



WRRRA Summer 2020 Newsletter

White River Recreation Association

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

WRRRA Picnic, Cabin Tour, & Highway Cleanup Cancelled

Your WRRRA board has spent extensive time reviewing and discussing options regarding our upcoming Summer Picnic, Cabin Tour, and Highway Cleanup events, scheduled for the weekend of July 25.

The board worked very hard to balance our strong desire to hold these traditional events and create a key opportunity to socialize with other cabin owners, with concerns around the health and safety of our members.

At this writing, the Forest Service campground group picnic sites that we use for our Summer Picnic, are not yet open.

And, it appears that Pierce County and Washington State's guidelines for safe reopening for Level 4, which includes large group gatherings with social distancing, are unlikely to be achieved by the event date in late July.

Furthermore, assuming large group gatherings were to be approved by that point, the executional complexity associated with hosting a safe event are significant.

Food preparation and serving, eating, socializing, and games, all while maintaining social distance, would need to be conducted differently, in order to ensure attendees' safety. And having everyone in masks and gloves seems like it would really detract from the fun and social aspects of the events.

Lastly, many of our members are in a high-risk category, and as such we feel if we were to hold the events, they could be very lightly attended.

Therefore, we reluctantly came to the decision that we will cancel these events for 2020.

We hope to be able to schedule something in the future to try to make up for this cancellation; more information will be communicated in late summer if health and safety guidelines will allow large group gatherings by then.

Thank you for your understanding, and we hope to see you for our next social event, the Fall Dinner!

~Your WRRRA Board

President's Message

Summer is finally here, although at this writing it feels more like "Juneuary" than summer! But I am sure that warmer weather is on the way, and with it, the opportunity to recreate



and enjoy the area around the cabins with hiking, biking, sightseeing and more. Thankfully, the Forest Service has rescinded the Forest Closure Order that was issued due to coronavirus infection and social distancing concerns, and everything is reopening including all trails and recreational access. Crystal Mountain has recently reopened for summer operations, and Mount Rainier National Park and access to Sunrise will soon follow, once enough snow melts.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus and associated health concerns around large group gatherings have forced

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

Find WRRRA Online: wrrra.net

us to cancel our Spring Dinner, and now our Summer Picnic and Cabin Tour events. It's a shame to cancel these events, as they both are very fun and meaningful for members. They are part of what makes our organization so great. But, ultimately the health and safety of our members is our highest priority, so the board ultimately decided the responsible thing to do was to cancel them. Hopefully, things will trend toward normalcy soon, so we can see everyone again at our Fall Dinner.

The coronavirus has also impacted WRRRA in other ways. Our annual forest stewardship event, a trails maintenance project on National Trails Day, was cancelled. And, we have not been able to hold our periodic meeting with Forest Service management to discuss important issues impacting us all. We have scheduled a video conference for late June; although less effective than an in-person conversation, we have found these to be a pretty good way of getting business done, and the board has conducted several board and committee meetings this way already.

In a similar vein, the National Forest Homeowners conference was pushed out several months to September, and may end up being a videoconference as well, depending on comfort level of potential attendees. We will keep members posted on developments, and share learnings from the conference.

As we move into summer, please remember that it was only a few summers ago that we had the Norse Peak wildfire come to the doorsteps of our cabins. Its important that we all pay our Fire Protection Contracts, and, do everything we can to prepare for the possibility of fire in our forest again. Additional details and instructions can be found in this newsletter.

Please review the many updates in this newsletter on various issues and initiatives, and, let me or anyone else on the board know if you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to help us.

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

~Kevin Orth

Fire Season Reminders

Highly Recommended:

Sign a fire service agreement with the Greenwater Fire Department. If you lost or did not receive an agreement, downloadable copies are available at www.wrra.net

Your Responsibilities:

As specified in your permit, control fire hazards on your lot.

Store flammables as per the fire code and make sure your chimney has a spark-suppressing screen. Have fire suppression equipment. Pick up dead wood and trim live branches/plants too close to buildings. Remember to sweep off needles and other flammable debris from roof tops and decks.

Observe fire restrictions.

The only true source of fire restriction information is the forest service. Be aware that fire bans can also include barbeques, gas stoves as well as smoking.

Size restrictions – keep fire rings under 32 inches diameter.

Attendance & extinguish requirements—fires must be attended always. When leaving a fire, it must be put dead out. The same applies when cooking with charcoal grills. A fire is dead out when a person is able to place their ungloved hand below the surface of the fire bed and not feel any heat or see any spark.

Know engine operating restrictions

Make sure engines have a forest service approved exhaust system. Know when engine use is Ok and when it has been banned. This applies not just to power saws but any gasoline engine.

~Kevin Bannon

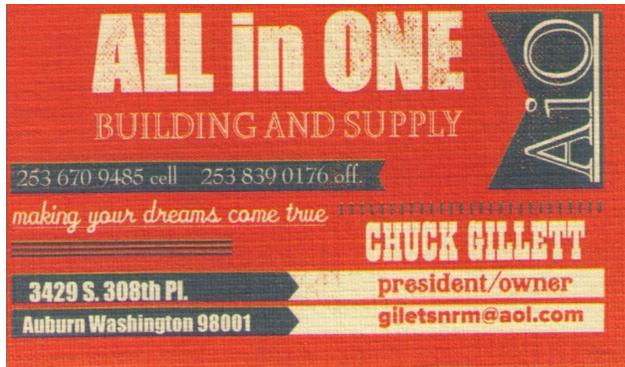


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Cabin Roads Updates

As you may recall, the road maintenance in the cabin area is the responsibility of the cabin owners. A road fund has been established, separate from the WRRRA funds, for the Silver Springs, Silver Creek, Goat Creek and Deep Creek tracts to maintain the roads. Annually we collect funds as part of the snow plow assessment that are used for repairs and maintenance on the roads, including re-grading and re-graveling. We have used Randy Iddings (GC-6) to perform the necessary work to the roads. He has been authorized by the forest service to work on the roads and he is familiar with the cabin area and knows the history of what has been done in the past. During the first week of May, Randy re-graded the cabin roads, added gravel, and cleaned out the ditches and culverts. In total, 232.22 tons of crushed rock was applied to the roads in various locations, including the Deep Creek South road, the Corral Pass road, and the 7175 road in various locations.

An emergency repair to the 7175 road was done shortly after the February rain event for a sink hole that developed up the hill at the first entrance of the FS 7175 road. The February rain event also caused some light erosion so various sections of the roads have received a light top coating of gravel as noted above.

Certain sections of the 7175 road that parallels 410 experienced significant flooding during the rain event in February. Randy is exploring ideas with the Forest Service road engineer for ways to possibly mitigate future flooding in this area.

If you have requests for road repairs or maintenance work near your cabin please contact Barba-

ra Mead at mead5104@comcast.net or Martin Rand at mrand410@gmail.com.

~Barbara Mead

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 **association 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 11-13 at the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver, WA. On Friday afternoon there will be a session on **Cabin Culture and Heritage** at which the WRRRA History Project will be featured. Diane DeWitt, WRRRA History Project Lead, will be part of a panel and do a WRRRA archive item "show and tell" and describe what we have been doing and hope to do, and be available for Q and 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 Project Lead

Membership Report

Thanks to all our loyal WRRRA Members!

As we continue to make our way through these unprecedented turbulent times, it's so important to be thankful for all of our blessings. For many of us, our cabins have always been a place of peace, refuge and beauty. Even if it's just a momentary thought of the cabins and all the surrounding beauty of our mountain neighborhoods. It's enough to calm our minds and bring peace to this crazy world!

We are extremely pleased to report this year's support and participation in the WRRRA is very healthy. Yes, in spite of everything, our membership is at 100% of goal. And that goal was set prior to knowing the COVID-19 pandemic would strike. Pretty amazing! Of course, we always need and welcome new members to our cherished WRRRA community.

You might ask yourselves why is our membership so strong this year of all years? Well, as your membership chair, I've been asking myself this very question. I've concluded, that during these times of unrest in our society, people need community! They look for the simple pleasures of being together, talking and doing things together. This is exactly what the WRRRA has been doing for the past 100 years...getting us together. Whether it was for our summer picnics, dinner meetings or just coming together as a group to focus our attention and energies on some recognized needs or projects within the White River Community. We did it together!

Reflecting back to our early WRRRA history, I would like to think that during some of the ex-

tremely difficult times our nation experienced, including the Great Depression, World War II and the Vietnam War, the cabins provided the same kind of peaceful refuge for many of our previous generations as they do now.

Moving forward, we will continue to look for appropriate and safe opportunities that will allow us to come together again. In the meantime, I hope to see you around the cabin neighborhoods or hiking on some of the beautiful trails of the White River Valley.

Have a great Summer and may your cabin always help you find a peaceful escape!

~Tim Curran, Vice President

Financial Matters

We reached our 2020 enrollment targets. Some gave extra to support the future health of the cabin program by joining the National Forest Homeowners association or by contributing to the White River Recreation Association Cabin Defense Fund. Email wrratreasurer@outlook.com for the complete financial report.

If you forgot to renew or were delayed by the many things going on, it is not too late to enroll. Email me, or visit <http://www.wrra.net>

Regarding the current extreme economic picture, I happily share with you our finance committee is watching things and making good choices to help our organization. We'll make it, with your continued great support.

We have over \$90,000 invested with Vanguard Investments and follow an investment policy designed to keep all of that safe. Current market average investment interest rates are under .25%.



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The finance committee recommended and the board endorsed finding better alternatives. We purchased a number of federally insured CD's issued by American banks with durations from 0.5 -1.5 years paying about 1%. Though priced at over \$500 above issue value, we'll hold them rather than sell.

Your Treasurer has also been looking for ways to improve the member renewal process. A majority prefer to renew with a check by mail, but a large number also are using other payment methods.

The 2021 renewal notices will be sent **earlier and by email**; those will be sent at the end of December.

The renewal period will remain about 45 days, beginning January 1 and ending on the Tuesday following the Presidents' Day holiday.

As always, your thoughts and questions are appreciated. Always happy to send you financial reports. Please continue to contact us at wrrra-treasurer@outlook.com. Thank you for your ongoing support of the WRRRA!

~Kevin Bannon, Treasurer

Recent Cabin Owners/WRRRA Members Passing:

Paul R. Meyer, SS-112, June 26, 1936—April 19, 2020.

Floyd A. Rogers, DC-8, December 25, 1950—April 20, 2020.

In Memoriam: Floyd Rogers, 1950—2020

WRRRA lost a stalwart champion of the Environment, Crystal Mountain, and the Cabin program, when Floyd Rogers passed on April 20, 2020.

Floyd loved the outdoors, he hiked in the summer and spent



much of his spare time skiing in the winter. In fact, for over 40 years he was a ski and snow board instructor at Crystal Mountain.

Most weekends (and extended weekends) he spent in the mountains. Floyd was a devoted husband to Judy, dad to Jason and Patrick and friend (too many to name). He instilled in his sons a love for the mountains and skiing.

He spent many years commuting to Crystal, but also rented a place nearby (for one season) and RV'd in Greenwater before purchasing Deep Creek 8 in 2001. As was Floyd's way, now that they were cabin owners and vested members of the community Floyd became involved with the WRRRA, serving on the board as Vice President and even snowplowing Deep Creek for several winters.

Not long after purchasing DC-8 Judy and Floyd began discussing the possibility of adding running water and a septic system. Floyd was a man of action, and in 2009 began working with the Forest Service so that their hopes could be realized. Thus, in 2012, the Deep Creek Water Association Loop 2 was formed. Floyd was committed to bringing water and indoor plumbing not only to their cabin, but to every cabin (that wanted it) on the north side of Deep Creek. It was a big job. Floyd created drawings for the well, water system site and building. In this case, being the lead on this project also meant fronting the costs! He was truly a man of vision and generosity. In 2015, after working with many governmental agencies, serving as project supervisor, purchasing materials, hiring contractors, inspections and system tests, etc., the project was complete and ap-

proved by the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

Floyd's memory lives on with Crystal Mountain, WRRRA and Deep Creek, but also other organizations he loved and to which he was devoted: Conservation NW, Forterra/Cascade Land Conservancy, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, Washington Trails, Nature Conservancy, and the National Park Foundation. In addition to his love for the outdoors, he was devoted to education and served WSU, Issaquah Schools, and Seattle University in various capacities.

Floyd truly left a positive mark on this world. He will be missed.

~Adapted from a submission by Judy Rogers

Fall Board Elections

It is WRRRA board election time, with elections happening at the Fall dinner. This means two things under the WRRRA bylaws. First, we need a Board Nominating Committee (BNC). Second, the BNC must nominate interested candidates to fill vacant board positions and/or run against incumbents.

We could use some more help on the BNC to ensure we have broader representation. We are currently looking for two people to join the BNC. If you are not interested in serving on the WRRRA board next year, but you are willing to help us nominate candidates for the WRRRA board, please contact David Ebel at debel@schwabe.com. If you are interested in serving on the WRRRA board next year, please also let David know by July 25. The current incumbent in several positions are willing to run for another two year term. However, we encourage others interested in being considered for those positions to let us know. If so, any candidate would be running against the incumbent. The positions listed below are up for election this Fall to serve a two-year term beginning in January 2021:

- 1. President: Kevin Orth, incumbent. (Willing to serve another term)**
- 2. Vice President (vacant)**
- 3. Goat Creek Representative: Tom Wood, incumbent. (Willing to serve another term)**

4. Deep Creek Representative: Brittay and Josh Gaydeski, incumbent. (Willing to serve another term)

5. Silver Springs Representative: One of two positions vacant

Please feel free to call or email David Ebel if you have any questions. 206-407-1525 or debel@schwabe.com.

As a reminder, Kevin Bannon will be vacating his position as WRRRA Treasurer at the end of 2021. This position is extremely important to the success of our community. Kevin has done a wonderful job and is willing to train his replacement as we approach 2021. Please reach out to David Ebel if you or anyone you know is interested in this position. Thank you.

~David Ebel, Elections Chair

Cabin Trusts

The board has gotten several questions about Cabin Trusts lately, so we thought we would include a brief overview here.

Trusts are commonly set up when there are multiple owners of a cabin, including multiple children as they take over ownership of a cabin from their parents.

There are many complexities and unique aspects to Forest Service cabin ownership, permits, agreements, and trusts which differ from standard executions. It is important to remember that cabins on forest service land are personal property, not real property. Some attorneys and estate planners are not familiar with them.

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Interested cabin owners should first confer with Brian Lee, USFS, regarding their expectations around a trust owning their cabin on Forest Service Land. They have a simple and preferable method of setting up a trust. They have both a template and a process of ownership and transfer upon death which is very simple.

The trust can be used to define the shared use, maintenance, and costs of the cabin, define change of ownership terms, and define terms upon death of any owner, for example.

Besides addressing ownership and legal issues, trusts can be set up to own the Permit with the Forest Service; permits can only be issued to an individual, a married couple, or a trustee of an established trust. The Permittee has the Authorization to Use the Land in the eyes of the Forest Service, and has 100% responsibility and liability for all owners of the cabin.

So a Trust can align multiple cabin owners with the permittee on the Forest Service permit as well.

The National Forest Homeowners (NFH) association have several presentations on Trusts that go into quite a bit of detail.

If you are interested and a member, go to their website: www.nationalforesthowners.org.

If you are not yet a member, it may be worth the \$50 membership in NFH to get access to these materials, and much more.

Please consult with the USFS, and an attorney and/or estate planner, if you are interested in pursuing a trust.

~Kevin Orth, President

Highway Cleanups

Thank you to those Cabin owners/WRRRA members who took it upon themselves to pick up trash along highway 410 without any prompts, directives, or special post clean-up lunch.

Tod Turner and his fiancé picked up several bags of garbage between the Mt. Rainier entrance and Alta Crystal. David and Molly Ebel

WRRRA 2020 Calendar

Summer Board Meeting
Week of July 20, Time/Place TBD

**Summer Picnic, Cabin Tour,
And Highway Cleanup**
All Cancelled

NFH Conference, Vancouver, WA
September 11-12

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 '20, Date, Time, Place - TBD,
Anticipated to be in Seattle Area

and their kids also did some highway clean up. Barbara Mead and David Glaab picked up trash from the Skookum flats view point to mile post 56. And Chuck Gillett led a cleanup group from the Dalles. Thank you to all those mentioned (and those other anonymous folks) for your selfless service! You are credits to our community! We encourage others to participate in family cleanups, certainly now and/or until such time we can gather again, as a group, and host a WRRRA cleanup.

~ Chris Masterson, Secretary

WRRRA Member Free Ad:

All WRRRA members are entitled to place one free, one-line ad in a WRRRA newsletter, per year.

Firewise cleanup—Chuck Gillett-253-670-9485.

WRRRA

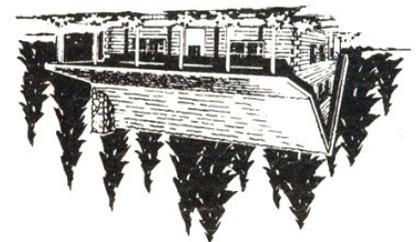
The purpose of White River Recreational Association (WRRRA) is to promote and protect recreational interests along the Mather Memorial Parkway and throughout the Upper White River Valley; to do any and all things lawful, just and necessary to better the interests of the members of the Association; to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



WRRRA Board for 2020

President Kevin Orth, SC 26 Cell: 206-669-8455 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 Representative 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: 253-582-5463 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 & Brittany Gaydeski, DC 7 Home: 360-640-0995 dc-rep@wrra.net

WRRRA Summer 2020 Newsletter



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