



Spokane Mountaineers Newsletter

Fire Season...

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

From the Board

Please see the information in this newsletter about our efforts to improve the nomination and election process to our members.

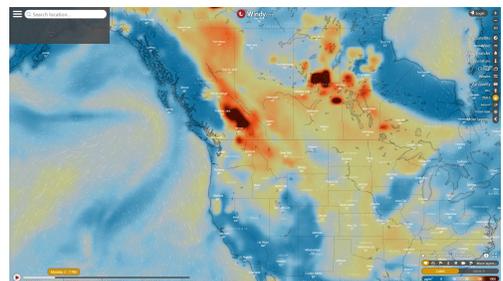
Please take precautions if you are in the back country this summer.

THIS MONTH'S TOP STORIES

Speaking of the Fire Season...

Our club historian, Chic Burge, offers some useful resources you can use to determine weather conditions, air quality and location of fires. This will help in your planning for outdoor activities.

Chic discovered several websites while planning his hikes and scrambles.



<https://www.windy.com/-PM2-5-pm2p5?cams,pm2p5,48.315,-116.529,5> This site allows you to expand the map to examine the exact area you are considering for

outdoor activities. Likewise, you can move around the world, to identify an area with less chance of smoke. As you can see, there is a wealth of information regarding weather conditions, air quality, etc.

The next website is: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov> This website specifically identifies the locations of current active fires, which can be very useful, especially during the height of fire season. You can also use the previous website to determine the winds that might help in your decision making for planning activities in the vicinity of fire areas.

Finally, you can use <https://www.weather.gov> for the National Weather Service and NOAA to determine the most up to date weather in any area you are considering for club or personal outdoor activities. This website can provide hourly weather forecasts as well as current conditions.

As Chic notes, by use of any or all of these resources, you can increase your chances of a successful and safe outdoor experience.

MEET CHIC BURGE

This month, Chic Burge, the Club Historian, is in the Spotlight.

Chic was born and raised in the Spokane/Coeur d'Alene area and started hiking at a young age. He has worked in retail camera sales for 50 years. He was also in the Spokane Astronomical Society in the early 1980s.



In 1984, Chic joined the Spokane Mountaineers and held various positions within the club. He was voted an Honorary Member in 2004 due to his work supporting the club, especially in organizing meeting minutes.

Chic has led all types of trips throughout the region and he has collected nearly 20,000 photos documenting those experiences. He moved to Kellogg in 2018 to be

closer to the mountains, especially Silver Mountain because as Chic says, he hates skiing on weekends.

You may remember Chic being featured in the May general membership meeting and, specifically, his teaming with David Grafton to create the website InlandNWRoutes. The website offers a wealth of information on outdoors activities throughout the Inland Northwest.

Activities



Monthly General Membership Meeting presentations are organized and conducted by Vice President, Li Ciavola. For the July 19 meeting, Jerry White, the Spokane Riverkeeper, was the featured guest. Jerry is from the Spokane area growing up in Cheney. Jerry provided a very informative presentation about the watershed surrounding the Spokane River and also talked about the Little Spokane and other local tributaries and the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. The Spokane Riverkeeper has been around for a long time, but only operating as a nonprofit for the past ten years. Jerry spoke about the approximately 350 Waterkeepers around the globe and talked about some of their projects. More locally, he talked about advocacy and partnerships; recreational opportunities; river issues; shoreline destruction and land use; environmental movement and essential laws; education; science and water quality testing; and ways to help.

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

Key Announcements

Upcoming Elections

Spokane Mountaineers Move the Nomination and Election Process, On-Line – Meet Election Runner

“I received a request in my e-mail to submit nominations... what’s with that?!”

In the beginning of this year the Board of the Spokane Mountaineers formed an ad-hoc committee to investigate moving the nomination and election process on-line to improve response rates from the membership.. The goal was that each



member would receive an e-mail containing a secure link to their nomination/ballot. The Club would easily send out reminders, set a start and end time to the election, tabulate the data and receive an election report for the Annual Business Meeting. In addition, the voter experience needed to be easy to use and available on any digital platform where

e-mail is accessed.

Election software from other 501(c)(3) organizations were reviewed and researched. Major features that were a must were security, ease of use for both the election builder and user, excellent customer support, easy tabulations, and low cost. Election Runner was picked as our candidate and at the end of March our “Test Election” went out to the Board and was successfully completed. After that successful test, the decision was made to pilot this tool for the coming election.

Membership saw their first introduction to Election Runner when they recently received a request to submit nominations for president, secretary and up to three board positions. Nominations will continue to be accepted into August. Review your e-mail inbox in case it may have been missed. (Please note, Election Runner is a stand-alone service that allows the club to conduct fair impartial elections online for a modest fee.)

Outdoor Leadership

Former Club President and Leadership Committee Chairman Chuck Huber tasked the committee with enhancing the leadership education and opportunities for the club. As part of that process, Jerry Anderson and Pat Sullivan have put some time into updating the Leadership/Activity Guide (LAG), since that document had not been revised since 2003. An updated draft was presented to the board of directors at the June 2021 Board meeting and was approved as a working copy.

THE SPOKANE MOUNTAINEERS

LEADER/ACTIVITY GUIDE

While it is recognized that the revised LAG is intended to be a living document, the update is current and can be found on the website under [About US/Member Resources](#). Forms mentioned in the LAG are also available in the Addendum or individually as needed for our Trip and Activity Leaders.

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.

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 th



Spokane Mountaineers.
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