



WRRRA Winter 2018 Newsletter

White River Recreation Association

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

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WRRRA MEMBERSHIP + COMMUNITY = GREAT COMMUNICATION

Wow, can you believe the year we just went through in the White River Community? So many events happened in 2017 it was staggering! Everything seemed to come to a head with the Norse Peak fire in early September. It's fair to say that most cabin owners were caught a bit flat-footed and shocked that such a crisis could happen to us so quickly! I still have the vivid memory of standing on the front porch of our Deep Creek cabin and seeing open flames in the woods barely 100 yards away. My emotions were of total shock, amazement and incredible sadness....I was thinking "we might actually lose our family cabin after almost 60 years of loving ownership".

It was at this most vulnerable time that I really appreciated the importance of our WRRRA community and good communication. We were starved for information on the progress of the fire and all the tremendous efforts to fight it. It was really impressive to receive email updates from our Deep Creek Rep. (thanks Mark!) including videos of the fire and its progress. There was a quickly developed Deep Creek email chain that gave everyone the opportunity to update and make suggestions on preventative measures at our cabins. In addition, the email summaries regularly dispersed to WRRRA members from WRRRA President, Kevin Orth, and Secretary, Anne Turner, helped us to stay abreast of the most current information from the firefighting crews, Greenwater Fire Chief, Paul Sowers, and many other resources.

So, as we head into a new year in 2018, I would like all cabin owners to reflect on how we leaned on and supported each other in a time of serious crisis and specifically the important role the WRRRA played in helping all of us through this tough time!

Please consider adding additional WRRRA membership(s) to your cabin to make sure everyone who shares in your cabin stays connected to the community and in good communication. Each cabin can support up to 4 memberships. This multiple membership opportunity helps to make WRRRA more inclusive and active.

Thanks to all of you! ~ *Tim Curran, Membership Chair*

Stay informed – as a member you receive:

- ✓ Four newsletter per year covering key and latest information and pertinent news relating to the cabin community. Free classified advertising.
- ✓ Regular email news and updates, advisories and calls to action.
- ✓ Two copies of the WRRRA Phone Directory (published next in 2019) .
- ✓ Protection by a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone unlawfully entering or causing damage to a members' cabin property. Members receive two signs for posting at their cabin.
- ✓ Standing invites to exciting activities.

President's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying the winter season so far! The ski season should be a good one; I for one am excited about the many improvements made at Crystal Mountain for this year, and hope to get up to the mountain frequently this winter.



The start of winter and snowfall allowed us all to breathe a sigh of relief, as it finally put the Norse Peak Fire to bed. But we soon learned that the impacts of the fire will be with us in other ways and for several years. The most immediate impact is not being able to access the fire damaged areas for recreation for the foreseeable future; this includes Goat Creek Falls, Corral Pass, and the Norse Peak areas. But we also experienced another significant impact when the Forest Service made the decision to close the connecting road from 7174 to 7176 at upper Goat Creek, and remove the road to open the culvert in anticipation of potential disastrous flooding resulting from water runoff on fire-damaged hillsides. Please see the article in this newsletter for additional information on this action, and how WRRRA members can help monitor and report impacts to the area.

On another topic, metal roofs has been a much-discussed issue for several years. I am happy to report that we are very close to getting official Forest Service and State Historic Preservation Office approval to use certain metal roof materials to replace roofs on our cabins. At the time of printing of this newsletter we did not have the final approval in hand yet, but expect it shortly. We will send an email out to all members when it is complete, with additional information on instructions for those waiting for replacement roofs.

Lastly, I wanted to share with you all that your

WRRRA board met earlier this winter for 2018 planning, and we have set some excellent goals for the next year. Key priorities include developing a better Fire Safety Plan for the future, which includes implementation of an official FireWise program in our tracts; and continuing to grow our Membership by developing new membership types and different communication protocols for the younger generation. Please see the Planning article in this newsletter for more detail.

If you have any interest in helping with these projects, or anything else associated with the WRRRA, please let us know – this is a volunteer organization and we need lots of help to get things done!

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, President

Norse Peak Wildfire Update and Long-Term Impacts

As previously published in the WRRRA Fall Newsletter, although our cabins were fortunately spared any damage from the fire, other impacts of the Norse Peak Wildfire are likely to be with us for a number of years. This is all a new experience for us and our Forest Service partners, and we are all learning as we go through this together.

An advertisement for 'All in One Building & Supply'. The text is centered and reads: 'ALL IN ONE BUILDING & SUPPLY' in large, bold, black letters. Below this, in smaller text, it says 'General Contractor, Lindal Dealer, Huntwood Cabinets'. The name 'CHUCK GILLETT' is prominently displayed as the 'Owner'. To the right, the email 'Gilletesunroom@msn.com' is listed. At the bottom, contact information is provided: '2801 C Academy Drive, Auburn, WA 98092', 'Office: 253-839-0176', '1-800-470-1102', and 'Cell: 253-670-9485'. The background of the ad is a dark, textured image, possibly of a building or construction site.

Most of the roads and trails in the area are closed, and will remain closed until at least next spring. This includes the popular Goat Falls trail, and larger parts of the Norse Peak Wilderness, including the popular Corral Pass and Noble Knob areas plus trails up to the Norse Peak area and parts of the Pacific Crest Trail. The real concern is around trees, whose roots have been damaged by the ground fire, toppling over and causing injury. The entire area behind our cabins is unstable and should be considered off limits to recreation until further notice.

A more immediate and relevant impact was realized in late October, when the Forest Service provided WRRR notice that they would be undertaking an action to close and remove the road and underlying culvert for Goat Creek, which served to connect FS Road 7174 and 7176 at upper Goat Creek. This was an emergency action, in anticipation of potential catastrophic flooding as a result of significant runoff from fall and winter storms in the Goat Creek drainage basin above the cabin areas, where heavy fire damage and deforestation had occurred. This decision was made in the interest of protecting life and property in the cabin area.

WRRR members were notified of this action via email from WRRR, posts on the WRRR Facebook page, and via written letter from the Forest Service. These notifications resulted in many questions and concerns from the cabin community, all of which were shared with the Forest Service. To follow up, a few members of the WRRR board met with members of the Forest Service, including District Ranger Schramm and Regional Su-



pervisor Kingsbury, in late November.

The primary purpose of our meeting was to review the processes supporting the decision to remove the road and culvert, and, to impress upon the Forest Service the importance of this connecting road for safety and access purposes, and hopefully secure commitment to replace the culvert in the future. We had a great, constructive dialogue with the Forest Service, and both sides have a number of action items to follow up on.

We are pleased to report that the Forest Service confirmed to us that they have identified and tagged a bridge to replace the Goat Creek road and culvert. Although replacement is not imminent, and will likely not occur for at least two years (until the risk of flooding has subsided), we are excited to share this positive development with you. Please note that how nature responds in the aftermath of this event will drive the ultimate timing on the planned replacement activity.

In the near term, WRRR members can help by providing active input on changes observed in the various creeks in our area – Goat Creek, Silver Creek, Deep Creek, and Dry Creek. While the highest risk of flooding was projected in Goat Creek, there is a possibility that the other drainages may also be impacted. Please make note of any changes you see in the creeks, particularly after significant weather events – including significant changes in water flow, or changes in log or other obstructions or debris in the creeks (new ones appearing, or old ones disappearing). Make note of your observations – include pictures if possible – and send to Noel Ludwig with the Forest Service, at nludwig@fs.fed.us. Try to take pictures from the same spot every time, so it is easier to compare visuals. Of course, please make sure you stay out of closed areas above the cabins.

Going forward, WRRR plans to continue to work closely with the Forest Service to ensure we can provide input on other projects which may impact our community, and also to develop joint disaster planning, and to help with restoration projects after the fire. Although another fire seems unlikely in the near future, the weather

patterns do appear to be changing and we are experiencing warmer and drier summers – so our organization should strive to be proactive and better prepared. We will be forming a Fire Preparedness and Planning task force this year to develop action plans.

Please reach out to the WRRRA board if you would like to help with any of these items, or have additional questions or concerns. There are copies of all the relevant documents including fire impact studies, trail and road closures, and other information on the WRRRA website at www.wrra.net.

~ Kevin Orth

WRRRA 2018 Planning

The WRRRA Board met on November 18, to brainstorm and prioritize a wide range of goals and plans for the organization for 2018.

The ranked priorities we developed are listed below; we will work so that we focus on the highest priority subjects, but will ultimately try to accomplish as many of these as possible.

- Fire Safety Plan: Assist with Fire Mitigation/Follow Up/Restoration; develop FireWise Program; develop Emergency Preparedness Plan with Greenwater Fire
- Membership: Develop/clarify membership level definitions and structure; develop new membership level concept, fee structure, and communications plan for younger generation
- Payments: Develop processes to receive member online payments/credit card payments
- Financial Funds: Clarify and define funds for all members
- Member Data Management: Develop improved Tools and Processes for managing/ updating

- Forest Service Communication: Improve communication stream and processes
- Volunteer Recruitment: Develop strategy and plan to activate and organize volunteers
- NFH Membership: Help members understand benefit and support
- Cabin Modification Process: Re-communicate and provide reminder for members
- Pierce County Fire Contracts: Re-communicate and provide reminder for members
- History of WRRRA Cabins: Need project lead, budget and time planning

Of course, 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, please contact any board member to volunteer to help us!

~ Kevin Orth

WRRRA Fall Dinner and Business Meeting Recap

Celebrating the arrival of Fall (and the end of the wildfire season) we had 94 attendees at the 2017 Fall Dinner. The theme of the event was “Disco Inferno”, and this marvelous event was only possible due to the efforts of many dedicated volunteers led by Bill Vlases. Special thanks to Shirley Cherberg and everyone else who donated items to the Silent Auction. And thanks to everyone who was so generous in their bidding. As a result, the WRRRA earned \$1,281 for the Cabin Defense Fund.

At the business meeting that preceded the Fall Dinner, the membership voted for candidates for open positions on the WRRRA board*. Congratulations to the following individuals who

have stepped up to fill these important roles and share their talents with the WRRRA community:

Silver Springs Rep Mark Wellington

Goat Creek Tract Representative Martin Rand

Treasurer Kevin Bannon

Dalles Tract Representative David Ebel

Secretary Anne Turner

At the end of dinner, we received a detailed update on the wildfire and a good explanation from Chief Sowers on the ongoing efforts. Chief Sowers did a wonderful job explaining how the fire progressed and the fire fighting efforts that they undertook. We also received updates on road maintenance and snowplowing.

Lastly, the evening concluded with some fun disco inferno-themed door prizes. Thank you to everyone that attended, and we hope to see even more of you at the next dinner!

* Attention Silver Creek residents:

The Silver Creek Representative role is open and we are actively recruiting for a volunteer to fill this important spot. Please reach out to the board (board@wrra.net) if you would like to join.

~ Anne Turner

Thanks for your WRRRA Service

We want to thank outgoing Dalles representatives **Mary Anne and Chuck Gillette** for their many and ongoing years of service to WRRRA both as cabin area representatives and as President. We also want to thank **John Campbell** for his two terms of service as Goat Creek Representative and in particular for his leadership and contribution as the Fiscal Framework Committee Chair. Finally, thank you to **Karen Buhler** for her term serving as Silver Creek Representative and providing direction for infrastructure topics. This organization is much stronger because of the contributions of these special people!

~ Anne Turner



Annual Winter Snowplay Social

We recognize that this newsletter will arrive after the scheduled event, and apologize for any confusion. Additional notifications were sent via email, and in case the event gets rescheduled due to lack of snow, we wanted to make sure people were aware of this social event.

Sunday January 14th from 3:00-6:00 PM

**Location: Cabin Area Snowplay Area
(across from Silver Creek cabin 26)**

Please come join others from the cabin community at this event and hopefully we can all partake in some snowy socializing and fun (event will be canceled if there is no snow).

Make sure you dress appropriately, and any refreshments you may want. Parking may be tight, so please carpool or walk if possible. A bathroom will be available across the street at Cabin #26.

In order to minimize liability for the WRRRA and cabin owners, we have a few requests to help make this a safe event:

Phyllis Hartford, Realtor

MOUNTAIN LIFESTYLES



www.CrystalMountainCabinsAndHomes.com

Office: (360) 663-2459

Cell: (206) 617-1049

Mountain View Properties

- Any sledding, tubing, or sliding is undertaken at the sole responsibility of the participant.
- Participants and parents should sign a liability release (will be provided).
- Parents are strongly urged to provide safety equipment such as helmets and eye protection for all participants.
- Please conduct your own examination of the sliding zone to check for hazards such as rocks, branches, sharp sticks or logs; please help clearing any hazards before sliding.
- Sleds and tubes should be examined before coming, to make sure there are no sharp edges or pointy things that could break skin or tear clothing.
- No standing on or sliding on the road.
- Safe and sane sliding speeds; do not build large jumps.
- Loose articles that can catch and tangle like long scarfs are kept tucked in.
- Parents should remain on site for supervision of their children.

We hope to see a good turnout and make this an annual event!

Questions? Contact Kevin Orth, SC26 at orthadventures@hotmail.com.

Update from Brian Lee, USFS Special Uses Administrator

Annual bills have been sent out. If permit holders are not receiving them, please contact Brian (bflee@fs.fed.us) and he can send another copy either via mail or e-mail. Please remember to keep your address information updated with the USFS. If you change your address, notify Brian as soon possible so USFS records can be updated. This also applies to transfers (even if within family).

Calling all WRRRA Cabins (pun intended)

WRRRA has at times set a very high bar compared to other cabin associations. We have demonstrated the ability to focus our passion to protect and preserve the joy and memories – and the future - of our cabins. We, collectively, have a timely opportunity to do this again.

We have what appears to be a narrow window of opportunity to make a difference now, and perhaps more importantly, for the future. The future of our ability to connect with and stay in touch with the growing world of digital information. Hold on! I understand that some WRRRA members don't want even a telephone connection to interfere with the peace and solitude we enjoy at our cabins. But some of us want to at least have the choice - today or some day.

CenturyLink is waiting for WRRRA members to collectively request an availability and cost estimate for internet via telephone lines (high speed DSL service, not dial-up). I'm asking everyone to ask CenturyLink to allow us that choice, to know what the cost would be, and when it would be available. CenturyLink is required by regulation to provide the answer without any obligation on our part. At the Fall dinner, members from 13 cabins 'signed up' to ask for this estimate.

Please add your voice to this process. We need one principle from EVERY cabin to email Curtis Thompson (ct@it4hire.com) with the following statement, "I want to know the availability and cost for internet service from CenturyLink for our cabin, _____-. Please spell out your name and cabin identity along with the message in the body of your email. We will lump these all together. Hopefully all 181 will respond and let CenturyLink and the regulatory commission know this choice is important to all of WRRRA.

(Watch for upcoming articles on topics such as how internet access can provide free emergency WIFI cellular calling at strategic points, inventory members' emergency resources and skills such as a defibrillator with oxygen, and cabin fire zone recommendations.)

WRRRA Calendar 2018

Meeting/Events	Date	Location
Cabin Sledding Social	Jan 14	Sledding Hill
Winter Board Meeting	Feb 12	Galliano's Cucina Tukwila
Spring Board Meeting	April 30	Board member home
Spring Dinner	May 5	Greenwater
Spring Highway Cleanup	May 6	Highway 410 (Goat Creek)
Summer Board Meeting	July 27	Board member cabin
Summer Picnic	July 28	Silver Springs Campground
Cabin Tour	July 28	All cabin tracts
Summer Highway Cleanup	July 29	Highway 410 (Deep Creek)
Fall Board Meeting	Oct 15	Board member home
Fall Dinner Meeting	Oct 20 (tentative)	Greenwater
Fall Highway Cleanup	Oct 21 (tentative)	Highway 410 (Silver Creek)
2019 Planning Meeting	November TBD	Seattle

Other pertinent dates include:

- NFH - Annual Conference is scheduled for April 28 in Sacramento, CA
- WSFHA - Spring Meeting TBD
- WSFHA - F all Meeting TBD



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




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WRRRA

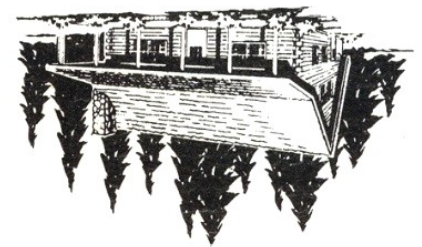
The purpose of White River Recreational Association (WRRRA) is to promote and protect recreational interests along the Mather Memorial Parkway and throughout the Upper White River Valley; to do any and all things lawful, just and necessary to better the interests of the members of the Association; to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



WRRRA Board for 2018

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 <i>Position open</i> sc-rep@wrra.net
Goat Creek Rep #1 Tom Wood, GC 95 Home: 253-631-2653 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 Mark Curran, DC 3 Home: 206-933-8922 Cabin: 360-663-2631 dc-rep@wrra.net

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