



# WRRRA Spring 2021 Newsletter

## White River Recreation Association

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

### 2021 Spring Meeting – Zoom Videoconference

Due to ongoing State Of Washington health and safety guidelines prohibiting the gathering of people for social events, due to the Covid-19 virus impacts, we will unfortunately have to cancel our planned annual Spring Dinner this year.

Instead, we plan to hold a videoconference event, which will allow you many of the same benefits as the dinner meeting, but in a safe and socially distanced manner.

***Please join your WRRRA Board and other members, for a Zoom videoconference, on Thursday, April 22, at 7pm.***

There will be some social time, as well as updates to include membership, financial, Crystal Mountain, internet access, and more.

To join the Zoom meeting, enter this address into your internet browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81805820098?pwd=aG4vSVMwWDJMVVJGYVVBwekNxa0hmdz09>

Then enter the Meeting ID and Passcode:

Meeting ID: 818 0582 0098

Passcode: 010166

Additional Zoom Instructions and Tips

- Plan to join the meeting early (after 6:45pm). In that way, if you have technical difficulties, you have time to troubleshoot the solution.
- Use a PC or tablet, not your cell phone.
- Enter [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com) into your internet browser.
- If you have not used Zoom before, you will need to download an app.
- Click “Open Link”.
- Enter the Meeting ID and Password above, if requested.

- Move your mouse or cursor around the window on your screen, to find the Microphone and Video icons.
- To turn them on or off, click on the icon.
- If you do not have access to a computer, you can call-in using the Dial-in number, 1-253-215-8782.

We hope you will join us for this socially distanced event, and take the opportunity to get updates and catch up with other members via videoconference.

See you all then!

### President’s Message

By the time this newsletter comes out, another good winter ski season will be soon coming to a close. Although, Crystal Mountain recently announced that they will be extending into May, on weekends, due to the significant



snow pack this year. It was a successful, but challenging season, between closures, crowd control initiatives, reservation systems, and pent up demand for recreation due to the coronavirus. Crystal has

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*Volunteers needed for 2022 Board Elections*

*WRRRA History —A look back*

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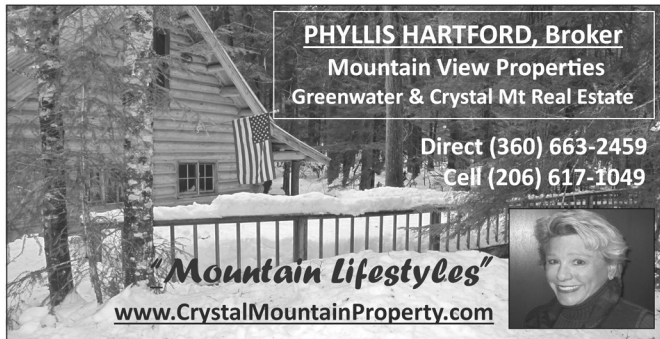
*In Memoriam: Gene Slape*

*2021 WRRRA Member Activities & Calendar*

*Snow Plow Update & Winter Storm Damage*



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



already announced they will be making more significant changes to their operations, and the Ikon Pass, for next year as well. We hope to receive and share additional updates with all of you soon.

With spring on the way, we were hoping that we might be able to hold our annual **Spring Dinner and Social** event in April. However, with the ongoing impacts from the COVID-19 virus, and restrictions on social gatherings, we will once again have to forgo the planned social event. Instead, we plan to hold a Zoom videoconference on April 22nd, to be able to share important updates with all of you. And, we hope to be able to use the opportunity for some “social time” as well, in a safe socially-distanced way. I hope that many of you will join us. Please see the announcement in this newsletter for details.

I hope come summer, enough people will have been inoculated and infection rates dropped enough that this crisis can be largely behind us, to the extent we might be able to hold our traditional **Summer Picnic and Cabin Tour** event. I fervently hope, that even if we have to follow health and safety requirements such as wearing masks and restricting numbers, we will be able to hold this wonderful social event. For now, please “Save the Date” of the afternoon and evening of **Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup>**. We will communicate more information as we move into summer and see what the State guidelines will allow.

As always, I want to remind you that your WRRR board continues to advocate for you by working on key strategic plan initiatives, as shared with you in the last newsletter. This includes working to get internet access for all cabins, developing fire preparation plans, working with the Forest

Service and other government organizations, and 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, being on the board (we are still looking for a treasurer), or supporting any project work, please contact any board member. There is lots to do!

Please drop me a note if you have any questions, concerns, or input, at [president@wrra.net](mailto:president@wrra.net).

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

~ Kevin Orth, President

## Membership Update

I am excited to report as our WRRR membership drive is winding down that we have exceeded our membership goal. As of this writing we have 224 paid members (our goal was 215). We are thrilled to have several brand-new members and we’re welcoming back others who have returned to our association.

Many of you took the opportunity to join National Forest Homeowners (NFH) as well as contribute to the Cabin Defense Fund. I’m pleased to announce that half of WRRR members are also members of NFH and \$1,500 was donated to the Cabin Defense Fund; an increase of \$200 from last year. I would like to thank the area representatives for their efforts to remind and encourage their cabin neighbors during the membership drive. Most importantly I would like to express my appreciation to you for your continued commitment and support of WRRR!

~Fred Orton, VP, Membership

## 2022 Board Elections

2022 Elections (held in Fall, 2021) will be upon us before we know it, and we need your help! An organization can only be as healthy as the membership enables it to be, which is why your participation is critical.

**We have put out a call for the last several years for a volunteer to serve as WRRR Treasurer.**

**We've had many nibbles, but no bites. This time, the request can't go unanswered.** Our Treasurer, Kevin Bannon, has faithfully served for almost 20 years, and is stepping down at the end of this year. The position of Treasurer can't go unfilled. While it may seem daunting to follow in his footsteps, he has graciously offered to train his successor, and the entire board will support the incumbent, walking along side as he/she learns the ropes.

There are other positions whose term is ending. Some have offered to serve a second (or third) term, if need be, but all are excited about new board members joining the fold. The positions coming to the end of their 2-year term are: Secretary, Treasurer, Goat Creek-Representative 2, Silver Springs-Representative 2, Silver Creek Representative, and Dalles Representative. Please seriously consider volunteering. We need you! And the board is a great group of folks; it's a pleasure to get to know members from all the different tracts.

If you're interested in joining the board, regardless of the position, please reach out to David Ebel at [debel@schwabe.com](mailto:debel@schwabe.com) or 206-407-1525.

~Chris Masterson, Secretary

## WRRRA History Task Force A Look Back

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

### Quaint Event from Sixty Plus Years Ago

The following WRRRA kinds of historical events are well documented in our Archival Records. On February 20, 1957 the WRRRA leaders called a meeting with our winter season patrolman, Freeman Cochran, and three USFS staff, asking for those cabin owners who were available to participate. Three days earlier seventeen cabins had been broken into by unknown parties. Despite there being "no serious losses" an elevated level of fear rippled through WRRRA. On discovering these break-ins our winter patrolman immediate-

ly checked the nearby cabins, notified the cabin owners involved, and notified the Pierce County Sheriff. The only action identified in the records was that WRRRA leadership repeated a plea for more people to pay the annual \$4 so our patrolman could be hired for more months beyond the originally planned number of winter months.

Next, that same year, our "fish planting specialist," Frank Bannon, invited interested and willing WRRRA members to help him; and, in return, they might learn where the fishing might be good later on that year!

And third, the Deep Creek tract was about to change forever because the "CPS cabin" (College of Puget Sound) had been sold and a permit issued to open a commercial operation. This permit created Alta Silva that later became Alta Crystal.

And then, in December 1958 a different winter season patrolman, named Eugene Schumacher, an Orting resident, was hired at \$20 per week for the first 12 weeks of 1959. He was to provide the winter season weekly patrol for cabins in the Deep, Goat, Silver Creek and Silver Springs tracts who had paid for his service. His services were to be paid at the same rate, \$4, for those cabins willing to pay in-advance. The contract letter specifies that he was to check the outside of each cabin for "(a) damage by the elements; and (b) vandalism, theft, or trespass." He was provided placards to fix to the cabins that had paid for his services even though he was expected to "make incidental observation of the rest of the cabins" ... "and to report any incidents directly to the Forest Service" as well as to "keep any memorandum of all reports ..."

~ Diane DeWitt, History Task Force Lead

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 giletsnrm@aol.com                      Chuck Gillett

## Financial Report

In spite of a number of challenges your White River Recreation Association fared well in 2020 with 227 participating members. Thank you! Selective financial numbers are shown below:

Profit and Loss 2020 -- Cash Basis			
		General	Restricted
Income (\$)			
Dues		9000	
Advertising		700	
Investments		36	812
CDF Donations			1275
NFH Memberships			3550
Released Restricted Funds		<u>3550</u>	<u>-3550</u>
Total Income		13286	2026
Expenses (\$)			
Administrative		2819	
Program		2227	
Dues Paid to NFH		3550	
Misc.		205	
Total Expenses		<u>8801</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Income		4484	2027

Balance Sheet 2020 – Cash Basis	
Assets (\$)	
Bank Accounts	46684
Vanguard Brokerage	90606
Undeposited Funds	<u>3425</u>
Total Assets	<u>140615</u>
Liabilities (\$)	
Deferred 2021 Revenue	<u>3665</u>
Equity (\$)	
Unrestricted Reserves	24598
Provisional Reserves	17000
Restricted Cabin Defense Fund	60006
Restricted Copeland Fund	28865
Net Income	<u>6511</u>
Total Equity	<u>136950</u>
Total Liabilities + Equity	<u>140615</u>

2021 member renewals were great. As of now, 224 members signed up. Cabin Defense Fund donations were strong too. Thank you again!

Thanks also for supporting the National Forest Homeowners Association with record participation. Additionally, WRRRA has donated \$250 to the NFH Forest Fire Relief Fund. (Editors Note: Which they gratefully acknowledged in a thank you letter.)

Transition costs for a new WRRRA Treasurer and the requests of the WRRRA Secretary are not clear yet. Depending on things, those could be very expensive.

We hope a member volunteer, who will be offered a lot of support, will step forward. This is far cheaper than hiring outside professional help. Appealing to all to please help.

Event related expenses are likely to turn out as predicted. Attempts were made to factor in the cost of extra health measures. Early events have been canceled but there are high hopes events will resume summer onwards.

The bottom line suggests a tiny 2021 loss though this depends on the uncertainties previously dis-

cussed. Selected budget highlights are shown below:

2021 Budget -- Cash Basis			
		General	Restricted
Income (\$)			
Dues		8950	
Program		4810	800
Investments		5	700
CDF Donations			1500
NFH Memberships			5200
Released Restricted Funds		<u>5200</u>	<u>-5200</u>
Total Income		18965	3000
Expenses (\$)			
Administrative		5985	
Program		7392	
Dues Paid to NFH		5200	
Misc.		500	
Total Expenses		<u>19077</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Income		-112	3000

~Kevin Bannon, Treasurer

## In Memoriam: Gene Slape, 1936—2021



It's no surprise that Gene fit in with cabin life at the Kelley cabin (GC-15) since he was born in a log cabin near Chester, OK, Sept. 29, 1936. As

the eldest of 7, he developed self-reliance and a strong work ethic at an early age.

During our 40 year marriage, he became a memorable part of the 103 yr. family cabin history. We shared a belief that the cabin was a special place where life could be lived at a simpler pace within a community of caring neighbors helping

one another; and it was a place to create memories for family and friends alike.

Traditions of July 4<sup>th</sup> picnics, Thanksgiving dinners, New Year's celebrations, and the annual summer Camp Kelley reunion with close friends provided many photos and memories!

One of my favorite memories is watching Gene teach Koko, our chocolate Lab, how to ride the sled with grandson Grant down the sledding hill!

In contrast to his non-cabin life as a state Corrections Supervisor, family therapist, and faculty member (Seattle U), he relished the hands-on projects which are never-ending at a cabin in the woods! Though the ultimate project of cleaning up 14 downed trees after a December 2006 wind storm really pushed the limits!

He enjoyed hosting visitors at the cabin, sharing stories of early cabin history, and organizing projects which benefited the cabin community-- especially the antique "yard sale" in 2017 which featured the tools and hardware that had been used by my grandfather John Kelley and my uncle George Garner during the 1930's to build other cabins and make furniture. (Proceeds benefited the Cabin Defense Fund).

Gene was known for his great smile, laughter, a compassionate heart, and sense of humor. He never lost his "down to earth" nature and gave his best to all of us. He will be greatly missed.

He passed away at home in Seattle of heart failure on Jan. 22, 2021.

A Celebration of Gene's Life will be livestreamed on Zoom on Saturday, April 10 at 3:00 pm PDT.

If you would like to "attend", go to <http://virtualmemorialgatherings.com/memorial-services/gene-slape> to register your rsvp.

~Submitted by Gene's wife, Marian Svinth

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## Snow Plow Update

We thought the winter would be a heavy snow year down at the cabins based on the snowfall early in November. As it turned out, the snow didn't return until early February, then came with a vengeance. Once the February snow fell, we had some challenges in plowing, due to fluctuating temperatures.



We had to plow several times during February, both in the upper tracts and Deep Creek. At this point, I think we're done with plowing for the year, but you never know. As far as finances, we collected the plowing fee from all but 10 cabins, which is typical of past years. We have rented the equipment through the end of March in anticipation of additional plowing.

This will be my last year organizing the snow plowing efforts, but believe I have someone lined up to take the reigns.

~ Perry Turner, Snow Plow Coordinator

## WRA 2021 Calendar\*

**Spring Board Meeting**  
April 19, Board Member Home

**Spring Meeting (if zoom)**  
April 22, Zoom Videoconference

**Spring Highway Cleanup: Deep Creek**  
April 25, Highway 410—Cancelled

**Nat'l Trails Day Volunteer Event**  
June 5, Cabin area

**Summer Board Meeting**  
July 23, Board Member Cabin

**Summer Picnic**  
July 24, Silver Springs Campground

**Cabin Tour**  
July 24, All Tracts

**Summer Highway Cleanup: Silver Creek**  
July 25, Highway 410

**Nat'l Public Lands Day Volunteer Event**  
Sept 25, Cabin area

**Fall Board Meeting**  
Oct 18, Board Member Home

**Fall Dinner Meeting**  
Oct 23, Greenwater Community Ctr

**Fall Highway Cleanup: Goat Creek**  
Oct 24, Highway 410

**2022 Planning Meeting**  
November TBD, Seattle Area

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

## Winter Storm Damage

On January 12, a fairly significant windstorm hit the Puget Sound basin, knocking down many trees and knocking out power to many customers in the area. Unfortunately, the cabins did not escape the impacts.

Only three cabins were significantly impacted due to falling trees, but all cabins were without power for 5 days while PSE worked to restore lines down the highway near Greenwater. Luckily, there were no injuries reported in our area.

There were many Facebook posts from concerned friends and relatives, and many offers to help impacted cabin owners. It was so great to see the community rally behind the impacted owners!

It seems the last few years we tend to get at least one big windstorm which takes down a number of trees around our cabins, often resulting in damage and significant expense.

There is root rot at the base of many trees in our area, and mistletoe in the branches, which make the trees less resistant to winds than they should be.

We will add this topic to our list of things to discuss with the Forest Service next time we meet with them, to see if there is any action we could be taking to better mitigate the risk.

~Kevin Orth



Deep Creek 22



Goat Creek 16



Deep Creek 6

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## WRRRA

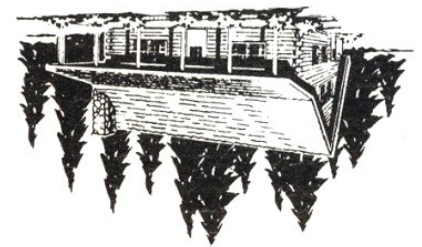
*The purpose of White River Recreational Association (WRRRA) is to promote and protect recreational interests along the Mather Memorial Parkway and throughout the Upper White River Valley; to do any and all things lawful, just and necessary to better the interests of the members of the Association; to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



## 2021 WRRRA Executive Board

<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> Kevin Bannon, SS 155 Home: 206-244-9683 <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> Bill Vlases, SS 80 Home: 206-878-2541 Cabin: 360-663-7752 <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> Jennae & Patrick Brannon, SC 45 Home: 253-332-1235 Cabin: 360-663-2569 <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> Martin Rand, GC 40 Home: 206-612-8395 Cabin: 360-663-0118 <a href="mailto:gc-rep@wrra.net">gc-rep@wrra.net</a>	<b>Deep Creek Rep</b> Josh & Brittany Gaydeski, DC 7 Home: 360-640-0995 <a href="mailto:dc-rep@wrra.net">dc-rep@wrra.net</a>

## WRRRA Spring 2021 Newsletter



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