



Spokane Mountaineers Newsletter

Opening Up...

Learn more about what is going on with the Spokane Mountaineers.

President's Corner

Summer is in full swing - and it is great to see so many of you get out to hike, climb, paddle, bike and much more. In the middle of all the awesome activities we have had an extremely dedicated working group who has been heads down working on the re-imagined Spokane Mountaineers digital experience. Their work has been obsessively focused on making it easier for you to connect with fellow Spokane Mountaineers, find events, and participate outdoors. If you have ever built a house or done a remodel you know that these things take time, BUT keep your eyes out for an all new digital experience currently scheduled for a fall launch.

Matt Jeffries

President, Spokane Mountaineers

THIS MONTH'S
TOP STORIES

Committee Spotlight: *The Paddling Committee*

The Paddling Committee's purpose is to facilitate and coordinate events and training for water based paddle activities. This committee has evolved over time and used to hold training clinics, paddling events on area lakes and flat water rivers,

and even some overnight camping trips. The Committee Chair was vacant before John McKee took over just as the COVID pandemic was underway. However, the committee has been dormant throughout the pandemic. The good news is, with the lifting of most restrictions, this group is ready to start becoming more active, albeit with new considerations due to the pandemic.

So, as the committee gets ready to start new activities again, learning the basics will be at the forefront and hopefully evolve back into training clinics, evening paddling events, and more. One thing the committee is interested in doing is continuing to partner with the Spokane Riverkeeper in conservation activities. Two opportunities to support that are on June 9 and July 10 with more information to follow.

MEET JOHN MCKEE

This month, John McKee, the Chair of the Paddling Committee, is in the Spotlight.

John has lived in Spokane (technically Nine Mile Falls) for eight years after traveling around the country compliments of corporate America - which as he notes “doesn’t seem very important anymore!” Now he is a “Recreational Engineer” (and even has



the business cards to prove it), which is a nice way to say his job is to find ways to maximize recreating. He says that is much better than just being retired. He and his wife Darla are fortunate to live in an area where there is great paddling access, wonderful biking, nice hiking, and all super close to home.

John joined the Mountaineers in 2015 and was accepted into Mountain School the next year. He has returned to help every year since graduating to support this great program. John is an avid sea kayaker and has been fortunate to take some multi week trips around Vancouver Island but also enjoys easier paddling in the San Juan Islands. In addition, like many club members, John bikes, hikes, backpacks, skis, and more.

One of the things he is very proud of is the effort of the Mountaineers, a few years ago, to help clean up old automobile tires from the Spokane River. John organized a fantastic group and teamed with the Spokane Riverkeeper, Riverside State Park, and Avista to coordinate disposal of over 200 tires! As he notes, the team made a difference.

Activities

Mountain School completed the rock school portion, written exam, and practical Skills Test. The course then culminated with a graduation climb on 4 different glacier routes on Mount Baker over the Memorial Day weekend. The weather was beautiful, and it was a highly successful graduation weekend. Students now are focused on their second approved club climb, CPR, and stewardship requirements to complete the course.



Backpack School is nearing completion. The course included several virtual lectures, a few hikes, many sessions of trail work, and a couple of shakedown. A variety of graduation trips are now in the planning stages to complete the course.



Monthly General Membership Meeting presentations are organized and conducted by Vice President, Li Ciavola. For the May 17 meeting, Chic Burge, the club historian, was the featured guest along with his colleague David Grafton. Chic talked about the origin of the “Spokane Walking Club” started by five women who all worked at the Spokane Library and wanted to walk after work. Initially, it was just a women’s group but allowed men to join in 1916, which ultimately evolved into the Spokane Mountaineers. Chic and David also spoke about hikes and climbs throughout the Inland Northwest in addition to the evolution of their website that describes the activities. At the June 21 meeting, Dave Schaub of the Inland Northwest Land Conservancy (INLC) gave a great presentation about the INLC. This included information about the background of the organization, vision and core tenets, the efforts to protect and conserve both private and public lands, and working to connect people to the land. Dave also talked about four main projects the conservancy is currently working on that includes volunteer opportunities for others to support them.

Please join us live from the Spokane Mountaineer website zoom link or on the Spokane Mountaineer Facebook page.



Key Announcements

Membership Renewal in 2021 from the Membership Committee

Currently, the only **complete** online checkout and payment process available is using a PayPal account.

If you wish to pay by **Credit Card or Check**, please continue the renewal check-out process. When you get to the PayPal site, select "Cancel and return to Spokane Mountaineers." It will cancel the payment but maintain your account information for us to activate.

Then send an email to membership@spokanemountaineers.org, and we can issue you a PayPal invoice to your email that can be paid by credit card checkout on PayPal. We can combine multiple renewals on a single invoice.

If you wish to pay by check, send the completed membership application to PO Box 1013, Spokane, WA 99201-1013. Please be sure to include the email account you are paying to renew or activate. ([membership application](#))

Fall Kinnikinnick information is due August 7.

Please get events entered and approved with the activity chairs and submit any trip reports to editorial@spokanemountaineers.org. Any activity leader having difficulty putting an event into the website can reach out to the activity chair(s) or send event details to ecomm@spokanemountaineers.org, and they will assist you with the event entry.

Outdoor Partner Events

The Conservation Committee is working with other club organizations to put together a booth for the annual Spokatopia event scheduled for September 18. Planned volunteer activities include teaming with the Spokane Riverkeeper for



cleanup events on June 9 and July 10. In addition, club members teamed up with the Friends of Scotchman Peaks

Wilderness to perform a “log out” of the main Scotchman Peaks hike, using saws to cut downed trees on June 11. Finally, there are many opportunities to work with the INLC at Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve (WSNP) to continue building new trails while decommissioning old, unsustainable trails. If you are interested in volunteering for this you can find info at the following link:
<https://www.inlandnwland.org/events/>.



Spokane Mountaineers.
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