



# WRRRA Winter 2019 Newsletter

## White River Recreation Association

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

### President's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying the winter season so far! Although this ski season got off to a slow start, it appears that things are looking good now that we have moved into January. Hopefully we will get enough snow in the cabin tracts to allow for our Snowplay Social event later this month – I hope to see good attendance at this very fun event.



I also want to say, thank you for recently electing me to be your WRRRA President for another two-year term! I am excited to work with the fantastic board we have, and to continue to carry forward the great momentum we have built over the past few years. I hope to continue to get a high degree of engagement from the board, and build more engagement with WRRRA members, so that we can continue to bring valuable information, processes, and events to you. Please see the Planning article in this newsletter for additional details on what we accomplished in the last year, and what we plan to focus on in 2019.

I also want to pay my respects to Ken Leader, who was a previous WRRRA President, and held other key roles in our organization. Ken was a true stalwart of the cabin program, and was instrumental in many of the advances our organization was able

to make over the past several decades. His recent passing is a real loss for all of us. Please see the recognition from Albert Pollmar in this newsletter. We will keep you posted on additional plans to recognize Ken and his many contributions in the future.

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

~ Kevin Orth

### 911 and Safety Topics

*Recent changes to Pierce County's emergency response systems will make it easier for first responders to locate cabins. This article details what you need to know to ensure 911 calls are effective. (The authors of this article acknowledge that not all cabins have landlines or reliable cell service.)*

If you see something when up at your cabin that makes you feel uncomfortable, call 911, then take whatever action you feel appropriate for safety's sake.

One of the trickier things is describing your location. A 911 call from a landline provides the ID of the phone customer and the address of the phone. Cell phones furnish 911 the GPS data of the tower of your phone connection—which can be miles away.

The dispatcher will want a street address. Do you know the street address of your cabin? Yes, you do have one. One way to look up your street address is to check your electric bill. Puget Sound Energy lists the street address of your cabin on the bill. (You might want to write down your cabin's street address

### In this issue:

- **Message from Kevin Orth, WRRRA President**
- **Safety Updates**
- **Thank you Mark Curran**
- **Board Election Results**
- **USFS Updates**
- **2019 Membership Renewal**
- **Ken Leader In Memorium**
- **2019 WRRRA Planning**



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and post it somewhere in your cabin, in case you call in a power outage.)

Last summer a team from Pierce County toured cabin areas and updated the 911 database. Their purpose was to cross match our street addresses with our more familiar cabin lot numbers.

**Pierce County advises that when you call 911 and are asked to report your location, state your Forest Service cabin lot number and road number.** For example: Lot Number 4 on Road 7174, Lot number 2 on Road 7150, etc. It is important to state your road number as there are multiple cabins with the same lot number.

When a Pierce County dispatcher enters a cabin lot number, street address and GPS location are cross-matched and this information is sent to responders. Not sure about your road number? Here's a guide:

- Dalles Road 7150
- Deep Creek (north side) 7170
- Deep Creek (south side includes Alta Crystal) 7172
- Goat Creek (Corral Pass Road) 7174
- Silver Springs, Silver Creek & Goat Creek Silver Creek Side, including the mine road) 7175

WRRR cabins that are directly on HWY 410 are on a different scheme:

- For SS-52 use 68635 SR 410 E
- For DC-20 use 68317 SR 410 E
- For DC-10 use 68202 SR 410 E
- For DC-11 use 68199 SR 410 E
- For DC-12 use 68195 SR 410 E

Your board noted during the Norse Peak Fire that first responders had difficulty locating cabins. Some of you stepped up and donated your WRRR directories or drew maps, and that helped immensely. Quietly and effectively your board works for solutions for better outcomes and this is one more such case.

Do remember: when calling for 911 assistance provide either your street address or your cabin lot number and road number. When calling in an electrical problem, your best bet is your meter number or your street address.

**Post Cabin Numbers:** There are cabins without cabin numbers posted. Please put up a sign so responders can navigate the last few feet. A

common method the Forest Service encourages is to bury a 4 x 4 at the head of your driveway. Buy the shiny, metal numbers with the nails, the stick-on ones do not meet Forest Service standards and they do not hold up in our environment. *Never tack a sign on a tree.*

### Pierce County Alerts

Cabin owners can sign up for emergency notifications from Pierce County. This service provides up to date information of importance from police, fire and other agencies. Users are asked to sign up online and provide phone and email addresses. For more information and to sign up, visit : <https://www.co.pierce.wa.us/921/Pierce-County-ALERT> or call 253-798-6595.

~ Kevin Bannon

## Thanks to Mark Curran!

The WRRR Board would like to thank Mark Curran for his service as Deep Creek Representative. Mark served several terms and brought tremendous energy and dedication to his role. He led the fundraising committee, planning events and marshalling our energetic volunteers to excellent results. Thanks to Mark, our silent auction and bake sales have become bigger and better!

## 2018 Board Elections

WRRR Board Elections were held at the Fall Dinner, October 27, 2018. The following board positions and candidates were elected and join the other board members for 2019.

- Kevin Orth - President
- Tim Curran - Vice President
- Josh and Brittany Gaydeski - Deep Creek Reps
- Bill Vlases - Silver Springs Rep #1
- Tom Wood - Goat Creek Rep #1

Congratulations to the new and re-elected board members. They look forward to this coming 2-year term and providing their talents and energy to WRRR.

## USFS Updates

*Information from US Forest Service meeting with WRRR held October 19, 2018, at North Bend Ranger Station.*

Meeting Attendees: Forest Service (FS) representatives, Martie Schramm, District Forest Rang-

er and Brian Lee, Special Use Administrator; WRRRA representatives Kevin Orth, President, Tim Curran, Vice President, Anne Turner, Secretary, and Martin Rand, Goat Creek Representative.

Below is a listing of the topics that were covered, and detailed information that was shared.

### 1. Metal Roofs

Brian Lee reports he is dealing with applications as they come in. He does request that cabin owners do some research on appropriate materials before sending in a request. FS personnel cannot make recommendations on materials or contractors. WRRRA members Bruce Hunter (Tacoma Metal Roof), Chuck Gillette and other cabin owners can serve as good sources of information on materials for cabin owners needing suggestions. And do remember that even through certain types of metal roofing are now acceptable material options, cabin owners must still follow the process of applying to the FS for any roofing changes.

### 2. Open Request Process (approval for modifications to cabin)

Brian has some requests for expansion of cabin square footage, usually to add some improvements. Discussion about efficiency of cabin owners utilizing an outside contractor for cultural surveys to help speed up the process. There is still a requirement that the USFS review those surveys before they are shared and made public.

As a reminder, submission of a request does not guarantee you will get an immediate response. The FS will bundle common requests and will respond based on available resources and other impacts.

**IMPORTANT:** All cabin owners should be aware that any activities involving ground disturbance (for example underground power and telecom lines or bulldozing new driveways) need to be approved by the FS. Please ask for permission, don't just assume its ok to proceed.

### 3. FS Cabin Inspections Update

The FS will be sending self-inspection forms with this year's billing. Please perform the inspection while you are at your cabin and return the completed self-inspection form by the first week of August 2019. The form may also include an area for cabin owners to note changes that they are

## WRRRA 2019 Calendar

### Winter Snowplay Social

Jan 20 (Tentative), Sledding Hill

### Winter Board Meeting

Feb 11, Gallianos Cucina Tukwila

### 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

hoping to accomplish in future. This will help the FS determine what they need to include on their program of work and identify specialists that need to be involved. This may result in a conversation about contracting out NEPA and other assessments for ground disturbing projects. Submitting projects during the open period is important for helping USFS prioritize and plan.

Brian Lee will also be looking closely at specific cabins that appear to be neglected and not undergoing any maintenance, to the point of being out of compliance with their permit. The FS is concerned when a cabin is not being maintained and the area around it is not being managed in a way that will help mitigate fire danger. Fire protection and the safety of wildland firefighters is a prime focus for the FS and they will take cabin maintenance into account when making decisions about defending a structure.

#### 4. Goat Creek Culvert updates

Martie Schramm says that FS will wait until the end of Spring 2019 before making a decision on bridge replacement. Martie anticipates they will reinstall another (bigger) culvert. The FS will continue to address the replacement timeline in a conservative fashion.

FS Engineer Noel Ludwig is being replaced. Martin Rand is working on gathering monitoring data, and we have a year under our belt monitoring water flows. Martin Rand also met with Puget Power engineer. Puget Power was unaware of the removal of the bridge over Goat Creek, and they are beginning to work on the design of the line. Discussion of the importance of developing a project timeline and coordinated plan between Crystal Mountain, Puget Power, CenturyLink and FS.

#### 5. Post-Fire Updates

WRRRA will set up Trail Repair work with FS Volunteer Coordinator (Todd Schmutz) in Spring 2019. Rotarian members also planning tree planting (led by Clyde Cherberg) in 2019. The FS is thrilled with the volunteer possibilities.

In other post-fire updates, the walking bridge on the upper end of the Goat Falls trail has been removed by the FS. The Trail Crew did that in early

September after it was determined that it was a liability to have it standing in the severely damaged condition following the fire. The FS intends to replace it, but after scouting that project out they feel like there is additional work that needs to be carried out and some logistics that need to be considered prior to replacing it.

They have procured the bridge decking and have identified a tree up in the vicinity to use as stringers, but there is a potential need for some explosives work to try and get rid of the giant 60" Douglas Fir snag that is right above the bridge site. There are a few other downed trees spanning the trail that either need explosives work or careful rigging work performed. Setting the stringers will also take some rigging as well. In short, there are quite a few considerations to be made prior to building a new foot bridge, therefore they are putting that on the 2019 to do list.

The Deep Creek trails are nearly logged out of downed and damaged trees, and the trails crew can hopefully finish that work before they are done for the season.

WRRRA continues our efforts to work with the Forest Service to coordinate a volunteer event for members to help restore the trails and forest in our valley. We will keep members posted on opportunities as we are able to set something up.

#### 6. Road project updates

Corral Pass roadwork is in complete. A contractor performed work with an excavator on the road, and has been working on hazard trees and rocks. Some areas of road were severely compromised by fire. Question raised by WRRRA about motorized vehicles on the road, and the lack of signage detailing the regulations. Martin Rand noted excessive amounts of individuals using the road with motorized vehicles. The FS confirmed that the road is officially closed to all motorized vehicles. (The area is not closed, but the road is closed.) WRRRA advocated strongly for methods we can use to help reduce or eliminate the illegal use. Martie Schramm is going to work with Brian McNeil about other signage options that may be helpful. WRRRA may produce some signage with FS reviewing content.

On a related topic, Chuck Gillette has produced and posted signage for the area to help educate visitors on Discharge of Firearms regulations in



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the forest, with the Pierce County regulation listed. One should be at each road entrance from Highway 410. Per input at the Fall Dinner, WRRRA is also going to put one at the turnout viewpoint over the cabin area on Crystal Mountain Boulevard.

There is some interest in “No Access to Crystal Mountain” and “No Access to Corral Pass” signs for the entrances from the highway to cut down on traffic mistakenly coming into the cabin roads. The FS cannot fund but would like to review and approve any new signage.

Finally, if members do not have cabin number signs in front of their cabins, the FS would like those installed for safety reasons. This should be part of the permit self-assessment as well.

### 7. Snoquera Analysis

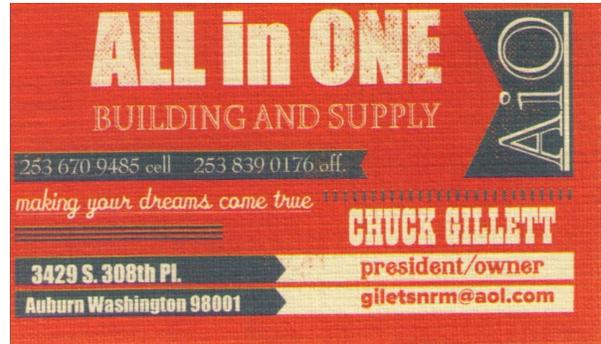
Cabin community projects (Alta Crystal upgrades, new water systems, new septic systems, etc.) have been removed from the scope of the Snoquera project. The impacts of the Snoquera Project will involve some changes to general land use in the area. It won't impact the use of cabins, but it should impact the way recreation is channeled in the area. Example would be moving dispersed campsites in the area, taking them out of river bottoms and creeks. The use of dispersed campsites would require permits. Also looking at permitting recreational shooting, improving the 70 pit, and creating an area for pistol shooting. And possible revisions to how Corral Pass is used. Draft document has been released for public comment.

### 8. Cabin Break-Ins

Discussion of WRRRA's options to increase signing, do better job of reporting break ins, and potential use of game cameras. The board will discuss the Reward program and other ideas to curb crime. The FS recommends calling Pierce County Sherriff first and foremost in any situation. And then also make sure to copy the FS for tracking.

### 9. Volunteer Opportunities

As noted, WRRRA is coordinating with the FS to set up a trails maintenance event, which will likely be next spring. At our Fall Dinner, Mary Coughlin, FS Highway 410 Coordinator, also asked for volunteers to help with restoration projects. To clarify,



they are looking for skilled people, to help build a new outhouse at Corral Pass, build picnic tables, create and install wooden trail signs, etc. If skilled and interested, contact Mary Coughlin (mcoughlin@fs.fed.us). We will keep everyone posted regarding a larger volunteer event for basic trail maintenance work, in 2019. Stay tuned for more details.

## 2019 Membership Renewal

### Membership and participation are growing

Hello to all my fellow WRRRA members and cabin owners and Happy 2019!

We have experienced a really great year with lots of growth and participation within the WRRRA community. In the past two years we have seen record growth in both membership and participation at our dinners, the fabulous summer picnic and the summer cabin tour.

Special kudos to the entire WRRRA board for working so well together but in particular to our social chairperson, Bill Vlases, for keeping these gatherings fun, festive and fresh. It seems most people leave our gatherings feeling like they received new information, insights and have met new neighbors and hopefully had fun. We continue to see more engagement in all aspects of WRRRA, including volunteering to help wherever and whenever its needed.

Moving into 2019, I would like to thank all our members on behalf of the board for your continued support of this great organization. We look forward to the continued growth of WRRRA membership in 2019.

Again, I would like to encourage all members to look within your own cabin family and friends and encourage them to join the WRRRA. It is especially important to encourage your next generation to

get involved with WRRRA to help keep our organization fresh, relevant and growing. You can have up to four memberships within your cabin. We are very encouraged to see a number of cabins that have added a second, third and fourth member this past year.

**WRRRA Membership Benefits:**

Stay informed – as a member you receive:

- ✓ 4 newsletter per year covering key and latest information and pertinent news relating to the cabin community.
- ✓ 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.

**In Memorium: Ken Leader**

*Stalwart Champion of the Cabin Program*

On December 28th cabin owners everywhere lost one of their most cherished assets, a man who had been at the vanguard of our collective efforts to preserve and protect the Recreation Residence Program for future generations.

Ken was born on January 8, 1927, shortly after his family had purchased their cabin on Deep Creek in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest near Mount Rainier. It meant more to him than any other place on earth. The cabin served as a focal point of his life, a place where family and friends were

always welcome and he could relax and enjoy the natural beauty of the surrounding mountains.

Ken’s devotion to the cabin program led him, as it had his father before him, to serve as president of the White River Recreation Association (WRRRA). In the late 1990s, he led the effort to establish the Washington State Forest Homeowners Association (WSFHA) as a viable and influential organization in his home state. Ken served as its founding vice president. During this same period, which was marked by widespread anxiety over escalating permit fees, he was elected to the NFH board of directors and served with distinction.

In October 1997, Ken testified before the House Resources Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health in Washington, DC. That experience and the contacts he made while there deepened his resolve that whatever fee determination system was eventually adopted, it must be fair and affordable for all concerned. Toward that end, Ken attended every NFH convention and many other cabin-related events. His counsel was always thoughtful and well received. His loss affects us all.

Obituaries were published in both the Yakima Herald and the Seattle Times. ~Albert Pollmar

**WRRRA 2018 Accomplishments and 2019 Planning**

The WRRRA Board met on December 4, to review goals and accomplishments for 2018, and to brainstorm and prioritize goals and plans for the organization for 2019. Here is a brief overview of our 2018 Goals and Accomplishments, and the Ranked Priorities for 2019.

**2018 Goals and Accomplishments**

**1) Fire Follow-up:** Assist with Fire Mitigation/ Follow Up/Restoration; develop FireWise Program; develop Emergency Preparedness Plan with Greenwater Fire.

Results: Some items addressed – work on restoration plans and foundational FireWise understandings with the FS have been established, some things waiting for next year (focus on fire protection, lot maintenance).

**2) Membership:** Develop/clarify membership level definitions and structure; develop new membership level concept, fee structure, and communications plan for younger generation.

Results: Lots of progress on formalizing and standardizing new member intake and communications. After much work, membership committee decided not to pursue a companion membership option. Overall, Membership levels are higher than in recent years, and overall member experience is more consistent.

**3) Payments:** Develop processes to receive member Online Payments/Credit Card payments.

Results: Piloted online dues renewals by sending electronic invoices to some last-minute sign ups as well as Brown Paper Tickets decliners. Launching online dues renewal in January 2019.

**4) Financial Funds:** Clarify and define funds for all members.

Results: Accomplished – Finance Committee has developed and published definitions for all funds including Cabin Defense Fund and Copeland Fund.

**5) Member Data Management:** Develop improved Tools and Processes for managing/updating.

Results: Evaluation of products, services and value to WRRR has started and is ongoing.

**6) Forest Service Communication:** Improve communication stream and processes.

Results: Accomplished – have a cadence of regular meetings with FS personnel, and continue to dialogue with them on all key topics. Ensure follow-up communication to all.

**2019 Priorities**

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.

**1) Tract-Specific Gatherings and Events:** Use to help galvanize community engagement (FireWise), Safety, Security, and other overall goals.

**2) Relationships Development:** Continue to build relationships particularly with FS; invite them to all

activities, continue to meet 3+x per year, be more proactive on follow up for positive actions.

**3) WRRR Volunteer Recruitment:** Formalize processes to help committees define goals, actions, and timelines. Normalize template for consistent and easy results.

**4) FireWise and Perimeter Defense Topics:** Volunteer and support of Greenwater Fire Department (including Fire Contracts); Maintain fire lines, maintain road clearance (chipping).

**5) Online Payments:** Continue to pursue cost effective and useful options – Dues, dinners, etc.

**6) Security:** Theft prevention, break ins, rewards, block watch-type programs, increase member engagement/participation.

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, or if you would like any additional information on any of the above topics, please contact any board member to volunteer to help us or for more info.

**‘Twas the day after Thanksgiving and time for a snack**

I’ve reset the response features on the trail camera so maybe I’ll capture a more xxx photo next time around. I doubt the bear normally would be down here for the scarce and tiny Oregon Grape but for the loss of berries in the burn zone. Good idea to be very careful with waste or pets outside for a while. This critter should be hibernating now – if it was able to lay on sufficient fat. The hind end looks pretty big. Not so the torso.

~ Diane DeWitt and Curtis Thompson – Goat Creek #34



## WRRRA

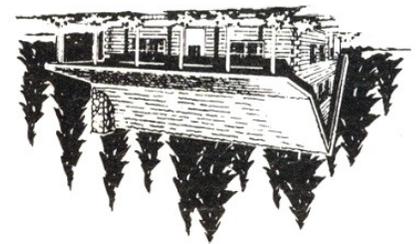
*The purpose of White River Recreational Association (WRRRA) is to promote and protect recreational interests along the Mather Memorial Parkway and throughout the Upper White River Valley; to do any and all things lawful, just and necessary to better the interests of the members of the Association; to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



## WRRRA Board for 2019

<b>President</b> Kevin Orth, SC 26 Home: 206-232-1764 Cabin: 360-663-0164 <a href="mailto:president@wrra.net">president@wrra.net</a>	<b>Vice President</b> Tim Curran, DC 3 Home: 425-641-9335 Cabin: 360-663-2631 <a href="mailto:vp@wrra.net">vp@wrra.net</a>	<b>Immediate Past Pres.</b> Rena Irwin, DC 17 Home: 360-866-2570 Cabin: 360-663-2428 <a href="mailto:renairwin1@comcast.net">renairwin1@comcast.net</a>
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<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 and Brittany Gaydeski Home: 360-640-0995 <a href="mailto:dc-rep@wrra.net">dc-rep@wrra.net</a>

## WRRRA Winter 2019 Newsletter



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