



WRRRA Spring 2020 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 Cancelled

In response to the continued spread, and serious nature of COVID-19, Governor Jay Inslee recommended all optional social events be cancelled. Ultimately, the health and well-being of our members (and their loved ones) is of the utmost importance, so the board made the difficult decision to cancel the annual Spring Dinner. In addition, the road clean up that is traditionally the following day is also cancelled.

We will remain committed to doing our part to stop the spread of this virus, and will keep you updated regarding other upcoming WRRRA events. Our sincere best wishes for the health and well-being of each member of our cabin community.

~WRRRA Board

President's Message

Another good winter ski season will come to a close soon; Crystal Mountain will be closing mid-April, as has been standard the last few years. At this writing, the final day of operations will be April 18. I do miss the longer ski season when we could get turns into the summer, but understand the mountain operations likely aren't supported by sufficient numbers that late in the season. Overall, it seems that it was a pretty successful ski season; in fact, once it really got going in January, Crystal had to implement new crowd control policies as all parking lots were getting filled early in the morning on weekends. It will be interesting to see if and how changes are made to the Ikon Pass, and to Crystal operations, for next year based on learnings from this year.

This winter also resulted in another extreme weather event, when the White River valley had extensive rainfall, landslides, and flooding. Although the highway was closed for multiple days, it appears that there was little damage to our cabins, in part due to other cabin owners and community members jumping in to help protect our cabins. It was so great to

see the spirit of our community come out so strong during this difficult event!

With spring soon on the way, we were all starting to look forward to our annual **Spring Dinner and Social** event. However, with the ongoing

concerns around coronavirus and COVID-19, on March 11th the board made the difficult decision to cancel the Spring Dinner event. We understand that cancelling this fun social event may be frustrating and upsetting to some, but the health and well-being of all our members and families is more important. We will share relevant updates on this topic, and anything else of interest to cabin owners, via email rather than in person, to do our part to support recommended "social distancing" during this time.

It is our hope that come summer, this health issue will be behind us, so I want to prompt all of you to Save The Date of our traditional **Summer Picnic and Cabin Tour** event, which will be held on the afternoon and evening of **Saturday, July 25th**. After successful picnics at Silver Springs Campground the last two years, 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



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learn about what others are doing with their cabins and more. In light of the cancellation of the Spring Dinner, I strongly encourage you all to plan to attend the Summer Picnic. Hopefully we will get a record turnout!

Lastly, I want to remind you that your WRRRA board continues to advocate for you by working with the Forest Service and other government organizations, and by working with National Forest Homeowners, on key initiatives that impact us and other cabin owners. 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

Become a WRRRA Member and Stay Connected During Emergencies!

In times of emergency its very natural for all of us to want to stay connected to find out what's happening to our homes, cabins and loved ones.

We recently experienced a four-day period when highway 410 connecting us to our cabins was closed due to water over the roadway, wash outs and the complete severing of electricity, telephone, cell phone & Wi-Fi connections. In short, we were shut off from anything having to do with our cabins.



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WRRRA President, Kevin Orth gathered information from many sources including WA. DOT, the Forest Service, Crystal Mt and more. Kevin kept all registered WRRRA members up to date with the latest information.

Interestingly, we had several cabin owners contact various board members wondering why they weren't getting these email updates. In many cases these former members had let their membership lapse and in other cases it was simply a matter of updating their email addresses.

So, the take away to staying connected with the WRRRA when an emergency situation happens around the cabin areas is:

1. Make sure your 2020 membership dues have been sent into our treasurer, Kevin Bannon. You can print out the 2020 registration form at the membership tab at wrra.net. Even better, we have a new link "enroll now" at our website that will allow you to pay your WRRRA 2020 dues without any additional cost, sign up to become a member of our national cabin owners association, National Forest Homeowners (highly recommended) and also to contribute to the WRRRA Defense fund.

2. If you're already a member, it's a great time to make sure your contact info is up to date. This is especially true for your email address and your phone numbers. These two contacts are what we use to contact you personally if your cabin has an emergency or if the White River area is threatened. If you're not sure if your contact info is up to date, just send an email with your info to Kevin Bannon, WRRRA treasurer, at treasurer@wrra.net or Chris Masterson, WRRRA secretary at secretary@wrra.net.

Thanks for all your support and remember...STAY CONNECTED!! ~ Tim Curran, VP

Preserving Our Heritage

This is a brief update on the activities of the WRRRA History Project. First, the collected records of the association have been accepted by the Northwest Special Collection of the University of Washington. This is because WRRRA is an important part of Pacific Northwest History with

a singular story to tell. It is also because we have extensive records deserving preservation in perpetuity. Our goal is to collect and place the WRRRA **records** in one safe place to guarantee access to all cabin owners today and for generations to come. Donations from individuals will also be accepted on a case by case basis. The initial emphasis as we collect and organize the WRRRA Archives is about the official records of the association.

Next, items from individuals will be accepted so long as they extend and enhance the WRRRA archived collection. Examples of such items include the written/illustrated history of individual cabins, e.g., Ward Tyler's story of building Goat Creek Cabin 100 in the early 1930s, or the illustrated storybook about the Rand Cabin. We hope somebody will write up the tale of our struggle to get metal roofs approved or give a full accounting about the 2017 Norse Peak Fire. Our History Project team is eager to discuss submission of these more intimate aspects of cabin culture and history. Coffee Table books about individual cabins are another example.

Meanwhile, the WRRRA History Project will be part of the program at the 2020 National Forest Association Conference on September 11-12 at the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver, WA. During the conference there will be a session on **Cabin Culture and Heritage** where the WRRRA History Project will be featured. Diane DeWitt, WRRRA History Project Lead, will demonstrate some WRRRA "show and tell" items, describe what we have been doing, and be available for Q & A. Sharon Leach, Executive Director of NFH, will be launching a nation-wide effort to preserve our cabin culture and heritage to reach all tracts of forest cabins at the conference. Sharon wants to find and involve cabin people who have written books about specific tracts, written up the story of their cabin, collected photos with oral histories, completed video documentaries and/or interviews. The idea is to brainstorm and support all cabin people who have or will take varied approaches to preserve our cabin heritage and culture.

~ Diane DeWitt, History Task Force Lead

WRRRA 2020 Calendar

Spring Board Meeting

April 13, Board member home

WSFHA Meeting, Snoqualmie Pass, Pancake House Restaurant, May 9, 11am

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

NFH Conference, Vancouver, WA

September 11-12

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

WSFHA Meeting Coming Up

The WSFHA wants to positively impact cabin communities statewide.

The Washington State Forest Homeowners Association (WSFHA) is meeting on May 9, 11am, at the Pancake Restaurant at Snoqualmie Pass. The spot was chosen so cabin owners across the state can more easily connect with this important group. All of you are WSFHA members and are welcome to attend. **(Please Note: Given the guidelines recently issued regarding the COVID-19 outbreak, this meeting is subject to change.)**

Though I'm sure syrup and pancakes is an attraction, there is also a cabin community at Snoqualmie Pass. They are not organized. That is to say they don't have their own local version of WRRRA nor do they participate in the National Forest Homeowners Association. It's a strategic goal that every cabin in the nation should be able to connect with a cabin group. We hope that the Snoqualmie Pass cabin owners will bond with Washington Forest Homeowners and maybe we can help them get to a higher level. Snoqualmie Pass cabins are in the same ranger district as White River. We share Martie as our ranger and Brian as our permit administrator. WRRRA could be really helpful too!

This organization was formed at the beginning of the millennium by cabin owners all around the state to support each other and to learn from each other. From the very beginning WRRRA members have helped nurse things along. Teaching each other and supporting each other, the national program remains viable. Curious to learn more? Email me at wrratreasurer@outlook.com.

~ Kevin Bannon



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Criminal Activity and Proper Reporting

Burglary

On January 14, four Pierce County Deputies arrested a dangerous felon in the FS 70 road area. Jeremy Olson had warrants for residential burglary, assault and drugs. A detective described him as violent, dangerous and that he had been in prison 20 years for 2nd degree murder.

Olson's arrest could not have happened without actions by a handful of Greenwater residents. White River Forest Protection Association (FPA) volunteers provided information about four suspicious characters illegally camping, tree felling and the discovery of dumped, likely stolen items nearby. A responsible quick-acting Greenwater Store employee posted information from a visiting detective about Olson on Facebook. In the evening that same day, the Crystal River Ranch caretaker identified Olson in the FS 70 corridor. The Pierce County Sheriff was notified from the Greenwater Store, four deputies arrived, and they were successful in apprehending him.

Olson's residential burglaries were usually committed at night. His stealing gasoline containers, siphoning and/or drilling a hole in vehicle gas tanks was typical. Hopefully Jeremy Olson's arrest will reduce future burglaries in the Greenwater SR 410 corridor and in our cabin community.

Illegal Shooting

On and around Feb 17, target shooters were discharging multiple 50+ round bursts, likely from assault weapons. Multiple Dalles cabin owners reported loud rapid-fire shooting in the late afternoon and early evening over multiple days, from across the White River.

A pile of casings and typical target shooting debris were discovered just off FS 73 road, at the 1st left spur closed gate, at the site of an unsafe target shooting site. There are two target shooting sites a short distance from the Dalles cabin tract. The illegal shooting activity was reported to law enforcement and to the Forest Service.

As always, it is important to properly report any criminal activity. Please contact Pierce County Sheriff, at (253) 798-7530.

It is equally important to report the activity to the Forest Service, so that a record is made of the issue. Contact Brian Lee at bflee@fs.fed.us

And file an Incident Report online -- <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/index.aspx?NID=1944>

Proper reporting of any criminal activity is critical to help track issues and to get more law enforcement presence in the area for the future.

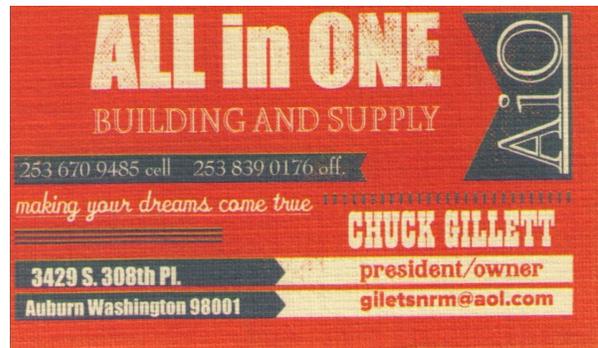
~Kevin Orth

NFH Conference – Sept. 11-12

The National Forest Homeowners (NFH) national conference, previously scheduled for late April, has been rescheduled for late summer, due to health concerns with large public gatherings and the coronavirus. The rescheduled conference will be held on September 11-12, in Vancouver, Washington, at the fabulous Heathman Lodge. Several 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.

The theme of the conference is "Getting Out There! Cabins & Recreation on Our National Forests". The Recreation Residence Program was designed over a century ago to get families into the woods, so Americans would become acquainted with our great public lands and explore them. Cabin life is ultimately about the joys of getting out there, above and beyond anything else. The conference will focus on and celebrate what there is to do on our National Forests, and how we as cabin owners can both enjoy our forests and increase our knowledge as stewards and stakeholders.

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 Cabin Culture & Heritage, Citizen Science with Mobile Apps, Foundations in Cabin Ownership, Sustainable Cabins,



Trail Planning in the Pacific Northwest, Maintaining Your Cabin, Cabin Exchange Program, Cabin Insurance Q&A, Preparing for Fire, Stewardship, Web & Social Media Q&A, and more.

We hope that some of you will choose to attend, and can help bring back information and messaging to all WRRRA members.

For more information, and to register online, please check out the NFH website:

www.nationalforesthowners.org

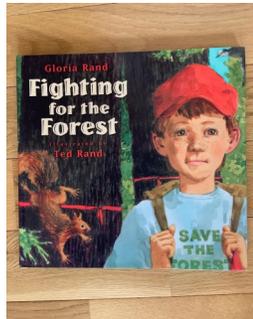
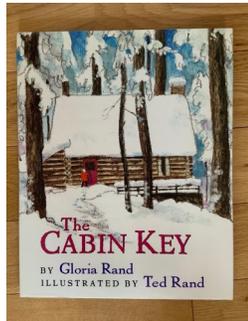
~Kevin Orth

Snoquera Landscape Analysis Update

The Snoquera Landscape Analysis has been completed. The decision was published on March 11th. Of particular interest to cabin owners are decisions regarding Recreational Shooting Sites, Corral Pass, Ranger Creek Airstrip, Forest Service Roads, restoration and recreation projects, including trailhead enhancements, and more (it's 73 pages long!) To find out more, go to the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest National Environmental Project Act (NEPA) website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/mbs/landmanagement/projects>.



Visit our Facebook page for frequent updates on social events and other topics: [White River Recreation Association](https://www.facebook.com/WhiteRiverRecreationAssociation)



In Memoriam: Gloria K. Rand, 1925-2020

Author of *The Cabin Key* and *Fighting for the Forest*, her words captured her love for the cabin and the surrounding forest, for all to read and enjoy. Gloria wrote 15 books in her career, in partnership with her husband, artist and illustrator Ted Rand. Our cabin was always a special place for her and our family.

The cabin has been in our family since 1929 but Gloria's first time to the cabin was in the late 1940's, post WWII. Ted brought her to the cabin on a skiing date and she fell in love with both our dad and the cabin. She showed her great sense of humor that day when Ted jokingly said, "Look—there's a cougar!" Of course, there was not one, but she did not wait around to find out and took off down the Corral Pass road full speed, coming to a stop only when the snow ran out. Later that day as Ted was changing a flat tire at the bottom of the road she yelled out, "Look out Ted, there's a bear!" He flew back into the car only to find out she had the last laugh.

The wonderful times and stories that go along with them could fill another book or two. Gloria loved to hike, ski and spend warm summer afternoons reading underneath a big Douglas Fir. Her memory is strong through now the 3rd and 4th generations of Rands in our cabin. She always

felt that one of the most important things in life was to make a difference. Gloria did that for many, both in person and through her books. Truly a life well lived. ~ Martin Rand, GC 40

White River Valley Landslides and Flooding

The first week of February 2020 saw significant rain fall in the White River Valley. Days upon days of rain near Greenwater resulted in multiple landslides and flooding across Highway 410 in the area near Greenwater and in the Federation Forest.

Starting February 6, Highway 410 was closed as the Washington State Department of Transportation worked to clear the road. Crystal Mountain was of course closed at the same time. Ultimately, the road and resort were closed for 5 days.

Power and phones were also out during this time. Communication was difficult, but WRRRA members were kept informed by email updates and Facebook posts on a daily basis.

During the event, cabin owners and Greenwater community members rallied to help fill and place sandbags, divert running water around cabins, and much more. It was wonderful to see the spirit of community come out during this difficult time!

Ultimately, there was minimal damage to cabins reported. Some of the cabin roads did get impacted by washouts and sinkholes, but those were quickly repaired as well.

Thank you to all those who helped protect our cabins during this extraordinary storm event!

~Kevin Orth

2019-2020 Snowplow Update

We had another busy plowing year. A big thank you to our snowplow team for working so hard during the heavy storms. There was a strong response to snowplow and road fund requests this year, with 138 cabins participating. We appreciate everyone getting their payments in so quickly, allowing us to be ready for the first snowfall.

Important: We need to find a new snowplow vendor for Deep Creek. We do not have an operator for the 2020-21 season, so your contacts and suggestions are critical. Please reach out to Perry Turner: perry.turner@gmail.com.

~ Perry and Tod Turner, Snowplow Committee

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Landslides and Flooding, February, 2020

Picture Credits: Crystal Mountain, Washington State Department of Transportation, Kevin Orth, Shelby Friedrich, Ben Marra



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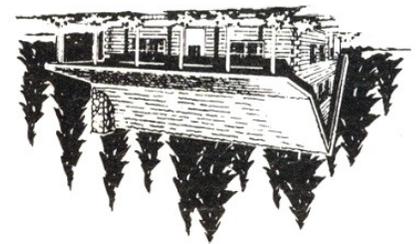
The purpose of White River Recreational Association (WRRRA) is to promote and protect recreational interests along the Mather Memorial Parkway and throughout the Upper White River Valley; to do any and all things lawful, just and necessary to better the interests of the members of the Association; to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



WRRRA Board for 2020

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
Secretary Chris Masterson, DC 17 Home: 425-228-9410 Cabin: 360-663-2428 secretary@wrra.net	Treasurer Kevin Bannon, SS 155 Home: 206-244-9683 treasurer@wrra.net	Dalles Rep David & Molly 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 Ken Ring, SS 156 Home: 253-582-5461 ss-rep@wrra.net	Silver Creek Rep Jennae & Patrick 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, DC 7 Home: 360-640-0995 dc-rep@wrra.net

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