



Spokane Mountaineers Monthly

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New Year! New Adventures!

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



President's Corner

Greetings everyone! Over the holidays one of our board members, Jerry, was lamenting that it's hard for us to gather these days and would love to know more about what is going on in between the quarterly Kinnikinnick. I couldn't agree more with him. To fill in the gaps, Jerry had the idea of starting a monthly newsletter.

Since this is a new muscle for us it may not be exactly every month and we may play around with emailing it in the future but for now, we will post it right here in the member portal.

Two things are top of mind for me right now in the new year. First is life during the COVID-19 era. It's ever-changing but I have been so proud of our school directors for putting together really thoughtful and innovative plans to keep doing what we all love to do in modified formats. I am looking forward to both a great Mountain School and Backpack School.

Second, as many committee leaders and others are aware, we have been investigating an alternative solution to the current website for the last 12 months. The task force has been hard at work and reported their findings during the monthly leadership meetings many times since August.

I am excited to share that we have decided on a path forward! Stay tuned for more details in the coming months and feel free to reach out to me, the officers or the board with any specific questions.

Please enjoy the rest of the topics below in our first every monthly newsletter. If you would like to be featured, share a rad picture, or story for a future newsletter please reach out to Jerry Anderson at navoffsf@yahoo.com.

Enjoy!

Matt Jeffries, President,
president@spokanemountaineers.org

THIS MONTH'S
TOP STORIES



Committee Spotlight: *The Conservation Committee*

Did you know the mountaineers maintain active conservation efforts every year? Not only that, but the Conservation Committee has been around since 1955! We partner with and support all kinds of conservation organizations that work towards protecting the outdoors.

Since many of our committee members are actively involved with local conservation organizations, either as an employee or board member or regular volunteer, we often have the inside scoop about conservation needs and opportunities in the area. For instance, we recently learned about a change in road use status in Colville National Forest because of one committee member who is an active member of the Tri-County Forest working group in that area. We contribute to land conservation efforts, and support wilderness designations. We write letters of support for conservation policies and proposed recreation projects. We partner with the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Washington State Parks, Spokane County, and other partners to build new trails and maintain existing trails. We partner with organizations like Spokane Riverkeeper and Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative to organize clean-up or planting events; and participate in informational hikes with organizations like the Kalispel Tribe Natural Resources Department to learn more about conservation and recreation projects in an area. We keep committee members in the loop about important conservation-related news and events that are occurring in the area. Finally, we donate to conservation organizations so they are supported in their own efforts.

Currently, we are exhibiting caution about planning conservation events, due to the pandemic. But hopefully, we'll be able to get back to planning new conservation initiatives as soon as possible. Due to our new status as a 501(c)(3) organization, we are now able to fundraise for a conservation cause of our choice, so that will be an exciting new direction for the committee. We also have new trail work projects on the horizon and have conservation-themed speakers lined up to present at our General Member Meetings.

Meet a Mountaineer: Gina Clays



This first month since we are featuring the Conservation Committee, our Spokane Mountaineer featured is the Chair of that Committee, Gina Clays. She is originally from Ann Arbor, MI and bounced around a bit before settling in Spokane about 5 years ago. She currently works for the City of Spokane Solid Waste Department as a Recycling Outreach Assistant. It is a temporary position and Gina hopes to start her own business in wildlife consulting in the near future. Her family lives mostly in Michigan and Indiana, but she has a sister who lives in Seattle. Her main passions

in life are wildlife, nature, and outdoor activities. For outdoor activities, she is partial to climbing, hiking, skiing, SUPing, and rafting! She joined the Spokane Mountaineers shortly after moving to Spokane in the spring of 2016, and participated somewhat sporadically in Mountaineers events before joining the Conservation Committee in 2019 and then becoming Chair in August of 2019. She was just beginning to fully explore the role when the pandemic hit, yet, still, has been very active in her short tenure.. She looks forward to being able to bring her ideas to fruition and watch the committee grow and evolve!

Planned Activities

Vice President Li Ciavola has worked hard to line up great presentations for the monthly general membership meetings. Rich Landers did a great presentation back in December that you can re-watch on our Facebook page.

At the January 18 meeting, the presenter was the Yellowstone to Yukon organization. The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y) is a transboundary Canada–United States not-for-profit organization that aims to connect and protect the 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometers) Yellowstone-to-Yukon region. Its mission proposes to maintain and restore habitat integrity and connectivity along the spine of North America's Rocky Mountains stretching from the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem to Canada's Yukon Territory. It is the only organization dedicated to securing the long-term ecological health of the region. This was an awesome live broadcast you can re-watch on our Facebook page.

Key Announcements

- 1.) 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 with **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, but be clear

If you wish to pay by Check, send 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](#))

- 2.) Spring Kinnikinnick information is due February 5 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 web site 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.

- 3.) Consign with a Cause! - Do you have old gear gathering dust, perfect for someone who is just getting started? Take it down to Rambleraven Gear Trader on Division, drop off and tell them it's for the Spokane Mountaineers program. Rambleraven will sell it off and give the proceeds to the Spokane Mountaineers!.

- 4.) Over the past several months, the E-Comm committee has led an initiative to update the Spokane Mountaineers website. The core group (Brian Hoots, Samantha Journot and Jeff Mergler) along with President Matt Jefferies. has worked tirelessly to review over 50 companies and technologies. The goal is to develop a more useful and elegant tool where all members can find out what is going on with the club and participate in events and also be easily reachable by the general public. This group presented their findings to the board in December to include the final three that made the shortlist. Feedback was solicited to club board members and officers throughout December. After a lively discussion in the January Board Meeting the vote on the recommendations by this ad hoc committee was passed unanimously with one trustee abstaining. A final review of the final three proposals has led to the platform and integration partner being chosen and contracts signed for the work to begin in February. We will be highlighting some of the updates on the project and improvements that are on the list in a future edition.

Outdoor Partner Events

One big accomplishment for the conservation committee and club was helping complete the Phillips Creek or "Flying L" trail in the Glenrose Unit of the Dishman Hills Conservation area. We partnered with Spokane County and many other organizations to accomplish this huge project. Lynn Smith, the trail work coordinator, was able to accomplish this by using experienced volunteers with their own tools, who worked independently and socially distanced from one another, with staggered shifts throughout the summer of 2020. With creativity, we are able to adapt to the challenging circumstances of the pandemic and help out with community conservation efforts.

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Spokane Mountaineers.
PO Box 1013, Spokane, WA, 99210