tour event**, which will be held on the afternoon and evening of **Saturday, July 27^t**. After last year's highly successful picnic at Silver Springs Campground, we will be holding the picnic event there again this year. Look for additional details and information coming out as we move into summer.

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

I also wanted to invite everyone to consider attending the upcoming **National Forest Homeowners (NFH) conference in San Diego, California, on May 3-4**. The theme of the conference is "Cabin Advocacy: A Community Approach". There will be fantastic opportunities to interact with other cabin owners from across the country, plus regional and national US Forest Service staff, and leaders of various cabin-related associations. The educational sessions include programs on forest health and plans, fire restoration work, historic cabin renovation case studies, setting up trusts, cabin insurance, cabin security, and more.

A few members of the WRRRA board plan to attend and represent for our association; any current member of NFH is welcome to attend, and we would love to see some more of our WRRRA members there with us. For more information, and to register online, please check out the NFH website:

www.nationalforesthomeowners.org



Tacoma Roofing offers a Forest Service approved standing seam metal roof. The metal roof panel is a snap lock standing seam with striations that delivers an aesthetically pleasing metal roof.

O: 253-472-3484 | E: admin@tacomarofco.com

F: 253-476-1547 | W: www.TacomaRoofCo.com

Post Office Box 64609 Tacoma, Washington 98464

Lastly, I again want to let you all know that your board is continuing to work with the Forest Service and other government organizations on key initiatives including getting a replacement for the road over Goat Creek, helping with restoration efforts after the Norse Peak wildfire, and making "firewise" improvements to our community. As always, we need lots of help, so if you have any time or interest to dedicate to helping improve the cabin program, please contact any board member to volunteer to assist us. There is lots to do!

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

Happy 90 Birthday WRRRA!

WRRRA's History Shows the Importance of Working in Partnership with the FS

About 90 years ago, Ranger Nevin McCullough, an avid writer, wrote that the 80 or so summer homes in Deep Creek and Silver Creek plus the ever-consistent inquiries requesting new permits kept him much too busy. Not unlike today, the Forest Service then was long on jobs to do and short on hands to do them. At the suggestion of his boss, he worked with his cabin owners to form an organization to make cooperation and discussion simpler as well as help make time for him to attend to other things on his list. Hence was born the White River Recreation Association on August 29, 1929.

90 years later, that mission is still intact. Your board spends significant time listening to and talking to the Forest Service. Considerable effort is also spent helping you be successful in this all so important relationship. Without the good will of the Forest Service and Congress, there would be no national forest cabin program.

Ranger McCullough worked closely with the WRRRA until he retired in 1959. He was also deeply involved in the studies and permitting related to the construction of the Crystal Mountain Ski Area.

McCullaugh freely admitted that not every day was a fun day. In fact, in 1932 a delegation from WRRRA approached his boss and asked for his replacement. It is clear things never change in that not every issue will have instant agreement. Solutions are an incremental progress.

Nevin never took the effort to can him personally. In fact, he was very sensitive that opinions are always going to diverge and that working together over time can lead to a mutual accommodation that all can live with. He stated that he spent even more time, not less, with cabin owner Frank Jones Clark, the first WRRRA Secretary and early President.

...Have to digress for a moment. Who knows which two WRRRA Presidents were a father and a son? That's easy--Elmer Leader was WRRRA President from 1940-1941 and son Ken Leader was president from 1989-1992.

Nevin and Frank worked hard to iron things out. They still disagreed on much but did well together having a lifetime friendship. McCullough was well thought of by all cabin owners.

About the time McCullough retired, big changes were in place. Cabins were no longer the only game in town. In fact, they had long been surpassed by other activities...new campgrounds, large scale logging, and large ski area developments. Additionally, the decision was made to stop offering new cabin lots. Henceforth a person could never again apply for a permit and build a cabin. One had to buy an existing cabin.

On top of that, the Eisenhower administration had admonished the Forest Service to charge market rates for cabin permits. Cabin owners were beginning to feel more and more pressure.

In response, WRRRA began to refocus its involvement. The new ski area meant cabins would evolve from summer to year-round users. As is the case today, a large number of cabins were used far more during the winter than during the summer.

The board began to focus more on how help members start using their cabins in the winter as

WRRRA 2019 Calendar

WSFHA Meeting

April 20, Chelminar Tract

Spring Board Meeting

April 22, Board member home

Spring Dinner

April 27, Greenwater

Spring Highway Cleanup: Silver Creek

April 28, Highway 410

Summer Board Meeting

July 26, Board member cabin

Summer Picnic

July 27, Silver Springs Campground

Cabin Tour

July 27, All cabin tracts

Summer Highway Cleanup: Goat Creek

July 28, Highway 410

Fall Board Meeting

Oct 21, Board member home

Fall Dinner Meeting

Oct 26, Greenwater

Fall Highway Cleanup: Silver Springs

Oct 27, Highway 410

2019 Planning Meeting

November tbd, Seattle Area

Other pertinent dates include:

NFH: May 3-4, 2019 / San Diego, CA



Visit our Facebook page for frequent updates on social events and other topics:
White River Recreation Association

well as paying attention to the decisions affecting the cabin area beyond the venue of the Ranger.

That meant paying more attention to the deliberations of Congress and the actions of local governments. The board looked to Pierce County to help maintain the roads—with limited success. In the end they decided to get into the snow removal business. The hat was passed around and a snow removal machine was purchased and operated by WRRRA members. Just as today, much print was allocated to organizing the snow plow program. There were also many newsletter admonishments to members to please not park in the middle of the plowed roads.

Another group of WRRRA members organized one of Crystal Mountain's first ski school: the WRRRA Ski School, which provided instruction to skiers of all levels for about 5 years.

Board members were soon distracted by other pressing issues. Around 1970, the newsletter reports most of the board resigned. The whys are not clearly explained, but it is clear a few stuck around and found new officers—keeping an organization alive. Also at this time, a couple of things were going on in Washington DC which caused WRRRA members no small amount of worry.

The first was a Presidential Commission that recommended the cabin program be terminated. Many but not a majority in Congress as well as the senior leadership of the Forest Service supported this position. In fact, a number of cabin tracts nationwide were shut down. Happily, this policy was partially rescinded, but for many years owners worried how long they could keep their cabins and the board began reaching out to other tracts to find ways to address this. About 25% of all cabins have been terminated over the last 40

years. While it is no longer official policy to eliminate all cabins, for various reasons cabin permits continue to be terminated which is a worrisome trend.

The second initiative was to charge substantially higher permit fees. Around 1970, the Forest Service hired an appraiser who looked at the prices of lots at Snoqualmie Pass and concluded WRRRA cabin owners should pay about 100% more.

The board and cabin owners vigorously protested. Though the increases were sustained, the Forest Service—in response to the appeals of WRRRA—implemented the increase over a 3-year period instead of in one step, saving owners a little agony.

Much was learned from this experience that WRRRA successfully turned into better outcomes in subsequent fee resets. Lessons learned by WRRRA members resulted in fairer subsequent appraisals. Members benefited in the form of more fair fees.

Some other tracts were less unified and less proactive, leading to some unfair fees for them. Members of your board joined in a national coalition. That cooperative effort, as well as some good lessons learned here at White River, eventually led to the successful Cabin Fee Act.

WRRRA will continue to provide a unified support for all cabins as well as positive dialogue with our landlords, the Forest Service. Just as when we were there to provide information during the Norse Peak Fire, to provide helpful feedback to responders, we continue to work for successful rehabilitation.

The topics of the conversation may change but the strategy is still a winner and continues. The best outcome will be when someone else celebrates similar milestones with 183 cabins and over 200 members in 10 years—even 100 years hence. ~ Kevin Bannon

Treasurer Notes

The board and the Treasurer have been working hard to keep WRRRA finances on a firm footing. The Finance Committee has recently constructed an investment policy subsequently approved by



Diane Gebenini
Direct: 360-620-7271 • Fax: 360-825-2498
Email: diane@tx3.com
www.johnscott.com/DianeGeb

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

the board. In response and with the cooperation of the Finance Committee, your WRRRA Treasurer has set up an investment account with Vanguard in order to pursue longer term low risk investment products for our important Cabin Defense Fund dollars.

The Finance Committee is always looking for new participants. Financial expertise is helpful but not required. Most sound financial principles make perfect sense to a lay person as well as a trained expert. In fact policies and actions that make good sense to a lay person are often more prudent and successful. Please tell Tom Wood or myself if interested.

Also this may slip your mind, but believe it or not, this is my 16th year as your WRRRA Treasurer. These have been good years and I look forward to more. Also I would not be working my best for you by thinking what is always will be.

Both the Secretary and the Treasurer have worked hard to provide members methods, records and procedures that are found only in organizations with far more resources. I easily spend about 400 hours a year and so does Secretary Anne Turner.

The fact is if either one of us were to be disabled for a while, or choose to leave, WRRRA would experience no small amount of diminished service. We are both looking for volunteers to help with some of the tasks. This not only allows us to work longer without wearing out but makes it easier for our successors to step up. In future meetings



Deep Creek Friends and Neighbors
Fall 2018 Road Clean Up Team

ALL in ONE
BUILDING AND SUPPLY

253 670 9485 cell 253 839 0176 off.

making your dreams come true

CHUCK GILLETT
president/owner
giletsnrm@aol.com

3429 S. 308th Pl.
Auburn Washington 98001

we will be asking for volunteers to step up and help. Please consider a positive reply. Thank you for your consideration on this. ~ Kevin Bannon

April WSFHA Meeting

Learn About Protecting Your Cabin and Visit an Interesting Cabin Community

Your WRRRA membership also includes a membership in the Washington State Forest Homeowners Association. For many years Albert Pollmer and Ken Leader held various leadership positions with this organization that unifies cabin communities from Lake Quinault to Lake Chelan. Meetings are open for all and are designed not only to mutually support each other, WSFHA was our state’s major representative in the national effort to reform cabin fees, but are also a great opportunity to meet fine people of mutual interest—other cabin owners.

The April WSFHA meeting on April 20 at 11 AM will be at Chelminar Tract. The agenda consists of a tour of the cabins of the tract, a free luncheon and a presentation of making your cabin fire safe. Strategies focus on those promoted by the federally-sponsored Firewise program.

If you’ve loved or heard great things about the WRRRA cabin tour, the WSFHA tours of our sister tracts are just as wonderful. It’s all free, fun and informative. Hope to see you there.

Chelminar Tract is at the base of Tieton Dam on the White Pass Highway about 20 miles east of the Pass and about 45 miles west of Yakima. Chelminar was a construction camp for the workers building Tieton Dam. Upon the completion of the construction, the Bureau of Reclamation turned the buildings over to the Forest Service which in

turn permitted to citizens to use as recreation cabins. It's a very vibrant community of enthusiastic cabin owners in a community that still looks like a 19th century remote mountain community. You can drive to Chelminar by driving east on Highway 12. A short way to get to highway 12 is through Eatonville Elbe then Morton. You can also take Interstate 90 then Interstate 82 to Yakima then drive west on Highway 12. From Seattle each takes about the same amount of time. Either way you choose it is a fun drive with a fun relaxing interval in a neat cabin community. Hope you come. ~ Kevin Bannon

In Memoriam: Mary Anne Gillett

The WRRRA and Crystal Mountain family suffered a tremendous loss on February 20, 2019 when Mary Anne Gillett passed away as the result of a skiing accident at Crystal Mountain.



For anyone who has ever attended a WRRRA social event or skied at Crystal Mountain, you surely remember Mary Anne for her contagious laugh, beaming smile and genuine positive nature.

Known in life and forever as "Saint Mary Anne," she was truly one of a kind. Aside from her family and cooking, Mary Anne's other true love was her mountain community. She loved us like family and we loved her. After buying into her cabin with her husband Chuck in the 1980s, Mary Anne quickly became a fixture at The Dalles. She remained a vibrant member of the cabin community for over 30 years through her constant presence and genuine interest in truly getting to know everyone she met. She was also the ultimate host. If you've stopped by Chuck and Mary Anne's cabin at any time over the last 30+ years you can surely picture her bright smile and warm hospitality.

In addition to loving the mountains and the rest of her mountain family, Mary Anne also gave generously of her time and talents to the com-

munity. She served many years as a Crystal Mountain Host, Dalles Tract Representative, and WRRRA Social Chair. Mary Anne was a true ambassador of our mountain community and lived a full life to which we can all aspire.



"Saint Mary Anne" Gillett will forever be in our hearts. ~ David & Molly Ebel

Snow Plow Recap Winter 2019

Overview: Well winter is certainly winding down at the mountain. It seems that plowing went well this year even with several little hiccups. We had a couple of changes this year which made things work a little different from previous years. First, we had a new operator in the upper area this year. He did a good job keeping on top of things; in fact, he was ahead of me calling about plowing most of the year. Another change this year was that we had to rent the equipment. I believe this turned out to be a bit of a savings over the previous year.

We will be contracting with the same operator again this coming winter and again will need to rent the equipment. As for the Deep Creek area, all went well except the one large storm, when the equipment just couldn't handle the amount of snow. We will be working on a contingency plan for Deep Creek next year.

Thanks again to everybody for their understanding with the changes and the hiccups that come with a new operator and crazy weather. If anybody has an idea of another crew that would be willing to help down a Deep Creek next year, please let me know directly.

~ Perry Turner (snowplow410@live.com)

Contacting USFS and Law Enforcement

Updates from Mary Coughlin, MCO and 410 Corridor Manager, USFS

Telephone numbers to call to report forest violations.

1. District Office between 8:00am and 4:30pm
360-825-6585
2. Washington State Patrol Dispatch 425-401-7788
3. Pierce County Dispatch 253-798-4721

District office has radio communication with any District employees that are out in the field and can assist with responding the appropriate resource. State Patrol is the dispatch for our Law Enforcement Officer and Pierce County will respond a Deputy based on priority. The best thing individuals can do is gather as much information (if it can be done safely), time, location, vehicle description, description and number of people and type of activity. This information can be passed on as soon as possible to law enforcement. Thank you for your interest and support. ~ Mary Coughlin

Mary Coughlin, MCO / 410 Corridor Manager
Forest Service
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest,
Snoqualmie Ranger District
p: 360-802-5309
mary.coughlin@usda.gov
450 Roosevelt Avenue East
Enumclaw, WA 98022
www.fs.fed.us

Phyllis Hartford, Realtor
MOUNTAIN LIFESTYLES



www.CrystalMountainCabinsAndHomes.com
Office: (360) 663-2459
Cell: (206) 617-1049

Mountain View Properties

RESERVATIONS FORM: WRRRA Spring Dinner Event

**Greenwater Fire Station and Community Center
Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

Brown Paper Tickets: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4202143>

Phone: Kevin Bannon 206-244-9683 (between 6-8 p.m.)

Email: treasurer@wrra.net

Mail: WRRRA Treasurer, 4637 S. 168th St., Seattle, WA 98188 (include the form below)
Please include payment, payable to "WRRRA" with reservation.

To guarantee a place at the table, your reservation must be received by Monday, April 22, 2019.

Name(s):			
Number Attending		@ \$35/person	
Total Enclosed:			

WRRRA

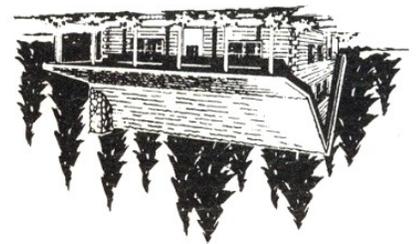
The purpose of White River Recreational Association (WRRRA) is to promote and protect recreational interests along the Mather Memorial Parkway and throughout the Upper White River Valley; to do any and all things lawful, just and necessary to better the interests of the members of the Association; to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



WRRRA Board for 2019

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: 360-866-2570 Cabin: 360-663-2428 renairwin1@comcast.net
Secretary Anne Turner, SC 2 Home: 425-218-9822 Cabin: 360-663-2377 secretary@wrra.net	Treasurer Kevin Bannon, SS 155 Home: 206-244-9683 treasurer@wrra.net	Dalles Representative David Ebel, D 31 Home: 206-285-2178 Cabin: 360-663-2493 dalles-rep@wrra.net
Silver Springs Rep #1 Bill Vlases, SS 80 Home: 206-878-2541 Cabin: 360-663-7752 ss-rep@wrra.net	Silver Springs Rep #2 Mark Wellington, SS 148 Home: 206-524-4036 Cabin: 360-663-2271 ss-rep@wrra.net	Silver Creek Rep Jennae Brannon, SC 45 Home: 253-332-1235 Cabin: 360-663-2569 sc-rep@wrra.net
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 Home: 360-640-0995 dc-rep@wrra.net

WRRRA Spring 2019 Newsletter



ANNE TURNER
 6223 NE 196 ST
 Kenmore, WA 98028

PRRSRT STD
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Yakima, WA
 Permit No. 1