



Spokane Mountaineers Newsletter



Spring, Finally

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



Photo Credit: Taylen Howland

President's Corner

Whew, it's so good to have warmer days starting. I know I speak for many when I say it has been a long winter figuring out how to live amidst a pandemic, but the sun still rises, and the days are getting warmer.

Here at the Spokane Mountaineers, we are excited to have many of our excellent programs either in full swing or kicking off soon. Mountain school is already in full swing, but other programs like rock school, trad school, alpine climbing seminar, aid climbing seminar, and more are either just getting started or right around the corner. If you have participated in one of these programs in the past, we would love to invite you to come to join in this year's program in a leader/instructor capacity - just reach out to the school/seminar lead for more details... More reasons to get outside! Make sure to check out your Spring Kinni that just hit mailboxes for all the details on these programs and more.

Also, in your Spring Kinni is a write-up regarding the work the leadership team has been doing to re-envision the Spokane Mountaineers' web experience. This initiative is a pretty massive undertaking for a volunteer led organization. Still, it will be transformative in helping every member get more out of their membership for years to come.

Play hard this spring, together, with friends.

Matt Jeffries, President,
president@spokanemountaineers.org

THIS MONTH'S
TOP STORIES



Committee Spotlight: *The Electronic Communications Committee (aka E-Comm). In our February newsletter, we mentioned the efforts underway by a subgroup of this committee to revamp our electronic communications tools used by Spokane Mountaineer club members and leaders. We thought we should highlight some of the other work that this committee provides to the club.*

What is the E-Comm Committee?

The E-Comm committee exists to help provide services to members, other committees, and club leadership. Specifically, the E-Comm committee focuses on supporting of the following:

- The technology used by the Activity Chairs to manage their groups, schedule events, and support their schools.
- The technology operations of Service Chairs like membership, editorial, historian, and librarian.
- Club officers/board with organization-wide operations and management.
- General member assistance such as helping with locked accounts or training.

To summarize, the E-Comm committee works to keep things working for our internal stakeholders. The E-Comm group does not manage the

Instagram/Facebook accounts, which the Vice President handles as mostly external communications.

Currently, the club's electronic tools are a patchwork we have acquired over the past 15 years. Many are not tied together and require manual upkeep. The committee works hard to identify critical functions that require manual support and assigns volunteers to manage them throughout the year.

Here are some of the volunteers who help to keep things moving:

- Lisa Bradley manages announcements that are emailed to announcements@spokanemountaineers.org by our leaders and members. She is currently working to support the newsletter that our Board recently developed.
- Ryan Yost manages and posts images sent to picweek@spokanemountaineers.org on our website.
- Matthew Inman manages our school pages on our site and application built-in google forms to help our School Directors fill our schools and clinics.
- Samantha Journot has been helping with School Activity Groups and maintaining the backend of our website. She has been active in solving issues as they arise and participating in the subcommittee evaluating new tools.
- Brian Hoots leads this group and works on the website's backend, email, and voicemail systems. Other individual club members provide important feedback as stakeholders for the Board, Officers, and Activity/Service Chairs.

Currently, the committee's biggest challenge is with maintaining some of our tools that are just not working right due to software upgrades that the vendor and software provider cannot jointly agree on how to resolve. The committee has temporary workarounds that have become more or less permanent and require more resources to fix than the club can invest further. When the club rolls out the new platform in the summer, the Ecomm Team will be focusing on training and supporting these new tools. As new capabilities come online to replace the old tools, the committee is looking forward to improved workflows and reliability for the membership and event management, club image to the public, and how members communicate.

If you have technical or process expertise and are interested in helping with this committee, please reach out to ecomm_chair@spokanemountaineers.org!

If you find something not working the way it is supposed to, please email ecomm@spokanemountaineer.org, and the committee will assign someone to look into it.

Meet a Mountaineer: Brian Hoots



This month since we are featuring the Electronics Communication Committee, our Spokane Mountaineer featured is the Chair of that Committee, Brian Hoots.

Brian's first introduction to the club was from a good friend in 1996 who gave him a running narrative about his Mountain School experience and the Spokane Mountaineers. The dedication and quality of the instructors and curriculum made an impression on Brian. A year later, he was a member of the club participating in the 1997 Mountain School from his home in Pullman. He has been involved in the school ever since. Four years later, Brian had a job opportunity to return to Spokane, where he grew up and where his brothers and sisters and their children live. Brian is married to Tanya Resitroffer and has two Kishu Inu dogs, Kimi and Yuki. Living in Spokane has allowed Brian the opportunities to continue his work with the Climbing Committee, serve on the Board of Trustees, and participate in fundraising activities for the Adventure Exploration committee. He was President of the club for three years and is currently serving as Ecomm Committee Chair. If you talk to Brian, you will quickly learn that his interests are developing leaders for our activities and teaching mountaineering to our members. He has participated in almost all of the schools and clinics we have available. He believes in giving his time back to the club as those before him have done for over 105 years. He is currently up to his neck in the club's re-development of our electronic tools. He is looking forward to seeing the benefits of the time he and other volunteers have spent researching and evaluating options. You may also see Brian hosting Tuesday night climbing from Spring until Fall out at John Shields Park or other crags in the area. Join him, it is a lot of fun. He encourages you to find something you love about the club and spend a few hours a month volunteering your time towards that effort to

keep it alive and thriving. Lead a trip or activity, serve on an activity or service committee, perform a single job that needs to get done every month, or help with a trail clean-up.

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Planned Activities

Mountain School kicked off on February 24. Under new COVID guidelines, the course will be run with small groups (cohorts) of four students with 1-2 instructors. There will also be four small-group sessions, four online learning sessions, seven-week-day trips, and three overnight weekend trips.

Backpack School is scheduled to start the fourth week of March and has also transitioned to a hybrid model due to COVID. There will be 12 consecutive Zoom classes beginning on March 25 through June 10. Once the Phase 3 guidance is established, outdoor sessions will commence in parallel. A handful of themed hikes will teach some of the content traditionally covered in breakout sessions. Students will still be required to volunteer for a trail workday. A Shakedown event will be the final outdoor session: a weekend Graduation Backpack trip targeted for mid-to late-Summer.

Recent presentations at the **monthly General Membership Meetings** organized by Vice President Li Ciavola included Karen Vielle on February 15, who talked about her path to Directing Mountain School. She also introduced her book “Just Walking: A Memoir on Two Feet.” On March 15, Todd Dunfield gave a presentation on preserving Spokane’s unique and important natural habitats and the surrounding areas. Todd has been a Spokane Mountaineer for about two decades and is also the Community Conservation Program Manager of the Inland Northwest Land Conservancy. Just as a reminder, you can re-watch these presentations on the Spokane Mountaineer Facebook page.

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Key Announcements

Information and update on the Chalet

The Spokane Mountaineers own 40 acres of forest land as a private inholding adjacent to Mount Spokane State Park. Since the 1930s, this property has been a gathering spot for club members with multiple uses as our own private ski area, a

place to pick huckleberries, a venue to conduct club-sponsored events, a classroom for club training, and a beautiful camping spot for club members and their families and friends.

When Covid-19 hit last spring, the Chalet Committee had to change how members traditionally used the chalet property. For several months, the building was off-limits to club member use. Lately, we've been able to make some adjustments to allow increased use of the chalet building and property. While the chalet has traditionally been a shared space for all club members, it is now necessary to have reservations to ensure everyone's safety. Members may now reserve the chalet building for day or overnight-use for one's immediate household. Members may book use of the chalet property for small groups of friends within the current Covid-19 group size limits for outdoor camping.

Information on how to reserve use of the chalet building or property can be found on the club website at <https://spokanemountaineers.org/group-activity/chalet>.

Be sure to "join" the group, then click the "Overview" tab for the most up-to-date information on how to reserve the chalet, along with the rules of chalet use. Please contact the Chalet Committee if you have additional questions about using this excellent club resource! If you have any questions, contact the Chalet Committee chair at chalet@spokanemountaineers.org.

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 and 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](#))

Summer Kinnikinnick information is due May 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.

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Outdoor Partner Events

Let's work with the BCC to clean up our local climbing crags!

Please come out and support our partner organization, the Bower Climbing Coalition, on April 7th at 4 pm at John Shields Park (aka Minnihaha) for their spring crag clean up.

Graffiti removal will start at 4 pm, the trash pick-up begins at 5 pm and will go until dark. A guided tour of the climbing areas will be given to those who are interested!

Please bring boots, pants, gloves, and a water bottle. We will be hosting more crag clean-ups this spring, so stay tuned. Please abide by COVID protocols, wear a mask and stay 6 feet apart. We are excited to see everyone out there!

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Spokane Mountaineers.
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