

# THE ALPINE ECHO



---

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY

---

***"It's a round trip. Getting to the summit is optional, getting down is mandatory."***

*Edmund Viesturs*



*Photo contribution by John Taylor*

## **In This Issue:**

- **Trip Report by John Taylor**
- **Activities report-out by Kati O'Brien**
- **Announcements for the upcoming season!!**

# THE ALPINE ECHO

---

## A word from your editor:

Welcome to the new year! Hope you all had a wonderful holiday season.

We're in full-swing again for another great year of mountaineering, so this issue mainly focuses on the upcoming years classes and activities. We did manage to sneak in a trip report for this issue, so please make sure to read your fellow climbers reports!

With that, please take a look at the different announcements we have for you to feast on.

Here's to another great season!

Climb on.

Thanks,  
Lexter





# THE ALPINE ECHO

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BOEALPS 2020 **Alpine Climbing Class** ACC

<http://boealps.org/courses/acc/>



*Stoked about learning the skills  
to have amazing climbing  
adventures in the alpine?*

*Consider taking the Alpine Climbing Class!*

Applications: Jan 1<sup>st</sup> to Feb 4<sup>th</sup>  
Class: March 16<sup>th</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup>  
every other weekend

## BOEING EMPLOYEE'S ALPINE SOCIETY



## BASIC MOUNTAINEERING CLASS 2020



Through classroom instruction and weekend outings students learn alpine skills such as navigation, rope skills, rock climbing, snow skills, camping, and glacier travel. By the end of the class students are comfortable planning and executing their own trips into the Cascade Mountains.

Classroom sessions are held Wednesdays from 7-9:30 PM in the Boeing 2-22 Building cafeteria from mid February through early June. The eleven weekend outings go from early March – early June, either Saturdays or Sundays, every weekend except Easter, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day weekends. Two of the outings are overnight outings (from Saturday morning through Sunday evening).

**Information Session: 7 PM Wednesday, Jan 8<sup>th</sup>**

Boeing 2-22 cafeteria, 7755 E Marginal Way S, Seattle, WA 98108

**Applications due: Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @5 AM--Class size is limited!**

**First Class: Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 7-9:30 PM (Boeing 2-22 bldg cafeteria)**

**Cost: \$425 for BOEALPS members**

**\$525 for non-members**

**More info at [www.boealps.org](http://www.boealps.org)**

## Waterfall Ice Seminar

**Tentative Dates:**

Dates: Classroom session Jan. 20th 2020

Weekend 1: Jan 25 - 26th, 2020

Weekend 2: Feb 8 - 9th, 2020

**Location:** Lillooet, BC

**Cost:** \$100

**Application:**

Learn the basics of climbing alpine and waterfall ice, placement of ice screws, and building ice anchors. In this two day course set in beautiful Lillooet, BC there are two weekends to choose from for participation, please select only one weekend.

Instructors with ice experience are needed for both weekend dates please contact the following lead instructors for the following weekend, if you would like to volunteer, instructors who volunteer will have their hotel room reimburse:

Weekend 1: Tom Ryan ([jandtryan@msn.com](mailto:jandtryan@msn.com))

Weekend 2: Alex Chiu ([AYC726@gmail.com](mailto:AYC726@gmail.com))



## Instructor Social

Do you help out with one of the BOEALPS classes? Are you thinking about instructing?

Come join us and get stoked for the 2020 climbing season! We'll provide appetizers!

\*When:\* Wednesday, **January 29th, 2020 6:30-10 PM**

\*Where:\* Elliott Bay Public House

(the downstairs Cascade Hall)

12537 Lake City Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98125

\*Who: \*All former, current, and prospective instructors for all BOEALPS classes!

\*Questions? \*send to [BMCHadInstructor@gmail.com](mailto:BMCHadInstructor@gmail.com)

## Backcountry Ski Seminar

The BOEALPS Backcountry Ski Seminar is back!

- Are you tired of those long approaches and descents, wallowing in snow while using snowshoes?
- Have you ever looked out onto the slopes of the mountains around you while you climb and think “This would be an awesome ski”?
- Have you ever gone to the ski area after a big powder dump, only to be disappointed to find it completely tracked out within an hour?
- Are you tired of the lines, the people, the money wasted on lift served skiing?

Snow is falling in the mountains and it’s time to get stoked on skiing. If you’ve been thinking about ditching the resort and searching for untracked pow in the backcountry, this class is for you! This seminar is aimed at giving the new backcountry skier all of the skills and knowledge they need in order to plan and carry out their own ski tours. We will cover different touring equipment (skis, skins, bindings, boots, avy gear), terrain and route selection, how to set an efficient skin track, backcountry travel techniques, efficient transitions from tour to ski, and more.

The class will meet on two days: one night session during the week to cover concepts and plan a tour, and one day long backcountry tour.

For more information or to sign up, check out the seminar website [here](#).

### Requirements:

- Participants must be comfortable skiing “blue” runs in-bounds in variable snow conditions (powder, hard pack, ice, crust)
- Alpine Touring, tele, or split-board gear (owned or rented)
- Avalanche gear: beacon, shovel, probe (owned or rented)

### Course Information:

- Backcountry Ski Seminar Outline
- Lecture: Wednesday February 12th, 2020 @ 6:30 PM  
Location: Boeing 2-22 Building
- Outing: February 15th or 16th, 2020  
Location: TBD
- Cost: \$35

## Baker Backcountry Ski Cabin

The legendary Baker backcountry ski cabin is open for reservations! Come join two dozen of your friends to enjoy the snow around the Mt Baker ski area and have a great time hanging out in a giant lodge at night. Basically its kind of like "Boealps winter campout" except you get to sleep and eat inside. We pushed the dates back a little later this year to hopefully have more snow and more daylight.

It's called a backcountry ski weekend because that's the main activity of choice but anyone can come no matter what your winter activity is. There are plenty of touring and snowshoeing options from beginner to advanced and the ski area is an option for anyone without AT gear or if the conditions aren't good for backcountry travel.

If you need help finding partners to ski with let me know and I'll try to coordinate.

**When:** Feb 28- Mar 1, 2020

**Where:** Glacier, WA

**Cost:** Members \$100, Non-Members \$105

**Other important info:**

Please be aware that the lodge only has queen beds in individual bedrooms and priority goes to anyone that doubles up. Be prepared to spend a night on a couch or floor if you don't share a bed.

Breakfast and dinner on Saturday will be provided. Anything leftover will be Sunday breakfast.

This is a great opportunity to take an AAIRE level 1 avalanche course offered by the American Alpine Institute out of Bellingham. There is no Boealps discount or organization for this class. Details can be found here: <http://www.alpineinstitute.com/catalog/avalanche-training-aiare-1/>

Van Special: If you would like to stay in your van the cost is \$25 per person. You still get all the benefits and use of the cabin but just have to sleep in your van.

Cancellation Policy: Full refund if you cancel before Feb 7, 2020. After that I cannot guarantee a refund but will try to provide one if possible.

Sign up and pay at the link below:

<https://boealps.wufoo.com/forms/mt-baker-backcountry-ski-weekend/>

Bill Waltke

Boealps Snow Wisperer



## Wilderness First Aid (WFA) Program

The BOEALPS Wilderness First Aid (WFA) program is designed to prepare you to deal effectively with accidents that can occur in remote areas where professional medical help is not readily available.

The BOEALPS WFA program has two components:

- A weekend session (all day, Saturday and Sunday) hosted by wilderness medicine professionals from Remote Medical Training (RMT), including lectures, skills practice, demos and hands-on scenarios;
- An evening of outdoors hands-on scenarios practice (Monday evening, immediately following weekend session).

Attendance to **both** the weekend session and evening scenarios practice is **required** to complete the BOEALPS WFA program and obtain a two-year certification.

Registration for the Winter 2020 WFA Program is **OPENING NOVEMBER 1st** as detailed below

**PLEASE NOTE:** BOEALPS-affiliated members and guests will be given priority to apply until 1 month prior to class. In order to make this program successful and sustainable, open seats may be offered to other outdoors organizations 1 month prior to class. It is highly recommended for BOEALPS-affiliated members and guests to send in their application as early as possible to ensure participation in the class.

### WINTER 2020 WILDERNESS FIRST AID PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Classroom Session	Saturday	1/25/20	8:00am - 5:00pm
Classroom Session	Sunday	1/26/20	8:00am - 5:00pm
Scenarios Session	Monday	1/27/20	6:00pm - 9:00pm
LOCATION:	The Mountaineers Seattle Program Center (Cascade Rooms) 7700 Sand Point Way, NE, Seattle, WA 98115		
COST:	BOEALPS Members \$225.00 / Non-BOEALPS Members \$260.00		
CLASS SIZE:	30 participants maximum		

For more information on prerequisites, certification requirements, refund policy and link to application form:

- consult the web site at [www.boealps.org](http://www.boealps.org) ("Courses" tab, then the "WFA" tab)

or

- email Moselle Horiuchi at [moselle\\_horiuchi@hotmail.com](mailto:moselle_horiuchi@hotmail.com)

## **Membership Renewal**

Calling all Boeing employees involved with BOEALPS !

The 2020 climbing season is just around the corner !

Why not begin your new year of climbing by supporting your club and renewing your BOEALPS membership to continue to enjoy the great BOEALPS benefits !

If you are new to BOEALPS, become a member today!

The 2020 BOEALPS membership form - as well as a list of membership benefits - is available on the website at <http://boealps.org/members>.

If you have any questions about membership, contact us at [membership@boealps.org](mailto:membership@boealps.org)

Safe and Happy Climbing!

Your Executive Board and Membership Committee

## Other events and dates

### January

Wednesday January 1	ACC Applications OPEN
Wednesday January 8 @ 7pm	Basic Mountaineering Class Information Session
Monday January 13	Basic Mountaineering Class Applications OPEN
Tuesday January 14 @ 6:30pm	Board Meeting
Saturday Jan 25 - Monday Jan 27	BOEALPS WFA
Wednesday January 29 @ 6:30pm	BOEALPS Instructor Social

### February

Tuesday February 4	ACC Applications DUE
Wednesday February 5 @ 7pm	BMC New Instructor Orientation
Tuesday February 11	ACC Student Announcements
Tuesday February 11 @ 6:30pm	Board Meeting
Wednesday February 12 @ 7pm	BMC Orientation
Saturday February 15 @ 7am	BMC Fitness Evaluation
Wednesday February 19 @ 7pm	BMC Instructor Training

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 14, 2020 @ 6:30PM. Location information soon to follow.

*\*For more information, please refer to the club calendar @ <http://boealps.org/calendar/>*



# THE ALPINE ECHO

# TRIP REPORTS

## Bonanza Peak

By: John Taylor

### TRIP INFORMATION

CLIMB DATE(S): 7/4/2019—7/6/2019

ORGANIZER(S): John W. Taylor

PEAK: Bonanza Peak (9,511 ft)

ROUTE: Standard Route (Mary Green Glacier)

TRAILHEAD: Holden Village, WA (3,300 ft)

BASECAMP: Holden Pass (6,360 ft)

Two fellow climbers and I decided to celebrate Independence Day, 2019 by braving the peak that [summitpost.org](http://summitpost.org) calls the toughest county highpoint in the Lower Forty-eight. Joining me on this Yankee Doodle climb were Katherine Yun and Samantha Wong (@sneakysamwong). Both Katherine and I are volunteer junior instructors with BOEALPS, while Samantha is a 2019 graduate of the Basic Mountaineering Class. This was a

first attempt on Bonanza Peak for each of us, and little did we know what the mountain had in store.

We chose the standard route for Bonanza. This means starting from Holden Village. Saying we started from Holden Village, however, doesn't do any justice to the journey. Our morning actually started at 5:15 AM in Redmond and included a 3-1/2 hour drive to Field's Point on the shores of Lake Chelan, a two hour ferry ride to Lucerne, and a forty minute ride on an old school bus up a one-lane gravel road up to the boundaries of the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area and the aforementioned village. It's the only way to get to Holden Village that doesn't involve hiking twenty-five miles (through the aforementioned Glacier Peak Wilderness) or renting a flying machine. Our bus received a warm welcome from the villagers, a tradition for this small Lutheran retreat, who bills themselves as the most remote continuously inhabited settlement in the Lower Forty-eight.

By the time we put boots on the ground it was almost 1:45 PM. The Cloudy Pass Trail is well-maintained, as is the Holden Lake Trail all of the way up to the Holden Lake. We arrived at the lake just after 4:30 PM. That was where our adventures began.

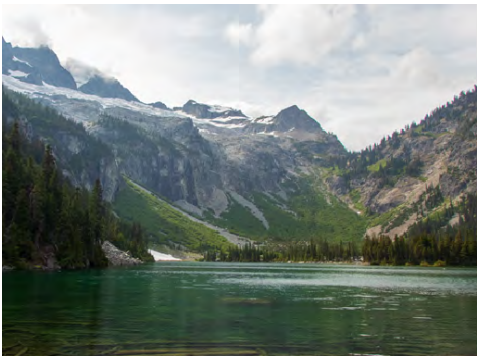


There is no maintained trail to Holden Pass from Holden Lake, and the turnoff is not marked. The first time we walked by the little boot path headed into the bog we didn't even notice it.

Fortunately, we found the route on our second try. Our good fortune lasted only a few minutes, however, as we missed the hard-left turn where this boot path leaves the marshy shore and scrambles into the forest above. Instead we bushwhacked through slide alder,



following in the tracks of other poor, unfortunate souls who likewise missed the turn. When we emerged from our wrestling match with the slide alder a little while later, we found ourselves at the base of a boulder field that extended up slope toward the saddle above. Although there was no sign of the route, a quick review of the topo map unmistakably identified the saddle above us as Holden Pass, our destination for the day. We made our way upward toward the pass, seeking the path of least resistance. Scrambling over boulders with heavy overnight packs is no picnic. However, our efforts soon led us up and over the boulder field, where we regained the boot track up the hill. Though we'd crossed this moraine far lower than we'd intended, and with far more effort, we were now back on route.



The boot track up to the pass is mixed Class 2 and Class 3. Although often faint, it proved reasonably easy to follow. Much of the route is bounded on the right by cliffs, and on the left by the alder-choked stream. Still, it took us 2-1/2 hours to manage the 1.1 miles from Holden Lake.

I didn't find a lot of beta on Holden Pass, so I wasn't sure what to expect. We came across an obvious but small campsite – suitable for two or three tents – as we neared the crest of the ridge. Though it was already occupied, it was tempting to drop packs and squeeze in. Fortunately, one need only continue up the boot path to the true saddle of Holden Pass, where a large, inviting meadow – still partially covered with remnants of the winter's snows – would comfortably accommodate a dozen or more tents. (Another smaller camping area can be found a short distance up the ridge that leads away west toward Bonanza.)

We dropped packs at 7:15 PM, five and a half hours after leaving Holden Village. This was sobering – and a bit disconcerting – as our trip plan set aside only four hours for this leg of the climb. It





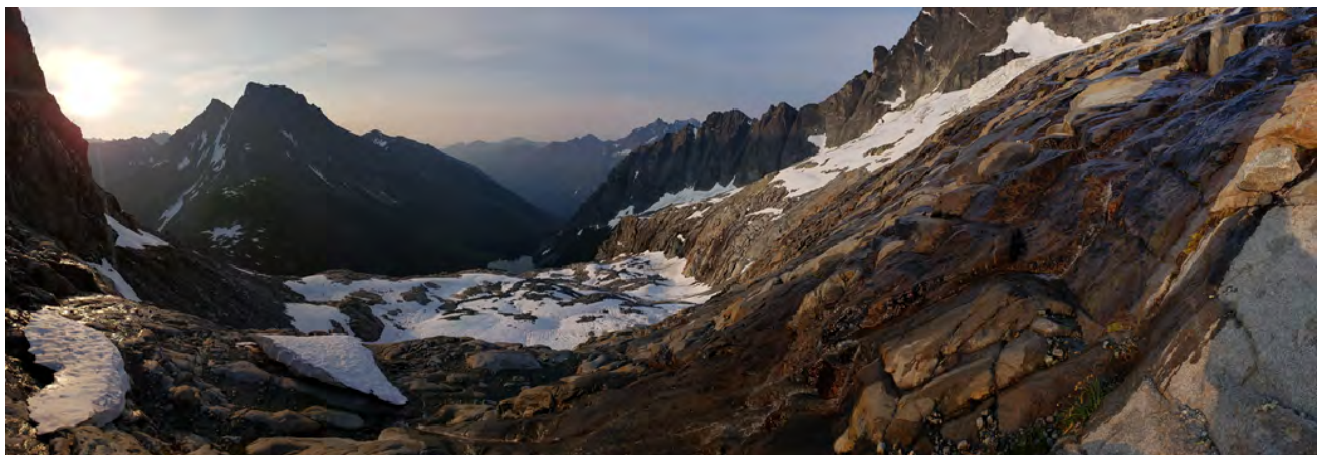
took us about 25 minutes longer than planned to hike the 4.2 miles of trail from Holden Village to Holden Lake; a delay that didn't pose a significant threat to our summit bid. It took a full hour longer than planned to scramble the 1.1 miles of Class 2 and Class 3 boot track from Holden Lake to Holden Pass; this was a far more significant delay.

We boiled some water, downed our Mountain House, shared some treats, and settled in comfortably for the night. Our original trip plan called for us to depart camp at 5:00 AM, with an anticipated return at 6:00 PM. Based on our less than encouraging travel time earlier that day – and considering there were almost a dozen people camped out at Holden Pass – we discussed then moved our departure time up to 4:30 AM, setting our alarm clocks accordingly.



By 4:38 AM Friday morning we had boots on the ground. The boot track from Holden Pass takes you up above tree line before it disappears into scree and boulders. That's when the day's scrambling began.

The first real obstacle of summit day on Bonanza Peak is aptly known as the waterfall ledges, just below the foot of the Mary Green Glacier. We scrambled up to the immediate right of the larger streams, overcoming a mix of high Class 3 and low Class 4 rock. Although the snow and ice were all but completely melted away, care was still needed. Much of the rock was wet, and some of the wet rock was greasy with a moss-like slime. Some trip reports list the ledges as the crux of the climb; I would not give them that distinction, at least not under the conditions we encountered. That being said, one somewhat exposed choke point stuck in my mind due to its combination of Class 4 moves, slimy foot holds, and significant consequences. I mused about that choke point as we





made our way up toward the summit, and soon convinced myself that I did not want to down climb the waterfall ledges in the dark.



We reached the foot of the Mary Green Glacier at 6:17 AM. One moment we were scrambling on dry rock, and the next we were standing on unbroken snow. By 7:13 AM we were roped together and in full glacier regalia, including crampons and ice axe, and trudging up the glacier.

It was the first weekend of July, and there were plenty of boot tracks leading up the way. They were comforting, but not really necessary. Your heading starts off pretty much due west as you kick steps. Tall icy walls and seracs separate the main slopes of the glacier from the lower, but these are easily avoided by staying to the right on the initial ascent. Once you near the main snowfields, your route arcs gradually to the left until, inevitably, you're traversing almost due south. Soon, as the walls that bound the southern extent of the main glacier rise precipitously in your path, you near the bergschrund that separate the main part of the glacier from the thumb of snow and ice that wraps back around to the north and the summit. This thumb of the glacier is your highway to the summit, for as long as it will have you. The bergschrund is impressive, as are the other crevasses we encountered on the upper slopes, but the snow bridges in early July 2019 were still broad and comforting. The sky was overcast, but we had reason to believe from the forecast that the weather would be the least of our concerns.



At 9:20 AM we hopped off the glacier and back onto “solid” ground. Forty minutes later our crampons, ice axes, and glacier gear were stashed and we were headed up. I say “solid ground” when I talk about Bonanza Peak because this mountain is notoriously chossy. Rockfall is a significant objective hazard on Bonanza Peak, if not the most significant. It is a rare and relaxing moment indeed when you don't find yourself either directly above or directly below another member of your party. Shouts of “ROCK” echoed off the slopes around us at regular intervals, even with the most deliberate of care.

To make matters worse, we weren't the only ones on the summit pyramid. There were maybe nine other climbers on Bonanza that day, and all of them had beaten us to the summit. They kicked a lot of rocks down on their descent (not to suggest that we did much better). At one point the three of us found a sheltered spot and just waited for the other parties to pass.

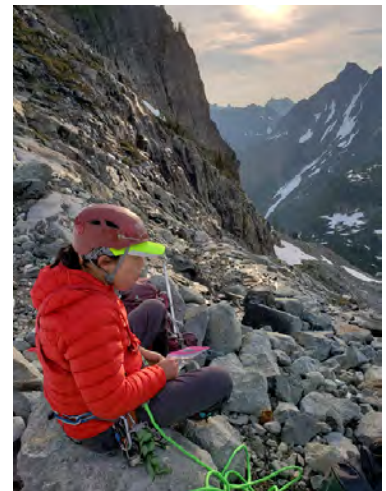


The majority of the route from the glacier to the summit is Class 4, with high consequence and very few places to rest. I got more Class 4 rock under my belt on this climb than in all of my prior climbs combined. As slow as our progress upward was, I knew perfectly well that our progress downward would be slower yet.

We continued in this fashion until nearly 12:30 PM. We were now almost eight hours out of base camp, and the turnaround time we'd chosen before setting out was rapidly approaching. At this point I guesstimated that we were still

an hour below the summit, not counting the return. The probability of downclimbing the waterfall ledges in the dark was inexorably increasing. I called the team together for a quick conference.

I knew from my research that a strong, fast-moving party, traveling light, and genetically altered with goat DNA could summit Bonanza Peak from Holden Pass and return in eight hours. I'd budgeted thirteen hours for our climb. We were now eight-hours into that budget, with little more than eight hours remaining until sunset. Normally I wouldn't fret much about returning to base camp in the dark (that's what headlamps are for), but I reminded the team of our experience with the waterfall ledges that morning. Having shared my concerns about the objective hazards before us, I proposed we call it a day. To my surprise and delight I was rebutted by a pair of enthusiastic "no's". Despite the efforts and obstacles and sheer physical brutality of the last eight hours, my fellow climbers were eager to continue to the summit. I was heartened by their enthusiasm, not least because it silenced the little voice in the back of my head that kept accusing me of pushing my team beyond the boundaries of common sense. Maybe other climb organizers don't hear that voice, but I do. I glanced at my GPS, choosing a new route, and we continued up the peak.



I wish I could report that we quickly gained the summit from there, but sadly an error in route-finding on my part put us off route at the bitter end. We found ourselves cliffed out in a Class 5 chimney, and were forced into a difficult (and momentarily terrifying) retreat. By the time we descended low enough to reconsider our

route it was after 1:00 PM, and the probability of downclimbing the waterfall ledges in the dark was nearing certainty. We started down, and neither of my climbing partners voiced their dissent.



Then the weather began to change. A few drips became a steady drizzle. A steady drizzle became mixed sleet and rain. Then the sleet vanished and the drizzle returned. The rock grew damp, and each hold less certain than the last. The mountain –having already defeated our assault – seemed intent on punishing our retreat. Conventional wisdom informs us that downclimbing is almost always faster than rappelling. You wouldn't know that from a casual survey of the summit pyramid of Bonanza Peak, where rappel stations can be found at regular intervals. I inspected a few of these on the ascent, and found all seriously sketchy.

That being said, our descent was proceeding at a literal crawl. I was actually looking forward to getting back onto the Mary Green Glacier, where the only hazard I had to stress over was being swallowed by an enormous crevasse. My fellow climbers suggested a rappel to speed things up, and by that time I was happy to throw conventional wisdom to the winds.

We found a station that looked quite bomber from above. This proved not to be the case. There was a great horn of rock, but inexplicably the slings we found in place were thrown over a smaller and looser horn that was wedged against the bigger horn like a chock. We salvaged the double slings that were sound, extended with doubles of our own, donated a rap ring, and used the now quad-length webbing to sling the bomber horn.

Samantha was the first to head down. She tied in without a hitch, and rappelled the chossy slopes like a pro. Katherine only waited for Samantha to clear the fall line before following her down.

I still remember my first rappel in the wild, Devil's Peak in the North Cascades in 1995. I remember the mix of terror and elation I felt. The last thing most people associate with rappelling down a 60-meter rope is a powerful sense of relief. That's exactly what I felt rapping off Bonanza Peak.

You don't realize how stressful down climbing on chossy Class 4 rock is until you get a break from it. I saw the same relief in my fellow climber's eyes. Our one rappel off Bonanza Peak didn't save us any time, but it did give our spirits a much-needed lift.







We were now back at the head of the glacier. Our failed assault on the summit pyramid consumed over two and a half hours, and the descent more time still. On the bright side, the rain had stopped (and would not return that day). We retrieved our glacier gear, roped ourselves together, and jumped back on the snow for the return trip. It was just after 4:30 PM, and we were now nearly twelve full hours into our day. By our original plan we would already be back at camp.

Our descent down the upper Mary Green Glacier was uneventful. Someone ahead of us had post-holed through the snow bridge over the bergschrund, but the bridge was wide enough to avoid the trouble spot.

The lower glacier proved slightly more educational. As we approached the foot of the glacier, I started to notice myself slipping on the softening snow, despite the fact that I was plunge stepping and wearing crampons. It was a warning sign that I shouldn't have ignored, but at the time I was more annoyed than disconcerted. Only after I lost all footing, fell, and self-arrested did the true nature of the snow make itself manifest. Snow was balling up on my crampons, a relatively common problem for alpine climbers, but a first-time experience for me. Samantha experienced her own fall and arrest a few minutes later. Neither one of us injured anything but our pride. It was an inexpensive but valuable lesson learned.

We reached the foot of the Mary Green Glacier, shed our glacier gear, and started downclimbing the waterfall ledges. It was now after 7:00 PM. The wet and greasy rock had not changed, but my earlier trepidation was now but fond memory against the backdrop of our Class 4 adventures above. Soon enough we were off the ledges and back on the boulder and scree field below.

At this point I led the team off route once again. Thankfully, both Katherine and Samantha objected. At first I was not convinced, but soon I had to concede. Both had been attentive to landmarks on our ascent, and between the two they soon put us right.

Thinking back, I realize now just how many times we worked together to stay on route. I would reach a point where there was no obvious path forward or back, only to have Katherine or Samantha point out the option I'd missed. All too common – particularly on climbs I've organized in the past – my fellow climbers have left the navigation entirely to me – sometimes with dire consequences. It is a welcome gift to climb with people who stay alert and participate in every aspect of the climb.

At 8:38 – a half hour before sunset and almost exactly sixteen hours after departing base camp – we arrived back at our tents. Much later, when I got home, I reviewed our GPS track. Our assault on Bonanza peak had

brought us within 500 horizontal feet and 250 vertical feet of the summit. It's tempting to second guess our turnaround time, given how close we were, and given our relatively uneventful descent and daylight return. That, in my humble opinion, would be a mistake. As a team we put together a plan that left room for the unexpected, a plan that emphasized a safe return over a successful summit. We stuck to that plan. Would a less conservative plan, one that devoted more daylight hours to summing and fewer to the return, have been better? Perhaps. Personally, and given the spectrum of skills and experiences we brought to the mountain that day, I think we chose the right balance of risk and reward.

Our alarms went off at daybreak the next morning. We were already headed down with all our gear by the time 7:00 rolled around. The scramble back down to Holden Lake took just over two hours, helped in good part by Katherine's keen eye in spotting the cairns that marked the better route across boulder and scree, guiding us around the bulk of the slide alder, but delayed briefly when we were waylaid by a small herd of deer. We paused for a team photo on the shores of the lake, as well as for a much deserved and refreshing dip in the ice-cold, glacial waters, before continuing our descent, now on well-worn and well-maintained trails.

The trek back to Holden Village took only two and a quarter hours. I don't know about my fellow climbers but, at least for the last mile or so of our hike, visions of hand-dipped ice cream cones danced in my head. We dropped packs at the bus station, enjoyed a cafeteria-style lunch with freshly prepared greens – much welcome after two days of MREs – then hurried over to the Snack Bar to celebrate. The sign on the door stated open at 1:00 PM, but Holden Village life runs at a pace of its own. By 1:15 PM we were joined by a variety of small children, each clutching a single dollar bill, and all waiting excitedly for the doors to open. It was a simple thing to behold, and all the more heartwarming for that simplicity.

CONCLUSION – Although we failed to reach the summit, all three of us returned safely (scratches and bruises notwithstanding) from our Bonanza Peak expedition. By that measure – arguably the most important – it was a success. Bonanza Peak will test all of your basic mountaineering skills. To conquer the summit in a day you

will need planning, strength, route-finding, and a reasonable degree of confidence in your footing on chossy Class 4 terrain. Bonanza Peak is sometimes billed as the toughest county highpoint in the Lower Forty-eight, and it may well deserve that title.

I thoroughly enjoyed my fellow climbers and my Independence Day weekend. Conditions for climbing on Bonanza Peak were about as good as it gets. I'm already planning my 2020 Bag-It Night return.

BONANZA PEAK – ACTUAL DISTANCES AND TIMES							
WAYPOINT	ELEV (feet)	LEG MILES	LEG TIME	ARRIVAL DAY & TIME	BREAK (h:mm)	DEPARTURE DAY & TIME	TOTAL MILES
Redmond				START		Thu 5:15 AM	
Fields Point Landing	1100	DRIVE	3:45	Thu 9:00 AM	0:45	Thu 9:45 AM	
Lucerne Landing	1100	FERRY	2:00	Thu 11:45 AM	0:15	Thu 12:00 PM	
Holden Village	3300	BUS	0:45	Thu 12:45 PM	0:58	Thu 1:43 PM	0.0
Holden Lake Trail Head	3450	1.4	0:37	Thu 2:20 PM		Thu 2:20 PM	1.4
Holden Lake	5280	2.7	2:17	Thu 4:37 PM	0:07	Thu 4:44 PM	4.2
Holden Pass	6380	1.1	2:31	Thu 7:15 PM	9:23	Fri 4:38 AM	5.3
Foot of Mary Green Glacier	7230	5	1:39	Fri 6:17 AM	0:56	Fri 7:13 AM	5.8
Head of Mary Green Glacier	8750	1.0	2:07	Fri 9:20 AM	0:37	Fri 9:57 AM	6.7
TURN AROUND	9250	1	2:38	Fri 12:35 PM		Fri 12:35 PM	6.9
Head of Mary Green Glacier	8750	1	3:28	Fri 4:03 PM	0:34	Fri 4:37 PM	7.0
Foot of Mary Green Glacier	7230	1.0	1:53	Fri 6:30 PM	0:30	Fri 7:00 PM	8.0
Holden Pass	6380	5	1:38	Fri 8:38 PM	10:10	Sat 6:48 AM	8.4
Holden Lake	5280	1.1	2:07	Sat 8:55 AM	0:44	Sat 9:39 AM	9.5
Holden Lake Trail Head	3450	2.7	1:39	Sat 11:18 AM		Sat 11:18 AM	12.3
Holden Village	3300	1.4	0:36	Sat 11:54 AM	1:56	Sat 1:50 PM	13.7
Lucerne Landing	1100	BUS	0:45	Sat 2:35 PM	0:05	Sat 3:30 PM	
Fields Point Landing	1100	FERRY	2:00	Sat 5:30 PM	0:30	Sat 6:15 PM	
Redmond		DRIVE	4:15	Sat 10:30 PM		FINISH	
Sunrise = 5:10 AM				Sunset = 9:00 PM			
YELLOW times are estimated.							



## 2019 Banquet

*Submitted by: Kati O'Brien*

On Friday, November 22nd, over 100 eager adventure enthusiasts gathered at Factory Luxe in the historic Old Rainier Brewery to socialize with their fellow BOEALPS friends, win raffle prizes, eat yummy food and listen to American rock climber, Hans Florine talk about his life spent pursuing speed records on The Nose (El Capitan, Yosemite).

The event started at 6:00pm with a cocktail hour, followed by dinner catered by The Catering Company. After much socializing and assessing what everyone looks like without helmets and adventure gear on, we were eager to listen to the legendary, Hans Florine. Not only is Hans blessed with long, flowing blonde hair, he is also blessed with an amazing climbing ability. Hans has climbed El Capitan over 160 times and holds the record for the number of ascents of The Nose, which he's climbed more than 101 times. Of that, he's obtained the speed record of The Nose 8 different times with a best time of 2 hours, 23 minutes and 46 seconds. "El Capitan is traditionally climbed in three to five days. The Nose route is 2,900 ft long (880 m) and features 31 pitches of strenuous, exposed climbing. This translates to a rate of roughly 6 minutes per pitch." (Wikipedia) Can you imagine?! 6 minutes per pitch! Crazy.

After various stories from Hans's climbing adventures, there was a raffle with many great prizes, including a 60m dry rope and down booties from Feathered Friends. All in all, it was a great event shared with friends.

We wanted to give a special thanks to our 2019 BOEALPS banquet volunteers: Lauren Auerbach, Ami Endicott, and Elden Altizer! They did an amazing job organizing the banquet this year; with awesome raffle prizes, great food, and of course, an amazing guest speaker, Hans Florine. Thanks everyone for joining us in celebration of another great year with BOEALPS, we can't wait to see what's in store for 2020!

If you'd like more information on Hans, check out his book, *On the Nose: A Lifelong Obsession with Yosemite's Most Iconic Climb*, a *Rock and Ice* article, and *The Sharp End* podcast:

*On the Nose: A Lifelong Obsession with Yosemite's Most Iconic Climb:*

<https://www.amazon.com/Nose-Lifelong-Obsession-Yosemites-Iconic/dp/1493024981>

*Rock and Ice:* <https://rockandice.com/features/hans-florine-back-on-the-nose-six-months-later/>

*The Sharp End:* [https://soundcloud.com/the\\_sharp\\_end/hans-florines-accident-on-the-nose-ep-30](https://soundcloud.com/the_sharp_end/hans-florines-accident-on-the-nose-ep-30)

*References:* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hans\\_Florine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hans_Florine)

# THE ALPINE ECHO

# ACTIVITIES

## Ladies Climb Night

*Submitted by: Kati O'Brien*

On Friday, December 6th, BOEALPS organized its first ever Ladies Climb Night! Climbing and mountaineering have primarily been male dominated sports; however, more and more women are making their way into the outdoors. And with that, we thought we'd celebrate with a ladies climb night. That said, this was an all-inclusive event, where all were welcome to celebrate those badass ladies in our lives.

We started the party around 6:30pm at Vertical World in Seattle. After about 2 hours of climbing, we continued the celebration at Urban Family Brewery where we rewarded ourselves with pizza (courtesy of BOELAPS), beer/water, and cookies (courtesy of Kala Zimmermann-Keck). It was an amazing opportunity to bond with others that we may have never interacted with before. I loved seeing all the networking that was taking place. I would say it was a successful Ladies Climb Night and I hope it's a tradition that we carry into future years.



# THE ALPINE ECHO

# MEMBERSHIP

---

Online forms can be found at: <http://boealps.org/members/>

## **MEMBERSHIP RATES:**

- Individual Membership: \$25
- Individual Associate: \$25
- Individual Retiree: \$20
- Family Membership: \$30

## **BENEFITS INCLUDE:**

- Subscribe to the Club Mailing List at <http://boealps.org/publications/mailling-list/>
- The Basic Mountaineering Class (BMC) offered each spring is a fantastic, fun way to learn safe climbing or a great opportunity for graduates to volunteer as an instructor.
- The Basic Rock Class (BRC) offered each summer helps you hone your rock skills.
- The Alpine Climbing Class (ACC) is also offered each spring. Protection, leading, ice climbing, aid climbing taught with a great instructor/student ratio and an emphasis on safety.
- The Wilderness First Aid (WFA) certification courses are available to teach you how to respond to an emergency in the backcountry.
- General meetings and social activities throughout the year such as campouts, picnics, photo contests, and organized climbs.
- A winter and summer climbing series to keep the blood flowing.
- Seminars on rock climbing, leading, ice climbing, avalanche awareness, backcountry skiing, etc. are offered as a great way to continue learning throughout the year.
- A quarterly newsletter "The Alpine Echo," featuring the club calendar, events, activities, trip reports, outdoor topics, and more.
- Great exercise with wonderful people in the beautiful Cascades and beyond!

## **DISCOUNTS:**

- Feathered Friends: 10% discount
- Outdoor Research: Selected discounts.
- Pro Mountain Sports: Selected discounts.
- Mountain Hardwear: 15% discount.
- Mazama Lodge: Affiliate pricing.

**\*\*NOTE:** A valid BOEALPS membership card is required at the time of purchase!!

## **MORE INFORMATION:**

More information on the membership types as well as club documents including PRO-99, BOEALPS Constitution and Bylaws, and BOEALPS Operating Procedures can be found online at <http://boealps.org/members/>

# THE ALPINE ECHO

# ORG CHART

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

*President*  
*Vice President*  
*Secretary*  
*Treasurer*  
*Past President*

Brian Woebkenberg  
Evan Malina  
Francois Godcharles  
Jennifer Watson  
Dave Wheeler

[exec-board@boealps.org](mailto:exec-board@boealps.org)  
[president@boealps.org](mailto:president@boealps.org)  
[vp@boealps.org](mailto:vp@boealps.org)  
[secretary@boealps.org](mailto:secretary@boealps.org)  
[treasurer@boealps.org](mailto:treasurer@boealps.org)  
[past-president@boealps.org](mailto:past-president@boealps.org)

## MEMBERSHIP

*Membership*  
*Photography*  
*Conservation*  
*Marketing*

Steven Behrend  
\*\*Vacant\*\*  
\*\*Vacant\*\*  
Michael Klein

[membership@boealps.org](mailto:membership@boealps.org)  
[Photo-contest@boealps.org](mailto:Photo-contest@boealps.org)  
[conservation@boealps.org](mailto:conservation@boealps.org)  
[marketing@boealps.org](mailto:marketing@boealps.org)

## ACTIVITIES

*Activities*  
*Summer Climb Series*  
*Winter Climb Series*  
*Seminars*

\*\*Vacant\*\*  
Geoff Hill  
Fred Vogel  
\*\*Vacant\*\*

[activities@boealps.org](mailto:activities@boealps.org)  
[scs@boealps.org](mailto:scs@boealps.org)  
[wcs@boealps.org](mailto:wcs@boealps.org)  
[activities@boealps.org](mailto:activities@boealps.org)

## EDUCATION

*Class Coordinator*  
*BMC Head Instructor*  
*BRC Head Instructor*  
*ACC Head Instructor*  
*WFA Head Instructor*

Micah Nolin  
Sara Campbell  
Tyler Hagen/Jessie Truelove  
Kala Zimmermann-Keck/Russell Keck  
Moselle Horiuchi

[education@boealps.org](mailto:education@boealps.org)  
[BMC@boealps.org](mailto:BMC@boealps.org)  
[BRC@boealps.org](mailto:BRC@boealps.org)  
[ACC@boealps.org](mailto:ACC@boealps.org)  
[wfa@boealps.org](mailto:wfa@boealps.org)

## EQUIPMENT

*South*  
*Central*  
*North*

Mike Jacobsen  
Thomas Ryan  
Michael Klein

[equipment@boealps.org](mailto:equipment@boealps.org)  
[equipment-renton@boealps.org](mailto:equipment-renton@boealps.org)  
[equipment-seattle@boealps.org](mailto:equipment-seattle@boealps.org)  
[equipment-everett@boealps.org](mailto:equipment-everett@boealps.org)

## PUBLICATIONS

*Web Master*  
*Social Media*  
*Echo Editor*

Luke Shy/Matt Mitchell  
Lindsey Falkenburg  
Lexter Tapawan

[webmaster@boealps.org](mailto:webmaster@boealps.org)  
[www.facebook.com/boealps](https://www.facebook.com/boealps)  
[echo-editor@boealps.org](mailto:echo-editor@boealps.org)



# THE ALPINE ECHO

---

**\*\*NEWS ITEMS AND EDITORIAL COMMENTS IN THIS PUBLICATION DO NOT  
NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF THE BOEING COMPANY.**

## **Contributors in this publication**

Aaron Nash

Alex Chui

Bill Waltke

Francois Godcharles

Kati O'Brien

John Taylor

***If you have any content, ideas, feedback, or anything vaguely mountaineering or  
outdoors related, please email them to: [echo-editor@boealps.org](mailto:echo-editor@boealps.org)***

# THE ALPINE ECHO



---

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY

---

*"Climb the mountain not to plant your flag, but to embrace the challenge, enjoy the air and behold the view. Climb it so you can see the world, not so the world can see you."*

**David McCullough Jr.**



*Photo contributed by Jeff & Priti Wright*

**In This Issue:**

- Trip Reports by Jeff & Priti Wright and Chris Stubel
- In Memoriam: Mike Bingle
- Mt. Baker Ski Weekend, Lillooet Ice Climbing Seminar, & more!

# THE ALPINE ECHO

---

## A word from your editor:



Welcome to the March 2020 issue. It seems like the time in between issues are flying by! But alas, here we are with the latest issue for you guys to digest.

We would just like to say thanks to the people who contributed to this issue of the Echo - please keep them coming! I know your fellow alpinist, climbers, and hikers love reading about your adventures, even though they don't care to admit it!

In any case, we hope you enjoy this issue.

Climb on and wash your hands often.

Thanks,  
Lexter



## **\*\*LATEST GUIDELINES FROM BOEING COMPANY REGARDING RECREATION CLUBS - 16 MARCH 2020\*\***

Protecting the safety, health of our teammates, families, and all of our stakeholders is our top priority. In alignment with Boeing leadership, CDC, WHO, and State/local officials, the following recommendations have been made, **effective 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, March 17:**

**All Enterprise Fitness Centers will be closed and group fitness classes will be suspended** until further notice to limit close contact and encourage social distancing. There will be no fitness center charge for any member for the month of March. If you have items in your lockers, please retrieve them by end of day or coordinate with your local staff to retrieve items. We have workouts available online, weekly body weight workouts will be posted on the Boeing Well Being Insite page, and Well Being staff are available to assist with alternative workout planning. If you have any questions, please reach out to Erin Nielsen.

**Additionally, all recreation activities and Boeing Recreation Club events hosted on Boeing property are suspended** until further notice. Recreation clubs that meet offsite are encouraged to suspend activities until such time direction is provided for restarting activity. Club members are encouraged to continue to communicate and work with their respective club leadership regarding club activities, cancellations, reimbursements for paid activities have been canceled, etc. **Questions regarding this guidance can be directed to the Enterprise Recreation group mailbox.**

Thank you for your assistance in helping to provide a safe environment. Please continue to be patient as we work this dynamic situation. Visit the Corona Virus website for the latest employee safety and travel information.

Be well!



**\*\*BMC / ACC OUTINGS AND CLASSES ARE  
SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE\*\***

Please see class calendars for the latest changes.

## **\*\*HELP WANTED!!\*\***

We're currently looking to fill our position of Social Media mogul. This individual will be in charge of, you guessed it, the social media aspect of the club. This includes posting and updating the Facebook group with pictures, activities, and upcoming events. It also involves keeping the club Instagram page active throughout the calendar year. If this is something that is of interest to you, please send your inquiry to [vp@boealps.org](mailto:vp@boealps.org)

## THE ALPINE ECHO

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**A** long time Boealps member, Mike Bingle, passed away in January due to a heart attack.

Mike Bingle took the Boealps Basic Climbing Course in the mid-1980s and followed that up with the Boealps Intermediate Climbing Class that he helped teach for many years.

Mike started the Boealps Snowshoe series with Doug Sanders, after they figured out it would help to have more people help break trail in the deep snow. The last few years Mike was more involved with cycling due to some ankle issues that made pounding the trails less enjoyable. He loved the outdoors and being active. He was known for being cheerful and always having a smile on his face, but underneath that happy exterior

lay a competitive and driven outdoor athlete that challenged his students, partners and cycling buddies in surprising ways. He will be missed by many.

His wife Ruth, and the Washington Alpine Club have set up a memorial fund in Mike's honor, to support WAC outdoor education and stewardship. Those wishing to donate in Mike's memory can use the following link.

<https://washingtonalpineclub.org/product/mike-bingle-scholarship-fund>





# BRC 2020

The Basic Rock Class (BRC) is designed to bridge the gap between the Basic Mountaineering and Alpine Climbing Classes. It introduces students to principles of technical rock and basic alpine climbing, allows them to establish mentorship relationships with more experienced climbers through a 1:1 student-to-instructor ratio, and gives them experience in following a trad lead climber who will lay the groundwork for learning to lead after the class.

**June 27-28 – Leavenworth Outing**  
**July 11-12 – Squamish 1 Outing**  
**July 25-26 – Squamish 2 Outing**  
**August 8-9 – Washington Pass Outing**

**Stay tuned for student applications!**

**[brc@boealps.org](mailto:brc@boealps.org)**

**<http://boealps.org/courses/brc/>**

Jason Curtis Photography



## Other events and dates

### March 2020

3/21 - 3/22	ACC Horsethief, Rock Fundamentals <b>(SUSPENDED)</b>
3/30	ACC - Lecture <b>(SUSPENDED)</b>
3/31	ACC: Instructor Review - Snow Fundamentals <b>(SUSPENDED)</b>

### April 2020

4/4 - 4/5	ACC: Baker, snow Fundamentals <b>(SUSPENDED)</b>
4/7	ACC: Instructor Review @ Mountaineers - Rescue Fundamentals <b>(SUSPENDED)</b>
4/13	ACC: Lecture #3 <b>(SUSPENDED)</b>
4/14	Board Meeting @ 6:30 PM
4/18 - 4/19	ACC: Leavenworth - Rescue Fundamentals <b>(SUSPENDED)</b>

### May 2020

5/12	Board Meeting @ 6:30 PM
------	-------------------------

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday  
April 14, 2020 @ 6:30PM. Location information soon  
to follow.

*\*For more information, please refer to the club calendar @ <http://boealps.org/calendar/>*

## Cerro Torre: A Dream of Rime

By: Jeff & Priti Wright



**Via dei Ragni:** Grade VI, 95deg snow/rime/ice, M4, 1000m

**Scribe/Photos/Climbers:** Jeff and Priti Wright

**3-Part Video:** <https://vimeo.com/392129258>

**Google Street View:** [Summit 360 Panorama](#)

We've had a picture of Cerro Torre on our desktops, phone wallpapers, and posters above our bed for the past 5 years. It was the reason we took up ice climbing in the first place. In February 2016, we made our first attempt on this route, hoping to at least get a glimpse of the scale of the mountain and understand what it took to climb it. The weather was too hot by then for the climb, and after three days, our high point was below the hard technical climbing.



These past two months were our fourth (and longest) climbing trip to the Chaltén Massif, and sixth year of watching the Patagonian weather patterns. We wanted to return to attempt Cerro Torre again, but the next two seasons were not possible because of bad weather. Last year, at the beginning of February, we saw a fantastic weather window, and the stars aligned. We flew down to Patagonia in a 9-day magical whirlwind of constant movement, and summited Fitz Roy via the Franco-Argentina route. While on the summit of Fitz Roy, looking down at the surreal summits of the Torre, we were determined more than ever to come back the following season.

Day 1. We arrived in El Chaltén on New Years Eve, the last day of a 4-day weather window (brecha)...we missed it! Since then, January was filled with short stints (8-12hrs) of good weather in the mountains, and the arrival of a 6-day mega window in early February sent an electric buzz throughout town. We were a couple of bats out of hell with our 40lbs packs each as we set towards Laguna Torre. The plan was to pass through the Niponino base camp in the Torre Valley and bivouac at the higher Noruegos (Norwegian) bivouac, which would put us closer to Col Standhardt (the next day's objective)...the passageway to the West Face of Cerro Torre where the Via dei Ragni route begins.



Day 2. From the Noruegos bivy site high on the slopes of the Torre Valley, we traversed near the base of the Torres, under the celebrated SE Ridge (perhaps the greatest climb in the world) and also the 1959 Maestri line to the triangular snowfield where so much history and controversy took place. From the East, all of the Torres stand impossibly steep and impassable. To get to the Ragni route on the West side, we would climb up and over the Col Standhardt where an implausible car-sized chockstone sits interminably between the col's steep walls.

From the col, one gets the first glimpse of the Southern Patagonian Ice Cap (Hielo Continental), a massive expanse of ice 200mi long. On a rare, clear day such as this day, we could see green Chilean fjords across the Ice Cap between large, snowy volcanos.

Several rappels deposited us down to the Circo de los Altares (Cirque of the Alters), an impressive crescent of white-capped peaks and toothed spires. From there we headed up another glacial ramp on Cerro Torre's West Face to a high camp, 150m below the Col de la Esperanza (Col of Hope), first reached by Walter Bonatti in 1958 who hoped that this col would one day blaze a path to the summit. It wasn't until 1974 that a team of Italians from the Ragni di Lecco (thus the name "Via dei Ragni") completed Bonatti's vision.





Steep snow climbing and easy mixed terrain led us towards the camp at Col de la Esperanza, the camp we hadn't reached on our last attempt. As we hiked past our previous high point, our hearts soared. This time around, the climbing felt much easier with 4 more years of climbing experience under our belts.

Day 3. This day was a rest day of sorts. To set ourselves up for success on summit day, we were moving to the highest camp a few hundred meters up: El Elmo ("Helmet"), a prominent plateau below the steep, technical climbing. Those who were faster and stronger than us had gone straight to the highest camp the day before and were now going to do the hard work of battle-axing the bullet-hard blue ice and cleaning the cotton candy mushrooms of the summit.



As we came over the Col of Hope, we entered an otherworldly expanse of mangled rime towers and precarious exposure. These deformed blobs of ice towers with icicle branches and feathery leaves seem like something only God or Dr. Seuss could conjure. It's something so beautiful and terrifying at the same time. We were face to face, looking up at this beastly Tower. A spectacular nightmare.

Day 4. Summit Day! We were pretty antsy to get going on the summit push. Falling snow greeted us when our alarms went off at 2:00AM as the mountain was enveloped in a cloud. All over camp, alarms went off and were snoozed as the precipitation discouraged movement.



When the stars finally came out again, we were the first to muster our strength and get to work. Walking up to the base of El Elmo in the darkness, the first overhanging rime ice mushroom of the route, we gave a sigh "ah, breakfast!" The last 10m didn't actually have any good protection (besides maybe a horizontal picket), and it was a sequence of cutting the feet loose, campus'ing from questionable tools, and shoving knees into the soft rime to make upward progress.

Once at the top of El Elmo, a crowd had formed at the base, chomping at the bit. All of camp was finally up. The snooze button had proved an epic failure of our collective, strategically staggered alarms.

We all watched in awe and gave whooping shouts from this low perch as our friend, Fabi Buhl, paraglided from the summit in the wee hours of the morning, slowly swirling in front of the







spectacular sunrise over Lago Viedma. He was the first ever to fly off the summit of Cerro Torre having climbed the mountain first (and not dropped off via helicopter).

After El Elmo, the mixed pitches zig-zag through a maze of rock and ice up to the base of The Headwall. Two pitches of blue, overhanging, bullet-hard ice.

The final pitches mount three tiers of giant rime mushrooms facing the Ice Cap. This high ridge gets pummeled by the wet, freezing storms that race around the Southern Ocean to create these crazy rime formations. The first and second rime mushrooms had formed spectacular, natural blue-ice tunnels created by vortices of wind spiraling up the ridge, clearing a path through the thick outer layer of soft rime ice.

Climbing into this vertical subway tunnel for 60 meters felt like entering a portal into another world. It eventually funneled up to an elevator shaft and spat us out of a squeeze tube.



For the second and third mushrooms, we attached Petzl prototype “wings” to our ice tools to make purchase in the soft, overhanging, cotton-candy rime. These wings are horizontal plates that bolt onto the picks of our ice tools like Dilophosaurus gills.



The Final (Summit) Mushroom was a beast. The previous day, it had taken the other parties many hours to clear a natural half-pipe, then dig a tunnel through the steepest part for many hours. Their line then exited their manufactured tunnel out onto the overhanging summit lip.

Walking up to the steepest point on Cerro Torre on a perfectly still, clear day was absolutely surreal, basking in the bright orange-red glow of the sunset. The 200 miles of the Continental Ice Cap stretched before us and the Pacific Ocean now clearly visible. Behind, on the other side of the Torre Valley, small, wispy clouds hovered over the summit of Fitz Roy. We were lucky to get perfect lighting to fly our drone around for 30 minutes alone before we headed back down to our tents at El Elmo for the night.

Days 5 and 6. To get back to town, you can reverse your way up Col Standhardt (M7 shenanigans), or take one of two trekking passes along the Ice Cap. We had experience taking

the Northern pass (Paso Marconi) which was now in really bad shape. We opted for the Southern pass (Paso del Viento) to try something new, and hopefully be able to turn our brains off for a few days (sadly, this was not the case).

The Hielo Continental spans 50mi across and crawls 200mi north to south across Southern Patagonia. It looked so beautiful and serene from our climb. Now, face to face with this beastly crocodile, it was the stuff of horrors. Canyons after canyons of impassable crevasses, we zig-zagged

our way in no logical direction under a bright, unhelpful, full moon. From the air, our tracks must have looked like the random scribbling of a toddler on a massive, blank white floor.

Finally reaching the pass and seeing people again after such a mental test of sanity was nothing short of jubilant. A popular trek is to take the pass South to Lago Viedma: the Huemul Circuit. We were now on a delightful trekking path and could now...finally... turn our brains off and just put one foot in front of the other for a mere 14 miles back to ice cream and showers and safety.



Thanks:

We had good confidence in the forecast and the length of the window, but it's still important to have daily weather updates to anticipate the inconsistencies between each day. We're so grateful for our weathermen who sent us updates to the inReach and gave us both confidence and peace of mind each day that we spun ourselves further from civilization: Dan Berdel, Devin Monas, and Rolando Garibotti.

We'd also like to thank another BOEALP'er, Dave Burdick (Alpine Dave!) for his support, inspiration and beta on the route.



Also thanks to the American Alpine Club Live Your Dream Grant for supporting this trip.

**Recommended Reading:**

*The Tower, Kelly Cordes*

*Patagonia Vertical, Rolando Garibotti*

*Enduring Patagonia, Greg Crouch*

## Patagonia Moderates

By: Chris Stubel



*Fitz Roy Range*

Jess and I were halfway through a three month bike tour of Patagonia when we rolled into El Chaltén, Argentina, home to the Fitz Roy mountain range in Los Glaciares National Park. Awaiting our arrival was Chris Rinauto, who had flown in the day before, loaded down with duffels filled with climbing gear for the three of us. Our plan was to climb some of the moderates in the Chaltén Massif, weather permitting. We had two weeks in town and targeted Cerro Solo, Mojon Rojo, and Cerro Electrico.



*Our peaks didn't quite make the cut.*

This was our first introduction to weather window poaching in Patagonia. In his book “Land of Tempest” Eric Shipton wrote, “The chief problem is presented by the weather, which is said to be the worst in the world. Heavy rain falls for prolonged periods; fine spells are rare and usually brief, and above all there is the notorious Patagonian wind, the savage storms which often continue for weeks at a stretch, with gusts up to 130 mph.” On our first day in town we went for a day hike to get our bearings and stretch our legs. We

**Peak:** Cerro Solo

**Date:** 1/6/2020

**Climbers:** Jess Guatney, Chris Rinauto, Chris Stubel, Priti Wright, Jeff Wright

**Location:** Los Glaciares National Park - Santa Cruz Province, Argentina

**Elevation:** 6,959 feet

**Route:** Cara Este (standard)





*Chris performing the Tyrolean traverse.*

tired bodies out of bed and walked out of town just as the nightlife was getting started. We started off towards Laguna Torre where we met up with fellow Boealpers Priti and Jeff Wright. We performed a Tyrolean traverse in the dark and then began the climb up the climbers trail and the scree gully, reaching the glacier around 9am. We traversed above seracs and then proceeded straight up a 50° snow slope and hit an ice block. Jeff led a leftward traverse across the ice block and we resumed the upward attack to the summit. The summit had magnificent views of Fitz Roy which was in full Cerro Chaltén mode, smoking like a steam train.

Another 10 hours later we were back at our hotel and 3 minutes after that I was asleep, still fully clothed in my climbing outfit. Final stats for the day: Final stats for the day: 18.7 miles, 19 hours, 6,500 ft elevation gain.

**Peak:** Mojon Rojo

**Date:** 1/9/2020

**Climbers:** Jess Guatney, Chris Rinauto, Chris Stubel, Priti Wright, Jeff Wright

**Location:** Los Glaciares National Park - Santa Cruz Province, Argentina

**Elevation:** 7,096 feet

**Route:** Cara Este (standard)



*Sunrise above Laguna Sucia.*

chose one of the popular trekking trails, Laguna de los Tres, 12 miles and 3k ft elevation gain. While hiking we experienced calm weather, clear views of the peaks, and low wind. The same thought running through each of our minds finally came to the surface: “dammit, we should have gone climbing today!” We cursed our mistake and ran back to town at around 6pm. Upon regaining Wi-Fi we checked the weather for Cerro Solo and saw another perfect weather window from 9-11am the next morning. We packed our bags and hopped into bed at 11pm. One hour later at midnight we forced our



*Summit selfie.*

A few days later and another weather window appeared. The timing was the same, 9-11am, prompting a midnight start on our second objective, Mojon Rojo. Mojon Rojo translates to “little red turd”, named because of its red rock and its location next to the “real” granite peaks of the Fitz Roy range. We followed trails out of town, which eventually transformed into a climbers trail above Laguna Sucia. Near the top of the approach we found the fabled cave bivy spot and marked it on the map for future reference.

We transferred to the snow and made our way across the glacier to the base of the rock block. It took about an hour of scrambling to get up the 150m section of rock to the summit block. Jeff led up the summit block and set



*Jess on the summit block.*



up a top rope and everyone took their turn on the summit. We returned the way we came (mostly) and celebrated back in town with pints of ice cream at Domo Blanco. Final stats for the day: 22.3 miles, 20 hours, 6,500 ft elevation gain.

**C**erro Electrico, aka “Electric Peak”, named because the original geographers experienced winds that sounded like thunder from an electric storm over the mountain. We climbed this peak as an overnight trip to take it easy and enjoy a neat camp spot. We started by taking a taxi out of town to the trailhead and following a hiking trail before breaking off to the climbers trail. We set up camp in a rock valley with a great view of Cerro Electrico Noreste (la



*Cerro Electrico summit block.*

Cumbre Roja). The following day we hiked to the glacier, roped up and ascended. The snow was soft and we slid into a few baby crevasses. At the top Chris R. led up the final icy summit block and belayed the team up. Unfortunately while we were on the summit part of our tent was torn loose by the wind and our sleeping gear was spewed across the land. All our sleeping bags ended up in a river but were retrieved and dried out. Ultimately a sleeping pad and inflatable pillow were lost to the wind. We returned to the trailhead and hitchhiked back to town with an elderly couple from Buenos Aires. Final stats for the trip: 11.6 miles, 5,700 ft elevation gain.

**Peak:** Cerro Electrico

**Date:** 1/12/2020 – 1/13/2020

**Climbers:** Jess Guatney, Chris Rinauto, Chris Stubel

**Location:** Santa Cruz Province, Argentina

**Elevation:** 7,152 feet

**Route:** Cara Este (standard)



*Our route for Cerro Electrico.*



*On the Cerro Electrico glacier.*

## Wilderness First Aid Class

*By: Moselle Horiuchi, Francois Godcharles*

January 25-27 saw another installment of the WFA class, held at The Mountaineers Seattle Program Center at Magnuson Park. This was a big class again, and we are happy to have 28 newly trained WFA graduates within our ranks ! The class was almost business as usual until the weather built up and unleashed constant rain on our Scenario Night, making for a very challenging evening that was – if anything – very realistic of the worst conditions you could find yourself into while caring for an emergency situation: great training opportunity !

As we always say, this WFA program would not be successful without the participation of volunteers who agree to spend an evening acting out patient roles for our class participants to practice their skills. Normally this is fairly easy role-playing, but this time around our volunteers had to deal with soaked and muddy ground, nonstop rain, and cold temps. The conditions made hypothermia cases really easy to simulate !

Mark Abotossaway

Jaime Allen

Alex Chiu

Charles Hudson

Andrew Mattingly

Mike Steffen

Paul Tyndall

Evelyne Van Ingelghem

Sara Campbell Vegter

Chris Vegter

Morgan Weaver

Martha Wyckoff

Christina Youk

Nevertheless, everyone still had a smile at the end of the evening (I think...), so a big THANK YOU to our volunteer patients:

Also, a HUGE THANK YOU as always to our instructors who came out to monitor the scenarios and share their expertise and real-world insight from the SAR community. We are so grateful to have you participate in our WFA classes:

Jet Lin

Glen MacDonald

Emily Prewett

Sarah Stephan



WFA participants are doing their best to keep their volunteer patients dry while practicing their new skills to take care of simulated injuries during a rainy and cold Scenario Night at Magnuson Park!



The graduating WFA class of January 2020!

If you are thinking about taking the class, the next opportunity will come in October 2020, and registration will be opening later this summer: keep your eyes open because seats fill up fast!

## The 7th Annual Mt. Baker Ski Weekend

By: Bill Waltke

**T**he 7th annual Mt. Baker Backcountry Ski Weekend was awesome this year. 30 of us enjoyed 6-12 inches of fresh snow and mostly sunny skies, with occasional clouds moving through creating temporary whiteouts. Our small group along with a couple others spent the day skiing nice stable snow around Herman Saddle. Another group made it out to Lake Ann, while a couple others toured around artist point. Others spent the weekend with the American Alpine Institute taking their AAIRE 1 course.



After skiing we all made our way back to the cabin for snacks, dinner, and games. The massive batch of beef chili we made seemed to go over well along with the vegan enchiladas cooked by Eldin Altizer. Many people provided awesome desserts, snacks, side dishes, or appetizers.

We didn't ski Sunday but heard the snow was just as good. It was a fun weekend and we're already looking forward to next year.





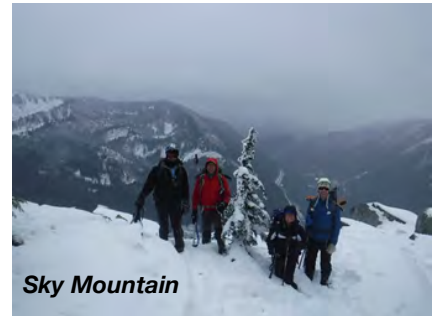
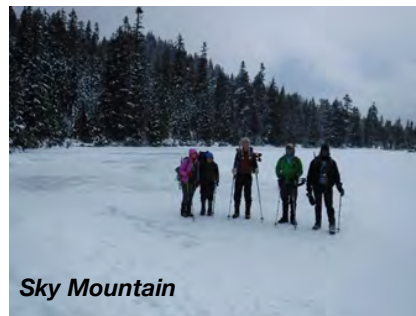
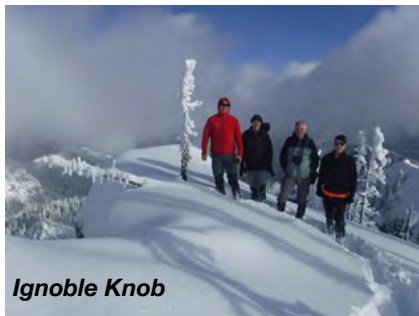
## Winter Climb Series: Snowshoe Summits!!

By: Fred Vogel



**T**he “Winter Climb Series: Snowshoe Summits” is in full swing. New this winter is the addition of participants from the Washington Alpine Club (WAC). Each outing is a fun adventure to a snowy mountain summit. We have been to summits near Blewett Pass, Crystal Mt., Stevens Pass and Northbend. Destination included: Sky Mt., Ignoble Knob, Diamond Head, Dirty Harry's Peak, Mount McCausland. Thanks go out to the multiple leaders who research, plan and lead these trips.

The dates for this season: December 1, 15, 29 | January 12, 26 | February 9, 22 . The details for each outing are posted as an "Event" in the Facebook group "Boealps Snowshoe Outings". You need to join the Facebook group “Boealps Snowshoe Outings” to receive the Event announcements in Facebook.



## Lillooet Waterfall Ice Climbing Seminar

By: Evelyne Van Ingelghem



**A**fter a 3 year hiatus BOEALPS returned to Lillooet for 2 weekends of Waterfall Ice Climbing.

Thanks to a cold spell in mid-January the ice had sufficiently formed and the first weekend looked to be promising for some solid ice climbing.

That first weekend, three of us girls (Jen, Carrie and I) decided to go up early Friday morning and check out the local sights around Lillooet.

On arrival we found the perfect spot to start: Abundance, a local bakery, selling freshly baked bread, pastries, salads, sandwiches and tea/coffee. We were instantly reminded that we were no longer in Seattle, but in super friendly Canada. The owner/baker was so pleased with our inability to choose from all the delicious-looking offerings, that he promptly presented us with 2 freshly baked breads, free of charge! Not bad, eh?

After lunch we went on a hike up the Red Rock Trail, allowing us to stretch our legs after the 5.5hrs drive and providing a view of the town and valley. This was followed by a quick trip to Seton lake, where we met more friendly locals, who explained us all about the origins of the lake and local geology; and few polar bear swimmers ... too cold for us though!

The next day, we met up with our instructors and the other students; and we split the group into two to go up to Rambles Left and Acute Falls along Duffey Lake Road to learn ice climbing skills on WI2. The approach up to Rambles is quite steep and icy; but doable with kahtoolas or crampons. Instructor Shawn led one of the WI2 routes to set up a couple top ropes while the other instructors narrated technique. Once the top ropes were up, lots of tools were swung, crampons were kicked and knees were occasionally bashed into the ice... and the stoke was high!

Students learned the basic ice climbing techniques using new club tools (YAY!); and how to create ice anchors using screws and v-threads.

A cold day on the ice was followed by a group dinner at one of the few







restaurants (Cookhouse Restaurant) in Lillooet. Next day plans were discussed over some food and beverages. Thanks to the student/instructor ratio, we were able to split up into multiple groups the next day and cater to the students wishes: one group went on a multi-pitch climb on Rambles Center; one group got to practice mock leading and the final group went to Marble Canyon to climb some beautiful, steep WI3-4.

At the end of the day, it was clear that all people had thoroughly enjoyed themselves and learned some new skills to progress their climbing abilities.

The drive home proved to be the crux of the weekend with very thick fog and rain on the way out, but everyone made it home safely.

Major thanks to the instructors for your patience and organization: Tom, Keith, Shawn, Joe and Micah.

After some warm weather we were a bit nervous about how the second weekend would shape up, but a quick cold spell solidified the ice and we were off!

It turns out we were off to a little bit of a false start, by forgetting some essential gear (boots), encountering heavy rain, snow and fog along the way... and a tire blow out due to rock fall on the road. But in the end we all made it there safely. The crux of this weekend was definitely getting there!

We met early Saturday morning to split the group into two; this time heading to Rambles Left and Rambles Center to swing some more tools, kick some more crampons.. and bash the occasional knee into the ice.

Thanks to the proximity of the groups, we were able to swap the students in the afternoon and let them experience the difference between WI2 and WI2+ (?)

The wonderful people at Cookhouse Restaurant were happy to welcome another BOEALPS group in the evening, and even indulged the request for a schnitzel dinner special... these Canadians, so friendly, eh?

We decided to take the entire group to Marble Canyon the next day for some steep ice climbing. We learned that working on ice climbing technique is best done on steep ice; forcing you to really kick your crampons in, dropping your heels and allowing you to swing your tool overhead rather than angled forward on a moderate slope. It also turns out that climbing steep ice is really tiring! Despite the fatigue, everyone showed lots of enthusiasm and made great progress.

Marble Canyon offers beautifully formed waterfall ice, including a section where you can go between the rock and the ice; which makes



for great pictures and an excuse to rest our tired limbs.

Ice climbing is inherently a cold weather activity, but instructor Fil kept our bellies warm by cooking up some chai tea and hot choco... much appreciated by all.

Major thanks to the instructors of the second weekend: Igor, Fil, Nick, Dan, McKinley and overall organizer Alex Chiu.

Hopefully we'll see you again next year, Lillooet!

**Photo Credit:** Pam Breckenridge, Christy Liao, Shawn Paré

**First Weekend Participants:** Carrie Anderson, Kevin Brown, Amy England, Jen Nelson, Hillary Jones, Evelyne Van Ingelghem, Rachel Wiesmann, ...

**First Weekend Instructors:** Tom Ryan, Joe Vlaming, Shawn Paré, Keith Dilly, Micah Lambeth

**Second Weekend Participants:** Mark Abotossaway, Pamela Breckenridge, Marisa Carion, Ethan Clemmit, Cherlyn Eliza, Joe Fues, Danielle Hyatt, Christy Liao, Paulson Paulrajan, Michael Ye, Katherine Yun, ...

**Second Weekend Instructors:** Alex Chiu, Dan Berdel, Fil Demenschonok, Nick Roy, McKinley Storey, Evelyne Van Ingelghem





## From the gear locker

By: Francois Godcharles

**W**ell, many of you will say “it’s about time!” and we are very excited to share that BOEALPS has updated its fleet of ice climbing gear a bit!

It was long overdue but we were finally able to acquire 3 new sets of tools:

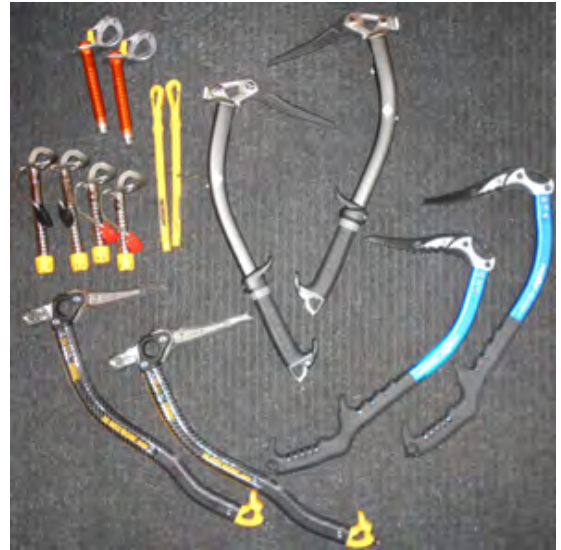
- Black Diamond Vipers
- Grivel North Machines
- Trango Raptors

As well, we added more ice screws to the holster to diversify the set of BD Express that we already have. We now have a couple of the latest super lightweight Petzl Laser Speed Light (stainless steel tip, with aluminum shaft), as well as a few variations of the Grivel Easy-Rack which I tested this past December at Bozeman and found very accommodating to place without having to carve out a flat plate-size area thanks to the folding handle.

A couple of Grivel Candela V-Thread tools round up our purchases.

This new gear arrived just in time (barely !) to be taken up to Lillooet in January and early February for the waterfall ice seminars, where participants got to test them out for the first time, fresh out of the box. This gear is now available to borrow for members: get the details on the website gear page: <http://boealps.org/members/gear-locker/>

But wait! That’s not all! Another long overdue item that we have been discussing is tents, and we have embarked on a “retire-and-replace” plan to freshen up our tents available for rental. You will see new tents becoming available at each of the 3 gear locker locations over the next few years. We are kicking things off with 3 new Mountain Hardwear Trango tents (two 2-person Trango 2, and one 3-person Trango 3).





These are the latest version of this long-established and well-loved all-season expedition tent, perfect for Northwest volcanoes and beyond. Very spacious, two doors and vestibules, plenty of pockets, and easy to set up. These tents are now available to borrow for members: details will be updated soon on the website gear page: <http://boealps.org/members/gear-locker/>

## Membership - New or Renew!

If you are – or were – a Boeing employee or someone in your immediate family is, consider supporting BOEALPS by becoming a member or renewing your membership this year !

Signing up for membership helps us raise the funds we need to keep supporting the great activities and events you enjoy throughout the year. The membership also gives you access to negotiated discounts at several Seattle-area stores, and other benefits – including the gear mentioned in the previous article.

You also get a really cool membership card !



The 2020 BOEALPS membership form - as well as a list of membership benefits - is available on the website at <http://boealps.org/members>.

If you have any questions about membership, contact us at [membership@boealps.org](mailto:membership@boealps.org)

Safe and Happy Climbing!

Online forms can be found at: <http://boealps.org/members/>

## **MEMBERSHIP RATES:**

- Individual Membership: \$25
- Individual Associate: \$25
- Individual Retiree: \$20
- Family Membership: \$30

## **BENEFITS INCLUDE:**

- Subscribe to the Club Mailing List at <http://boealps.org/publications/mailling-list/>
- The Basic Mountaineering Class (BMC) offered each spring is a fantastic, fun way to learn safe climbing or a great opportunity for graduates to volunteer as an instructor.
- The Basic Rock Class (BRC) offered each summer helps you hone your rock skills.
- The Alpine Climbing Class (ACC) is also offered each spring. Protection, leading, ice climbing, aid climbing taught with a great instructor/student ratio and an emphasis on safety.
- The Wilderness First Aid (WFA) certification courses are available to teach you how to respond to an emergency in the backcountry.
- General meetings and social activities throughout the year such as campouts, picnics, photo contests, and organized climbs.
- A winter and summer climbing series to keep the blood flowing.
- Seminars on rock climbing, leading, ice climbing, avalanche awareness, backcountry skiing, etc. are offered as a great way to continue learning throughout the year.
- A quarterly newsletter "The Alpine Echo," featuring the club calendar, events, activities, trip reports, outdoor topics, and more.
- Great exercise with wonderful people in the beautiful Cascades and beyond!

## **DISCOUNTS:**

- Feathered Friends: 10% discount
- Outdoor Research: Selected discounts.
- Pro Mountain Sports: Selected discounts.
- Mountain Hardwear: 15% discount.
- Mazama Lodge: Affiliate pricing.

**\*\*NOTE:** A valid BOEALPS membership card is required at the time of purchase!!

## **MORE INFORMATION:**

More information on the membership types as well as club documents including PRO-99, BOEALPS Constitution and Bylaws, and BOEALPS Operating Procedures can be found online at <http://boealps.org/members/>



# THE ALPINE ECHO

# ORG CHART

---

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

*President*  
*Vice President*  
*Secretary*  
*Treasurer*  
*Past President*

Brian Woebkenberg  
Evan Malina  
Francois Godcharles  
Jennifer Watson  
Dave Wheeler

[exec-board@boealps.org](mailto:exec-board@boealps.org)  
[president@boealps.org](mailto:president@boealps.org)  
[vp@boealps.org](mailto:vp@boealps.org)  
[secretary@boealps.org](mailto:secretary@boealps.org)  
[treasurer@boealps.org](mailto:treasurer@boealps.org)  
[past-president@boealps.org](mailto:past-president@boealps.org)

## MEMBERSHIP

*Membership*  
*Marketing*

Steven Behrend  
Michael Klein

[membership@boealps.org](mailto:membership@boealps.org)  
[marketing@boealps.org](mailto:marketing@boealps.org)

## ACTIVITIES

*Summer Climb Series*  
*Winter Climb Series*

Geoff Hill  
Fred Vogel

[scs@boealps.org](mailto:scs@boealps.org)  
[wcs@boealps.org](mailto:wcs@boealps.org)

## EDUCATION

*Class Coordinator*  
*BMC Head Instructor*  
*BRC Head Instructor*  
*ACC Head Instructor*  
*WFA Head Instructor*

Micah Nolin  
Sara Campbell Vegter  
Tyler Hagen/Jessi Truelove  
Kala Zimmermann-Keck/Russell Keck  
Moselle Horiuchi

[education@boealps.org](mailto:education@boealps.org)  
[BMC@boealps.org](mailto:BMC@boealps.org)  
[BRC@boealps.org](mailto:BRC@boealps.org)  
[ACC@boealps.org](mailto:ACC@boealps.org)  
[wfa@boealps.org](mailto:wfa@boealps.org)

## EQUIPMENT

*South*  
*Central*  
*North*

Mike Jacobsen  
Thomas Ryan  
Michael Klein

[equipment@boealps.org](mailto:equipment@boealps.org)  
[equipment-renton@boealps.org](mailto:equipment-renton@boealps.org)  
[equipment-seattle@boealps.org](mailto:equipment-seattle@boealps.org)  
[equipment-everett@boealps.org](mailto:equipment-everett@boealps.org)

## PUBLICATIONS

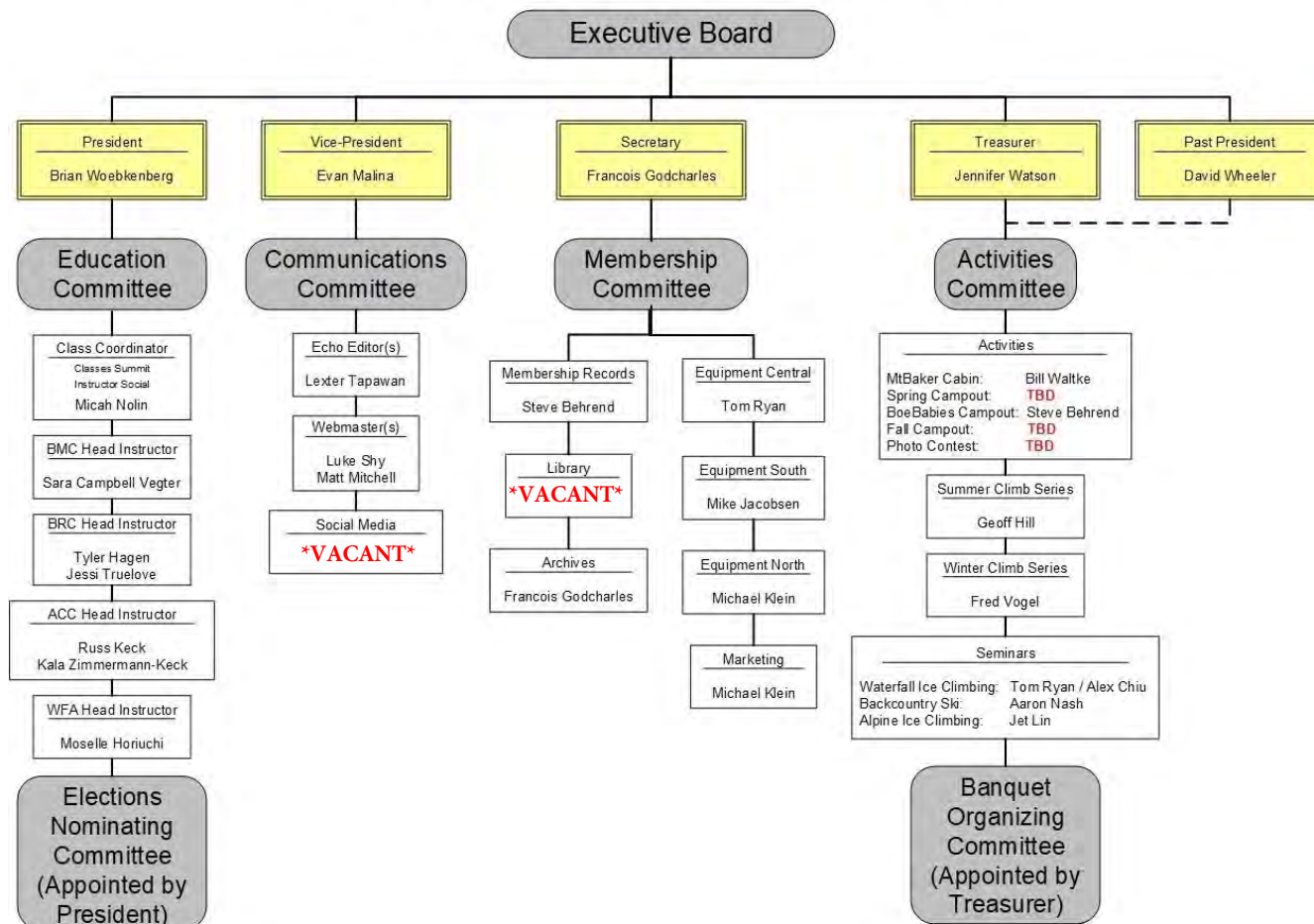
*Web Master*  
*Social Media*  
*Echo Editor*

Luke Shy/Matt Mitchell  
\*VACANT\*  
Lexter Tapawan

[webmaster@boealps.org](mailto:webmaster@boealps.org)  
[www.facebook.com/boealps](https://www.facebook.com/boealps)  
[echo-editor@boealps.org](mailto:echo-editor@boealps.org)

Rev. 1 – 4 February 2020

## BOEALPS EXECUTIVE BOARD AND COMMITTEES





# *Boeing Employees Alpine Society*

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD POSITIONS DESCRIPTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Rev. Feb 2020

**TITLE: PRESIDENT**

**REPORTING TO:** Boeing Recreation

**DESCRIPTION:** Per the Constitution and By-Laws:  
The office of President shall:

- Preside at all BOEALPS Executive Board meetings.
- Be the chairperson of the Executive Board.
- Call extra Board meetings, appoint committees not otherwise provided for and fill board vacancies as specified.
- Perform such other duties as the office may require.
- Perform the duties of the Vice President in their absence.
- Review the monthly bank statement with the Treasurer.

Per the Operating Procedures:  
The office of President shall:

- Become the Past President, upon completion of your final term as President.
- Have the authority to sign checks when the Treasurer is unavailable.
- Sign with the Treasurer all contracts or bonds approved by the Executive Board.
- Sign contracts with the appointed head instructors for each of the BOEALPS endorsed major climbing classes.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The President is the public face of BOEALPS, and as such will speak at public gatherings on behalf of the club as required, as well as interface with any outside organization who may reach out to the club. Most notably, the President will present a "state of the club" address at the annual club Banquet.

The President is the sole point of contact with Boeing Enterprise Recreation, and any request or enquiry directed at The Boeing Company or Boeing Enterprise Recreation must be channeled through the President.

The President shall be informed and will oversee the resolution of any discrimination or harassment claim being reported either directly from an individual or through a class head instructor.

The President is the de facto Chair of the Education Committee by virtue of the office of the President.

As Chair of the Education Committee, the President will oversee the drafting and approval of the class contracts, and will work to resolve any issues brought forth by a class head instructor.

The President will appoint an Elections Nominating Committee, and will ensure that annual Executive Board elections are held at the stipulated date and in full compliance of the Constitution & By-Laws and Operating Procedures.



# *Boeing Employees Alpine Society*

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD POSITIONS DESCRIPTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Rev. Feb 2020

**TITLE: VICE-PRESIDENT**

**REPORTING TO: BOEALPS Executive Board**

**DESCRIPTION:** Per the Constitution and By-Laws:  
The office of the Vice President shall:

- Oversee and coordinate the efforts of all major committees.
- Perform the duties of the President in their absence and succeed to that office in case of emergency.

Per the Operating Procedures:  
The office of the Vice President shall:

- Oversee and coordinate the efforts of the Publications Committee, consisting of the Editor(s) of the monthly newsletter and the Webmaster(s).
- Have the authority, as the Chair of the Publications Committee, to appoint other committee members as necessary.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The Vice-President is the de facto Chair of the Communications Committee by virtue of the office of the Vice-President.

As Chair of the Communications Committee, the Vice-President is responsible to ensure that all communication channels used by the club are operational and up to date at all times.

As Chair of the Communications Committee, the Vice-President is responsible to ensure that club-wide announcements are distributed in a timely manner to publicize club events, be it via email, website homepage posting, social media, newsletter ad, or online calendar.

As Chair of the Communications Committee, the Vice-President will oversee the publication of the quarterly newsletter, The Alpine Echo, in March, June, September and December. The Vice-President will work closely with the Echo Editor to gather content, proof read drafts, and release the newsletter to the membership in a timely manner.

As Chair of the Communications Committee, the Vice-President is responsible to gather a report out from event and activity organizers following the event or activity, for documenting, archiving and publication in the newsletter.

The Vice-President shall be informed and will work with the President to resolve any discrimination or harassment claim being reported either directly from an individual or through a class head instructor.





# *Boeing Employees Alpine Society*

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD POSITIONS DESCRIPTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Rev. Feb 2020

**TITLE:                   TREASURER**

**REPORTING TO:       BOEALPS Executive Board**

**DESCRIPTION:**       Per the Constitution and By-Laws:  
                              The office of the Treasurer shall:

- a. Keep an accurate account of all financial transactions of the organization.
- b. Be responsible for all funds of the organization and receive and disburse all money subject to the will of the Executive Board.
- c. Ensure that disbursements are made by check only. A checking account will be set up and no check will be honored by the bank for payment unless signed by the Treasurer, such signature to be countersigned by the President.
- d. Maintain accounts and render monthly financial statements of the organization at the Executive Board Meeting.
- e. All financial records shall meet specifications set by Boeing Recreation.
- f. Review the monthly bank statement with the President.
- g. Review the financial records with an officer or club member upon request.

Per the Operating Procedures:  
The office of the Treasurer shall:

- a. Budget an annual donation to the Trust for Public Land (TPL) in the name of *BOEALPS-Agris Moruss*. Donation will be equivalent to one dollar (\$1) per member for the current calendar year.
- b. Ensure that active 501c(7) non profit status is maintained and in order at all times with the Internal Revenue Service, and that BOEALPS registration as a non profit corporation is maintained and in order at all times with the Washington Secretary of State.
- c. Provide monthly financial statements of the organization at the Executive Board Meeting.
- d. Prepare an annual budget for approval by the Executive Board at the last Executive Board meeting of the current calendar year.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The Treasurer is the sole point of contact with BECU bank, holder of all club accounts, and any request or enquiry directed at BECU must be channeled through the Treasurer.

The Treasurer has signature authority and oversight of all club accounts at BECU, and is responsible to ensure that access to these accounts is maintained and provided only to required club-appointed individuals.

The Treasurer is the de facto Chair of the Activities Committee by virtue of the office of the Treasurer.

As Chair of the Activities Committee, the Treasurer will coordinate closely with activity organizers to maintain expenses within the budget allocated for each activity.

The Treasurer will appoint a Banquet Organizing Committee, and will coordinate closely with this Committee to maintain expenses within the budget allocated for the banquet.



# *Boeing Employees Alpine Society*

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD POSITIONS DESCRIPTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Rev. Feb 2020

**TITLE: SECRETARY**

**REPORTING TO: BOEALPS Executive Board**

**DESCRIPTION:** Per the Constitution and By-Laws:  
The office of the Secretary shall:

- a. Keep minutes of all Executive Board meetings and other business meetings.
- b. Maintain an up-to-date roster of members.
- c. Notify members of all club meetings as specified.
- d. Maintain all required documents of the club.

Per the Operating Procedures:

The office of the Secretary shall:

- a. Oversee and coordinate the efforts of the Membership Committee, consisting of the Membership Records, Photography, Conservation, and Marketing subcommittees.
- b. Have the authority, as the Chair of the Membership Committee, to appoint other committee and subcommittee members as necessary.
- c. Provide copies of the Executive Board meeting minutes for review by the Executive Board members before the next Board meeting.
- d. Be responsible for publishing the Executive Board meeting minutes to the website and monthly newsletter for general membership information.
- e. Maintain all required documents of the club, to include Constitution and By-Laws, class contracts, membership roster, Release of Liability forms, and provide access to these documents as requested by Enterprise Recreation Representative.
- f. Provide a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws to the general membership and Enterprise Recreation representative when amended.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The Secretary is the de facto Chair of the Membership Committee by virtue of the office of the Secretary.

As Chair of the Membership Committee, the Secretary is responsible for promoting membership in the club, as well as ensuring that membership benefits are maintained and accessible to the membership, and meet the needs of the membership.

As Chair of the Membership Committee, the Secretary will work in close collaboration with the equipment focals to maintain the club equipment inventory, including repairs, new purchases, and retiring old gear.



# *Boeing Employees Alpine Society*

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD POSITIONS DESCRIPTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Rev. Feb 2020

TITLE:	<b>Past President</b>
REPORTING TO:	BOEALPS Executive Board
DESCRIPTION:	<p>Per the Constitution and By-Laws:</p> <p>The office of the Past President shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ensure the transition occurs between the previous year Executive Board and the current year Executive Board.</li><li>Ensure the continuation of tasks and projects undertaken by the previous Executive Board are reviewed.</li><li>Maintain and update, as required, all contents of the BOEALPS Board Handbook. Ensure that the Handbook is passed on to next year's Past President.</li></ol> <p>Per the Operating Procedures:</p> <p>The office of Past President shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Agree to remain as Past President until the expiration of the latest Presidential term.</li></ol>
RESPONSIBILITIES:	<p>The Past President is responsible to ensure a smooth transition of power and responsibilities between previous year Executive Board (of which he was President) and the newly elected Executive Board for the current year.</p> <p>The Past President is responsible to inform the current year Executive Board of the logistics of the day-to-day operations of the club, including key operating documents, location of club archives, contact information of key volunteers, and reminders of recurring obligations, action items, events and activities (a key resource being the club Executive Calendar).</p> <p>The Past President is responsible for securing organizers of annual recurring club events and activities in a timely manner for the current year. Having presided over the same club events during the past year, the Past President is a key resource for planning current year events by first contacting previous year organizers and requesting their support for the current year.</p> <p>The Past President is responsible for coordinating dates and securing group campsites for the club for the annual spring and fall campouts. Having presided over the same club events during the past year, and being aware of the challenges of securing a long lead time reservation, the Past President is a key resource to support the Executive Board and ensure that those key events take place as planned.</p>

# THE ALPINE ECHO

---

## Contributors in this publication

Bill Waltke

Chris Stubel

Evelyne Van Ingelghem

Francois Godcharles

Fred Vogel

Jeff & Priti Wright

*If you have any content, ideas, feedback, or anything vaguely mountaineering or outdoors related, please email them to: [echo-editor@boealps.org](mailto:echo-editor@boealps.org)*



# THE ALPINE ECHO



---

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY

---

*"Because it's there."*

**George Mallory**



*Titcomb Basin—Wind River Mountains, Wyoming*

*Photo contributed by Matt Lemke 2020*

## **In This Issue:**

- Trip reports by Matt Lemke and Jeff Whitmer.
- Winter Snowshoe series.
- Announcements & more!!

## THE ALPINE ECHO

---

### A word from your editor:



It feels like it's been forever since we released an issue of the Echo. But alas, here we are. We hope everyone managed to stay sane (and fit) during these crazy times; and as we begin to get back to normal—whatever that is, you guys will hopefully hear more from us in the coming months.

For this issue, we have some great content from Jeff Whitmer, Matt Lemke, Fred Vogel, and James Mahoney. Thanks for giving us some content to work with, and please keep them coming!

Hope you all enjoy this one.

Climb on and stay safe.



Vector Illustration—Vecteezy

## BOEALPS Winter Snowshoe Summits

The Winter Snowshoe Summits have been scheduled! Below you will find information on the requirements, dates, and process to sign up.

The COVID-19 impacts to the BOEALPS outings will be re-evaluated closer to the first snowshoe outing scheduled in early December.

Come join us for a Winter Snowshoe Summit, or two, or five this winter.

**Skills Required:** BOEALPS Basic Mountaineering Class (BMC) formerly Basic Climbing Class (BCC) or equivalent experience.

**Physical Difficulty:** Typically 3,000-4,000 feet of elevation gain plus cross-country travel on snowshoes.

**Gear Required:** Snowshoes, ice axe, avalanche beacon (we have some loaners), winter clothing to safely function in a wet, cold, snowy environment. Recommend snow shovel, avalanche probe, hiking poles. If helmets and crampons (or micro-spikes) are needed this will be included in the announcement for the specific outing. The trips do not involve roped climbing.

**Where:** It depends, but somewhere higher than home and within a 2-hour drive.

**When:** Every other Sunday this Winter.

December 6, 20

January 3, 17, 31

February 14, 28

**How to Join:** The details for each outing will be posted as an "Event" in the Facebook group "BOEALPS Snowshoe Outings". You need to join the Facebook group "BOEALPS Snowshoe Outings" to receive the Event announcements in Facebook.

The week before each trip a Facebook "Event" will be created to announce the details about the specific destination, where to meet, the planned route, and all that good stuff. To sign up for an outing just use the "Going" selection in the Facebook Event for the outing.

Any other questions about the Winter Snowshoe Summits can be addressed to Fred Vogel at [fdv75@comcast.net](mailto:fdv75@comcast.net)

Hope to see you in the snow!

## SOCIAL MEDIA

As you safely adventure this season, we'd love to see pictures from your trips! We might even repost it on our Instagram page. Tag **@boealps** or **#boealps** for a feature and to keep us updated to life post BOEALPS.



## Club Events and Dates

### October 2020

10/13      6:30 PM Board Meeting (Location TBD)

### November 2020

11/10      6:30 PM Board Meeting (Location TBD)

### December 2020

12/6      BOEALPS Winter Snowshoe Summits (More info to come)

12/8      6:30 PM Board Meeting (Location TBD)

12/20      BOEALPS Winter Snowshoe Summits (More info to come)

### January 2021

1/3      BOEALPS Winter Snowshoe Summits (More info to come)

1/17      BOEALPS Winter Snowshoe Summits (More info to come)

1/31      BOEALPS Winter Snowshoe Summits (More info to come)

### February 2021

2/14      BOEALPS Winter Snowshoe Summits (More info to come)

2/28      BOEALPS Winter Snowshoe Summits (More info to come)

The next board meeting is scheduled for  
Tuesday October 13, 2020 @ 6:30 PM.  
Information on location soon to follow.

*\*For more information, please refer to the club calendar : <http://boealps.org/calendar/>*

# THE ALPINE ECHO

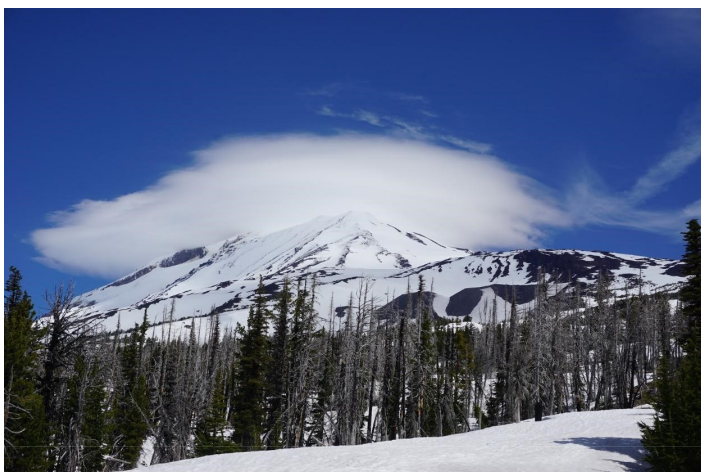
# TRIP REPORTS

## Mt. Adams

By: Jeff Whitmer

With too many days in my vacation balance I randomly took Thursday and Friday off from work without any real goals in mind. It turns out that I got lucky when I selected those days because the weather was perfect for what I ended up doing. Just barely.

I figured I might as well do an overnight trip in the snow. And I might as well do it on skis. When I was trying to decide on a destination I jokingly thought about Adams. Then immediately realized that would be perfect.



The only update from the USFS said to expect a 4 mile road walk before reaching the trailhead so I left home at 4:30am with the goal of making camp at the Lunch Counter (9,400 ft) reasonably before dark. To my surprise I was able to get within about 100 ft from Cold Springs by 9:30! The two minor snow patches on the road are probably gone by now. I counted about 20 cars.

The forecast had been for clear weather, very warm temps, and no wind until Saturday evening when all hell was forecast to let loose. I was caught of guard when I saw a modest lenticular parked over Adams. It didn't look terrible, but it looked very windy as the clouds blew over and I bet visibility was near zero. Luckily there was no wind down low, which persisted for almost all of my trip.

I had to walk for about 30 minutes before I could start

skinning continuously. It was a pleasant trip up with easy open finding and visual navigation. It was nice to be in the mountains with the familiar pine smell and sounds of chirping birds and crunchy snow. I only ran into 4 groups (8 people) on the first day, all around 8,500-9,000 ft.

The first group of two turned around at the Lunch Counter; worried about the steep snow above them. The second group of two had camped the night before and was coming down from the summit. They said no one else was camping there. They reported that Wednesday was clear but they woke up to heavy clouds on Thursday. They made it to the summit in wind and a whiteout. I didn't get a chance to talk to the next group of three. Just below the Lunch Counter I came across a single person that was looking for his camp and his skis. I guess he stashed them at camp, went for the summit, and now couldn't find his camp. I hope it worked out for him because judging from what I saw, walking downhill without snowshoes in the slushy snow looked awful!

I was prepared to snow camp but the cover was rather thin. All of the established sites had massive rock walls which still held deep snow. I found a small area that was melted out and flat enough. It was only 2:30 and I thought about going up into the bad weather in case Friday turned out worse. Instead I built my own rock wall and was asleep at 7pm after the usual camp chores and eating a multicourse dinner. Miso soup packets are a great way to start a meal and keep hydrated at the same time!

### Trip Info

*Mount Adams (12,276 ft)*

*Climb Dates: May 28-29, 2020*

*Climber: Jeff Whitmer*

*Trailhead: Cold Springs (5,550 ft)*

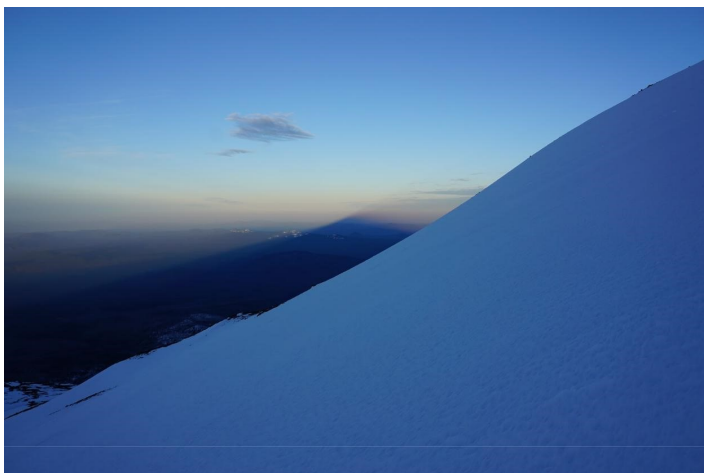
*Route: South Spur*

*Volcanoes visible: 5*

*Continue to next page...*

# THE ALPINE ECHO

# TRIP REPORTS



I woke up around midnight and peered outside my bivy sack. It was totally calm. And the sky was clear and filled with stars with the milky way stretching from the horizon to the summit. The crescent moon was just bright enough to see that the clouds over the summit were gone. I had about a 200 degree view of the horizon and watched lightning flashes and bolts far off in the distance. I eventually dozed off until my alarm at 3am, which I snoozed to 4am.

The snow was firm so I decided to use boot crampons rather than try to skin/crampon with my skis. I also carried all my gear up just to be safe. It was light enough. The weather was warm but I was happy the clear sky allowed for a refreeze. The constant freeze thaw cycle actually improves the snow for skiing and I knew the sun would be out soon enough.

Pikers Peak, the false summit at 11,600 ft, was more work than I had expected. It took two hours to reach the top and it was finally light. I couldn't see a soul below me. From there it is a drop into what appears as a crater and then another massif with the summit on the other side. The snow was frozen crust and very bumpy so I continued on foot. After topping out on a large plateau, there was a bump that appeared to be the high point on the left. The last few feet to this bump had a very stiff wind coming from the north west. Luckily the summit bump provided enough shelter.

I took a 30 minute break out of the wind while I waited for the sun to do its thing and soften the slopes a bit. It was warm enough at 12200ft to not even need gloves! Although I happily kept my puffy on for the first bit of the descent off the summit.

I packed up and put my skis on (finally without skins, yay!) and glided over to the plateau to the north east. I have no idea where the summit is, but the bump I was at looked higher. The snow back to the "crater" was still kind of frozen and bumpy. I eventually saw a lone skier also walking across the crater. He probably thought the snow was awful, but the truth is that I can't ski. But I didn't fall!

After a short walk I was back at the false summit and about a dozen people at the base. After my first timid turn I knew that the snow was at that happy medium to allow for effortless skiing and it suddenly wasn't steep at all.

It was a great run down to the Lunch Counter where I boiled water and ate before the 4,000ft descent back to my car. I came across a LOT of people heading up. Skiers skinning, climbers postholing, snowshoers plodding along, dogs running around, and snowmobilers racing about. About half way down I looked up and saw another mass of clouds obscuring the summit. Luckily it didn't last long.

On the way down I was able to get to about 10 minutes from my car before the snow stopped and the walking started.



*Continue to next page...*

# THE ALPINE ECHO

# TRIP REPORTS

---

## Logistics:

Climbing permits are now being issued online instead of in person, so come prepared.

In years past, a late May trip would mean walking three to five miles of snowy road before reaching the trailhead. Much of the lower mountain was crispified in a 2013 fire which has resulted in more sun exposure and a quicker melt out. The last three miles of road was quite rough. A low clearance car would make it if you go slow (or if you hate your car) but I was happy to have high clearance. Before driving down I was horrified to see that Google recommended taking FS 23. While it saves nearly 100 miles each way, it doesn't typically melt out until summer. Flotation, either snowshoes or skis, is highly recommended for the soft snow until the trail melts out.

I considered taking a detour to Mount Hood on the way home but it had its own lenticular for most of the day so I decided against it. There are some opportunities to take a swim in the White Salmon River on the way home.





## THE ALPINE ECHO

## TRIP REPORTS

## Wind River Slam - Finishing The Wyoming 13ers (July - August 2020)

By: Matt Lemke



## July 21 - Hike in and climb Harrower Peak

As Eric and I hiked in we enjoyed the gentle meadowlands and open forests with our super light packs. The 15-mile hike seemed to blow by with little effort, which was a pleasant change from long approaches I have done on previous trips. The trail passes by Photographers Point (common day hike destination), Seneca Lake, and over a small divide enroute to Island Lake passing many small lakes and ponds along the way. We were hoping to make it to the junction of the Indian Basin and Titcomb Basin trails in 5 hours, which is the timeframe the packers said it normally takes them to reach that location. Lo and behold, exactly 5 hours later at 2:15pm we arrived and sat by the junction sign for the mules to arrive. About 45 minutes later they joined us and offloaded our gear. We found a somewhat hidden from view grassy spot behind a large rocky outcrop to camp for the first couple nights that required us to carry everything

just a few minutes from where the mules dropped off. We set up the tents and secured our gear and started hiking towards Harrower Peak. We followed the stream coming in from the east to an unnamed but large lake at 10850 feet. The view looking up at the steep NE face of Harrower were amazing, and I immediately thought about the great climbing opportunities on the face.

Rounding around the SW edge of this lake was not trivial unless you were ok getting your feet wet, so we had to climb up a 40-foot class 4 slab to go above a small cliff dropping right into the water. Then we made a gentle ascending traverse about 100 feet above the south side of the lake and entered the upper basin north of Elephant Head and hit the saddle. Climbing the SW ridge of Harrower was mostly straightforward staying on or just to the south side of the crest to avoid a couple steps or small peaks along the way. Near the summit, some class 4 traverses, ups and downs were

*Continue to next page...*

## THE ALPINE ECHO

required none of which were very exposed. The summit register was in a large aluminum milk barrel to my amazement, and this peak sees slightly more ascents than I expected, and Eli was recently here which would start a recurring theme of us signing in on each peak and seeing his name just a couple weeks before us on every one!



The view from the summit of Indian Basin in the late afternoon light was gorgeous, and the core peaks off to the north beckoned at us. We knew we were going to have a long trip ahead to climb everyone. We descended the same route and made it back to camp with over an hour of daylight to spare to cook dinner. I put my long pants and long sleeve shirt that I coated in permethrin on while hanging out at camp and it worked quite well to keep the mosquitos from biting. Our first camp was down at 10,600 feet surrounded by grass and flowers so the bugs were certainly present, but nowhere near as bad as I thought they would be. Eric turned in early, but the sunset was very vibrant, so I stayed up later to take photographs.

### July 22 - Knife Point, Bete Noire, Jackson and Fremont

This ended up being the most elevation gain we did on any of the days, and the longest mileage day outside of approach days. We both wore our trail runners for this link-up due to the extra mileage even though we knew there would be snow involved. We started by hiking up the Indian Basin Trail, passing by the upper lakes early enough for them to be perfectly still and offer a mirror reflection of Harrower Peak. We didn't go all the way to Indian Pass, but continued southeast, over a small hill and up the remnant glacier west of Knife Point (crampons needed early in the morning) to the obvious 12340 foot saddle just west of Knife Point Mountain. We crossed this

## TRIP REPORTS

saddle and traversed to the upper south slopes of Knife Point Mountain and slogged up the loose class 2 slope. The final walk to the summit pinnacle on the SE ridge was easier, and the final 15-foot pinnacle involved a mildly exposed class 3 move or two. Someone had carried a ram skull up there, as there was not a register. It's important to note that the USGS maps have Knife Point mislabeled as the slightly lower 12er 0.2 miles to the SE. This peak is not the true summit.



After a quick rest on Knife Point, we began walking northeast along the gentle boulder strewn ridge to the 12140-foot saddle between Knife Point and Bete Noire (we called this peak Brown Cliffs HP but Lists of John uses the French name). It was an easy class 2-3 romp to this summit, which was the furthest one away from our camp, so we were happy to have reached this point. The summit plateau of this peak consists of two broad mounds, of which the southern one is higher and correctly labelled on the USGS map. There were a few small pedestal shaped rock outcrops on the southern peak, a couple of which were very close in height so we stood atop of a few of them, had another rest to eat then returned to the saddle, where we began descending NW onto the Knife Point Glacier (which wasn't much more than a snowfield). We made quick work traversing west across this dying glacier at the 11700-foot level and re-ascended a bit to Jackson Pass. I commented we were probably the only people to ever reach Jackson Pass from the

*Continue to next page...*



## THE ALPINE ECHO

## TRIP REPORTS

north without first reaching it from the trail on the south side (maybe Eli did too...haha). We debated trying to ascend the steep lower buttress of Jackson via its northeast side, but agreed it would probably not save us much time and decided to cross through the pass and scramble up the best looking gully we saw on the south side of the buttress. A class 3 gully/blocky climb brought us to the wide-open flat basin just below the upper broad east ridge. From here it was a simple boulder hop to the



top.

We made another weather check on the top of Jackson since I had service and the updated forecast now called for no storms until after 8pm. I took a deep breath and prepared myself for tagging Fremont during the evening as well so we wouldn't have to walk back up the Indian Pass trail the following morning. I peered over the west face of Jackson and wished I could just find a way to traverse directly to Fremont, but the terrain was very much so 5th class. So back down the gentle ridge we went and retraced our steps back to the trail and walked below the gendarme laden ridge between Jackson and Fremont and started up the standard south slopes. An additional 2600 feet later we were on the summit of Fremont, at about 6pm with clouds slowly building. Another large milk barrel register greeted us on the summit, which was difficult to find the highest rock since it was a long east-west oriented knife edge ridge. To my surprise, someone

else had been up Fremont merely hours before we were...being the second highest peak in the Wind Rivers and considerably more accessible than Gannett it's no wonder why. I wanted to get back to the tents before dark, so we didn't stay long and returned to camp, where we had about an hour and a half of daylight left to cook dinner. That night, there was a wicked thunderstorm that dropped large amounts of rain and hail, with plenty of lightning.

Oddly enough, this would be the only large-scale thunderstorm we would encounter on the whole trip and I was thankful it was during the middle of the night.

### **Editors Note:**

*To continue reading Matts Lemke's Wind River Slam in finishing the Wyoming 13ers, head over to his blog at <https://www.lemkeclimbs.com/wind-river-slam.html>*

*Here you can find the complete account of his climbing efforts - from gear to beta of each peak. Visit his blog, and if not for the reading, there are plenty of great pictures to look at.*

---

## You Lost What?!

*By: Fred Vogel*

This story begins four years ago when Bin Liu and I went on a hike to see the fall colors up on Granite Mt. (Snoqualmie Pass area). Sure enough the red colors and ripe huckleberries were out in force along the trail up to the Lookout Tower. Lunch was extra nice as Bin had carried two IPA's for a summit treat. After taking the obligatory photo next to the Lookout Tower we decided to explore a new way down to the Pratt Lake trail via the saddle between West Granite Mt. and Granite Mt. Initially this unknown route was fine as we went down into a basin full of more red fall colors and tasty huckleberries. Indeed, we even took a group photo in the basin with Granite Mt. in the background. However, the way down quickly turned into a super nasty bushwhack. Finding no suitable alternative way around this section we just forced our way through the dense brush. Pulling, pushing, hanging on, groping onto vegetation of all sorts and sizes. At this point all that was on our minds was making a way through this crazy bushwhack as soon as possible. After shedding some blood, sweat and tears we made our way out of the brush and into the adjacent forest. Happy now to be back to normal off-trail hiking. Continuing down the forested slopes we eventually met up with the Pratt Lake trail as originally planned. All seemed to be going fine now as this real trail would soon get us back to the car. I reached for my camera to take a photo of this trail. To my shock and disbelief the camera was gone. The camera must have snagged on a branch as we force our way through that bushwhack higher up on the mountain. I did have thoughts of retracing our path (although neither of us had a GPS tracking app running). It was a good camera and had been on many mountains. It took good photos and wasn't cheap to buy. I wanted that camera back not to mention I wanted all the scenic photos from Granite Mt. After thinking it over for a moment we decided the chances of retracing our exact (to the foot) path in that horrendous brush and finding a small camera were just not likely to happen. So sadly, we had to admit defeat and leave the camera (and its photos) on the mountain never to be seen again. What a bummer.



## On our way up Rainier - August 16, 2020

*By: James Mahoney*



## Membership - New or Renew?

If you are (or were) a Boeing employee or someone in your immediate family is, consider supporting BOEALPS by becoming a member or renewing your membership this year!

Signing up for membership helps us raise the funds we need to keep supporting the great activities and events you enjoy throughout the year. The membership also gives you access to negotiated discounts at several Seattle-area stores, and other benefits - including the gear mentioned in the previous article.

The 2020 BOEALPS membership form - as well as a list of membership benefits - are available on the website at <http://boealps.org/members>.

If you have any questions about membership, contact us at [membership@boealps.org](mailto:membership@boealps.org)

Safe and happy climbing!

You also get a really cool membership card!



# THE ALPINE ECHO

# MEMBERSHIP

---

Online forms can be found at: <http://boealps.org/members/>

## **MEMBERSHIP RATES:**

- Individual Membership: \$25
- Individual Associate: \$25
- Individual Retiree: \$20
- Family Membership: \$30

## **BENEFITS INCLUDE:**

- Subscribe to the Club Mailing List at <http://boealps.org/publications/mailling-list/>
- The Basic Mountaineering Class (BMC) offered each spring is a fantastic, fun way to learn safe climbing or a great opportunity for graduates to volunteer as an instructor.
- The Basic Rock Class (BRC) offered each summer helps you hone your rock skills.
- The Alpine Climbing Class (ACC) is also offered each spring. Protection, leading, ice climbing, aid climbing taught with a great instructor/student ratio and an emphasis on safety.
- The Wilderness First Aid (WFA) certification courses are available to teach you how to respond to an emergency in the backcountry.
- General meetings and social activities throughout the year such as campouts, picnics, photo contests, and organized climbs.
- A winter and summer climbing series to keep the blood flowing.
- Seminars on rock climbing, leading, ice climbing, avalanche awareness, backcountry skiing, etc. are offered as a great way to continue learning throughout the year.
- A quarterly newsletter "The Alpine Echo," featuring the club calendar, events, activities, trip reports, outdoor topics, and more.
- Great exercise with wonderful people in the beautiful Cascades and beyond!

## **DISCOUNTS:**

- Feathered Friends: 10% discount
- Outdoor Research: Selected discounts.
- Pro Mountain Sports: Selected discounts.
- Mountain Hardwear: 15% discount.
- Mazama Lodge: Affiliate pricing.

**\*\*NOTE:** A valid BOEALPS membership card is required at the time of purchase!!

## **MORE INFORMATION:**

More information on the membership types as well as club documents including PRO-99, BOEALPS

Constitution and Bylaws, and BOEALPS Operating Procedures can be found online at <http://boealps.org/>

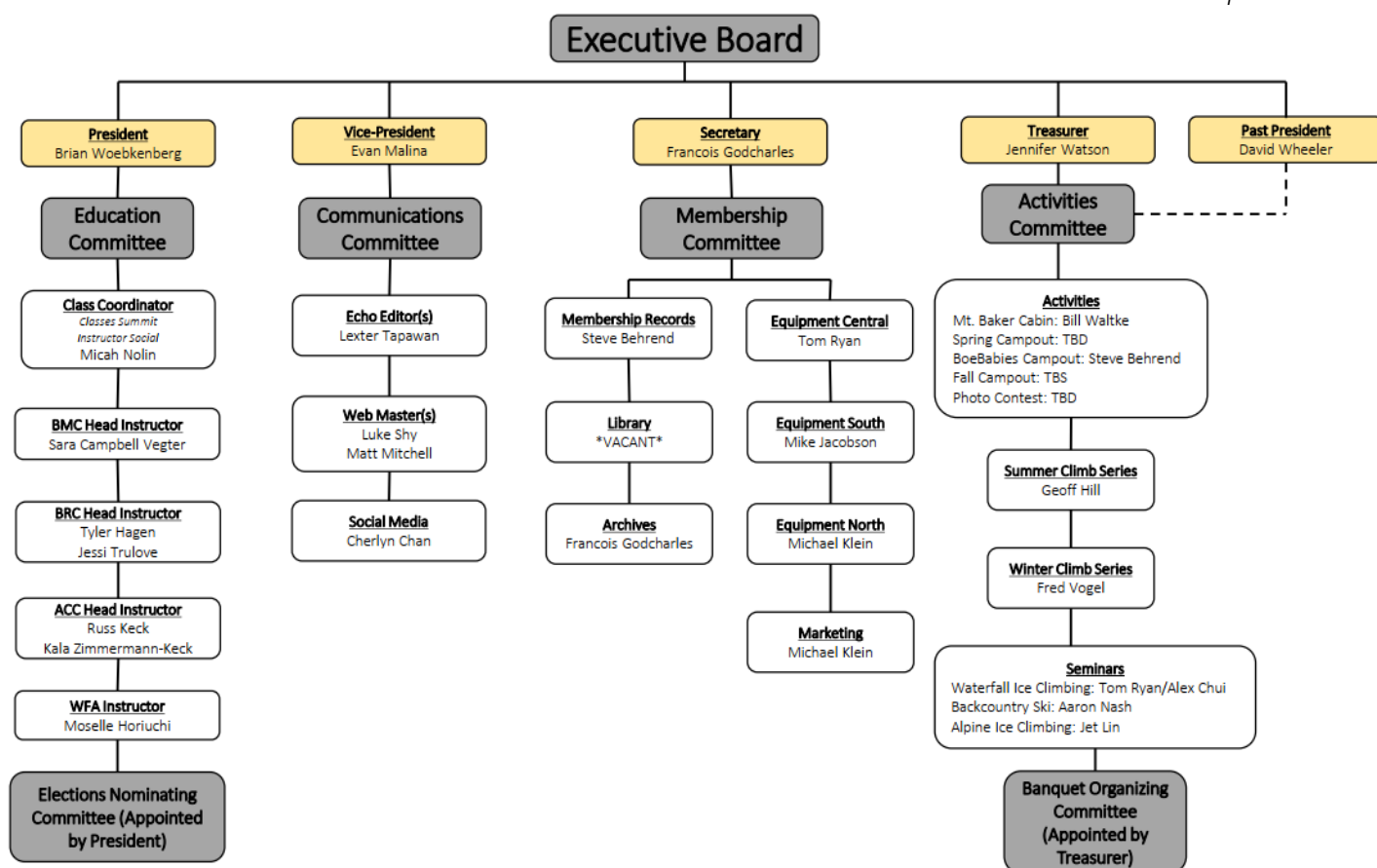
members

# THE ALPINE ECHO

# EXECUTIVE BOARD TREE

## BOEALPS EXECUTIVE BOARD AND COMMITTEES

Rev. 2—22 September 2020





# THE ALPINE ECHO

# ORG CHART

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Brian Woebkenberg	exec-board@boealps.org
Vice President	Evan Malina	president@boealps.org
Secretary	Francois Godcharles	vp@boealps.org
Treasurer	Jennifer Watson	secretary@boealps.org
Past President	Dave Wheeler	treasurer@boealps.org
		past-president@boealps.org

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership	Steven Behrend	membershiup@boealps.org
Marketing	Michael Klein	marketing@boealps.org

## ACTIVITIES

Summer Climb Series	Geoff Hill	scs@boealps.org
Winter Climb Series	Fred Vogel	wcs@boealps.org

## EDUCATION

Class Coordinator	Micah Nolin	education@boealps.org
BMC Head Instructor	Sara Campbell Vegter	BMC@boealps.org
BRC Head Instructor	Tyler Hagan/Jessi Truelove	BRC@boealps.org
ACC Head Instructor	Kala Zimmermann-Keck/Russell Keck	ACC@boealps.org
WFA Head Instructor	Moselle Horiuchi	wfa@boealps.org

## EQUIPMENT

		equipment@boealps.org
South	Mike Jacobsen	equipment-renton@boealps.org
Central	Thomas Ryan	equipment-seattle@boealps.org
North	Michael Klein	equipment-everett@boealps.org

## PUBLICATIONS

Web Master	Luke Shy/Matt Mitchell	webmaster@boealps.org
Social Media	Cherlyn Chan	www.facebook/boealps
Echo Editor	Lexter Tapawan	echo-editor@boealps.org

# THE ALPINE ECHO

---

## Contributors in this publication

Fred Vogel

James Mahoney

Jeff Whitmer

Matt Lemke

*If you have any content, ideas, feedback or anything vaguely mountaineering or outdoors related,  
please email them to: [echo-editor@boealps.org](mailto:echo-editor@boealps.org)*

# THE ALPINE ECHO



---

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY

---

*"There is probably no pleasure equal to the pleasure of climbing a dangerous alp; but it is a pleasure which is confined strictly to people who can find pleasure in it."*

**Mark Twain**



Paragliding near basecamp

Photo contributed by Priti & Jeff Wright 2020

## In This Issue:

- Priti & Jeff Wright's K6 central and K6 West ascent
- Photo contest winners!
- Club announcements
- And more!!

## THE ALPINE ECHO

---

### A word from your editor:

Another year in the books. I don't know about you, but I'd like to leave 2020 in the rear-view as soon as humanly possible. With that, hopefully the upcoming year brings lots of new (and fun?) adventures for everyone.

For this issue, we have some great content from Cherlyn Chan and from Priti and Jeff Wright recapping their most recent accomplishment in tagging K6 Central and K6 West (congrats!). We would also like to point out that on the last issue—Sept 2020—we accidentally left out a good chunk of Fred Vogel's story. So please check out the full story in this issue.

As always, hope you enjoy this one.

Stay safe, happy holidays and a happy new year.

Climb on.



Source: Mike Clelland cartoons



## BOEALPS Board Announcements

### **BOEALPS Operations Amid COVID-19 Pandemic**

At this time, BOEALPS is not hosting or sponsoring any in person classes or activities. We review the COVID situation at each board meeting, and when significant changes in protocols from government or Boeing Recreation are released. Stay safe and healthy!

### **BOEALPS 2021 Executive Board Election**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the 2021 Board election has been temporarily paused. The Board requested a waiver from Boeing Recreation to postpone the election, in order to allow the circumstances to be resolved. The waiver was granted, which stipulates that the election be held and the new board be announced to the membership no later than February 9th, 2021.

### **New Revised BOEALPS Operating Procedures**

The BOEALPS Executive Board approved a long-overdue revision to the club Operating Procedures at the December Board Meeting, following a month-long public comment period. The new document is now available on the website "About Us" page: <http://boealps.org/about-us/> (see link for "BOEALPS Operating Procedures" at bottom)

Note that the accompanying governing document "Constitution & By-Laws", also undergoing a revision, has been submitted to Boeing Recreation for their final review. Once Boeing Recreation approval is obtained, this document will be submitted to the membership for a vote.

## 2021 BMC Course Announcement

Hello BOEALPS!

Usually at this time of year, I ask you all to put up flyers and help spread the word about the upcoming BMC. However, this year will be different and we will not be advertising the course.

Due to the pandemic still raging and high rates of COVID infections, we are considering the best course of action for BMC. The BOEALPS executive board and I have not yet decided whether the club will offer BMC in 2021. That determination will be made in January based on the latest regional metrics and CDC and Health Department guidance.

If we do offer BMC it will look a little different than normal. We will not open applications to any new students; only our 2020 students whose course got cut short during the spring lockdown. Lectures would be virtual and teams would be small and operate as independent pods. This type of course is only feasible if regional infection levels are in the low to moderate range.

If the board and I determine that we cannot offer the full BMC in 2021, then we are working on some other possible offerings that will not lead to a certificate, but could help students with some basic skills and keep instructors' teaching skills from degrading until we can offer the full BMC in 2022.

For instructors: If you are not currently on the instructor email list and wish to be added, please email me at [bmcHeadInstructor@gmail.com](mailto:bmcHeadInstructor@gmail.com). Joining the email list does not commit you to teaching this year, but it will keep you in the loop.

Cheers,

Sara Campbell Vegter

BMC Head Instructor

[bmcHeadInstructor@gmail.com](mailto:bmcHeadInstructor@gmail.com)

## Wilderness First Aid (WFA) Program



### REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR JANUARY 2021 WFA CLASS!!

The BOEALPS Wilderness First Aid (WFA) class is designed to prepare you to deal effectively with accidents that can occur in remote areas where professional medical help is not readily available.

The BOEALPS WFA class is hosted by wilderness medicine professionals from Remote Medical Training (RMT), and includes lectures, skills practice, demos and hands-on scenarios. Attendance to **all** class sessions, whether virtual or in-person, is **required** to complete the WFA class and obtain a two-year certification.

As a medical services provider, Remote Medical Training (RMT) has been approved by the state of Washington to continue their operations and offer these classes, in full compliance of current health guidelines and following their specific COVID company policies. As such, the January WFA class is being offered in a hybrid format consisting of:

Self-guided online education modules via PowerSchool

Virtual classroom sessions with RMT instructors

In-Person Skills Practice Day (to be held outdoors, in small groups, with RMT instructors)

All participants will be required to acknowledge and sign the "RMT COVID-19 Student Agreement & Procedures" to ensure health guidelines, self-checks, and proper protocols are understood and followed throughout the class (form to be provided by RMT after enrollment).

### JANUARY 2021 WILDERNESS FIRST AID CLASS SCHEDULE

Virtual Classes:	2 evenings	Week of January 25 <sup>th</sup> (exact dates TBD)	6:00pm - 9:00pm
In-Person Skills Practice:	all day	Either Saturday January 30 <sup>th</sup> , Or Sunday January 31 <sup>st</sup>	8:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION of In-Person Skills Practice:		The Mountaineers Seattle Program Center 7700 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115	
COST:		BOEALPS Member \$240.00 / Non-BOEALPS Member \$275.00	
CLASS SIZE:		24 participants maximum	

For more information on prerequisites, certification requirements, refund policy and link to application form:

- consult the web site at [www.boealps.org](http://www.boealps.org) ("Courses" tab, then the "WFA" tab)

or

- email Moselle Horiuchi at [moselle\\_horiuchi@hotmail.com](mailto:moselle_horiuchi@hotmail.com)

## **BOEALPS Winter Snowshoe Summits**

**Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation the BOEALPS winter snowshoe outings will not be held this winter. This difficult decision comes from the BOEALPS Executive Board. If the COVID-19 conditions improve and things turn around there will be an update posted.**

**Be safe and have a good winter season.**



## Club Events and Dates

### January 2021

1/12                      6:30 PM Virtual Board Meeting (See Google Calendar)

### February 2021

2/9                        6:30 PM Virtual Board Meeting (See Google Calendar)

2/26 - 2/28            Mt. Baker Ski Cabin Weekend (TBD)

### March 2021

3/9                        6:30 PM Virtual Board Meeting (See Google Calendar)

The next board meeting is scheduled for  
Tuesday January 12, 2021 @ 6:30 PM.  
See Google Calendar for more info.

*\*For more information, please refer to the club calendar : <http://boealps.org/calendar/>*

## 2020 Photo Contest Winners - Climbing



First - Alex Chiu



Second - Jason Takisaki



Third - Priti Wright



# THE ALPINE ECHO

# PHOTO CONTEST

## 2020 Photo Contest Winners - Humorous



First - Rylee Lewis



Second - Alex Chiu



Third - Cherlyn Chan



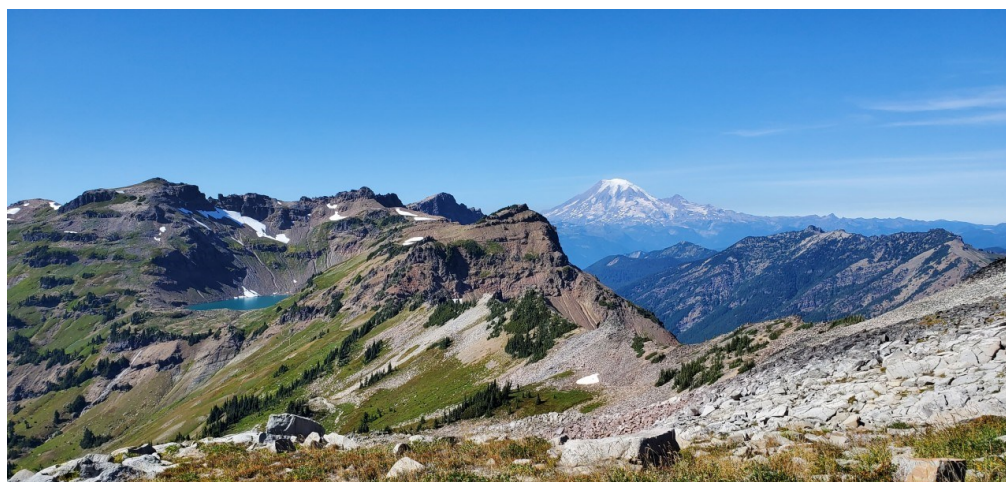
## 2020 Photo Contest Winners - Mountain Scene



First - Priti Wright



Second - Andrew Chen



Third - Erika Nicholas



# THE ALPINE ECHO

# PHOTO CONTEST

## 2020 Photo Contest Winners - Wilderness



First - Erika Nicholas



Third - Evelyn Flint



Second - Matt England

# THE ALPINE ECHO

# PHOTO CONTEST

## 2020 Photo Contest Winners - People



First - Andrew Chen



Second - Amy England



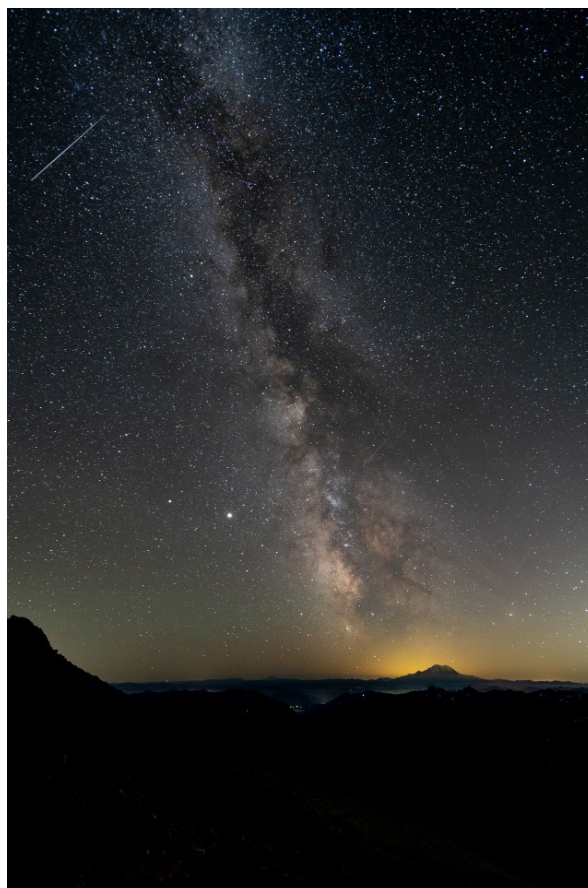
Third - Rylee Lewis



## 2020 Photo Contest Winners - Sunset



First - Devin Monas



Third - Andrew Chen



Second - Christopher Stubel

Thanks to all the participants, and congrats to all of the winners. You can access these photos as well as photos from previous iterations at: [Photo Gallery | BOEALPS](#)

# THE ALPINE ECHO

# TRIP REPORTS

## First Ascent of K6 Central, Third Ascent of K6 West

By: Priti Wright (Published on November 5, 2020)



K6 Central Summit Selfie (7,155m)

We climbed K6 West (third ascent 7,140m) and K6 Central (first ascent 7,155m) this October. We summited West on Oct 8th and Central on Oct 9th. We had been planning to climb K6 from the Nangmah valley side for over two years. When COVID struck, we held on to the hope of going but delayed our trip from the original June-August until late September-October when the country announced they were allowing tourists to enter with a valid COVID test. A week before we departed, Colin Haley decided to join our trip to climb various objectives solo. Colin has been a hero to us, and was a major inspiration for us to start Alpine Climbing over six years ago. In fact, we modeled our Sabbatical Year on a typical year in Colin's life (Patagonia – Chamonix – Pakistan). It was a real treat for us to have him join us at Base Camp, and he provided us with a wealth of knowledge and advice in this new game (for us) of high altitude Alpinism.

This was a difficult year for climbers, world-wide, due to COVID. Nearly all serious expeditions canceled their plans, so when we continued with our planned Karakoram expedition to K6, we were quite alone in the whole range. Certainly no one expected us to make a first ascent of K6 Central, a 7,000m peak, in late season.

K6 has three major summits along its summit ridge: West (7,140m), Central (7,155m), and Main (7,281m). K6 Main was first climbed by an Austrian Expedition in 1970 led by Eduard Koblmüller. Before the expedition, we were lucky enough to get in contact with one of the original expedition members of the young Austrian team, Fred Pressl, who graciously shared pictures and stories from his 1970 expedition. In 2013, Ian Welsted and Raphael Slawinski became the first ascensionists of K6 West via a highly technical route from the North (Charakusa) side (for which they won a Piolet d'Or). Then in 2015, Graham Zimmerman and Scott Bennett became the second ascensionists of K6 West from the South (Nangmah) side. But an impending storm forced them to retreat without continuing the traverse to K6 Central, and it remained unclimbed.



The first hurdle to overcome was getting to Pakistan. We kept in contact with Ali Saltoro, our expedition tour operator, who kept us informed on the COVID status there. We delayed our trip a month and a half, but when he told us that tourism had opened up in Pakistan, we dusted off our Visas from December 2019, bought plane tickets and got the fresh COVID tests required for entry. We had heard of no expeditions traveling this season, and we didn't know what to expect.

Continue to next page...



# THE ALPINE ECHO

# TRIP REPORTS



*Bivy high on K6, with East and West Nangmah Glaciers below*

We arrived in Islamabad on August 23rd, Ali met us at the airport, and hours later we flew to Skardu, without even leaving the airport. We arrived smoothly and safely at basecamp in the Nangmah valley on Aug 26th, with zero hassle.

Once we got to basecamp, we started acclimatizing on nearby Kapura Peak and had a full view of K6's SW Ridge and West Face from what's called Alam's Col (a route first climbed by Portuguese Daniela Teixeira and Paulo Roxo in 2013). From this vantage point, we could see that there were several options for climbing the West Face. After acclimatizing on Kapura Peak (no summit attempt) located on the West Nangmah Glacier, we moved over to the East Nangmah Glacier and made an Advanced Base Camp. We continued acclimatizing, exploring two of the three alternative lines that would bypass nearly all of the technical mixed climbing found by Graham and Steve. We climbed up to 6200m and

slept above 5700m for 5 nights, before determining that Graham and Scott's descent line would be the ideal line of ascent as well.

We descended back to Base Camp (4,400m), upon learning that Colin had fallen ill. Colin ended his trip and returned to France, but we made plans for a summit attempt when we received a promising weather forecast. We were well acclimatized, and poised for attack, despite the dropping temperatures and rapidly shortening days.

On October 2nd, we headed back up to ABC at 5,15pm. From there, the route starts on a major ramp on the southwest flank of the peak, following up to 60 degrees ice/snow to the SW ridge for about 600m to the southwest ridge. We then traversed for 300m across the West Face, across the bergschrund, then straight up the icy 900m West Face. When Graham and Scott descended by this line in 2015, they made 19 Abolokov's to get below the bergschrund. The 900m ascent of the West Face was a strenuous, calf-burning, 12hr day to reach 6,600m on the southwest ridge. The West Face consisted primarily of a few inches of névé over solid, very hard ice (~70deg for 900m), which we simul-climbed.

The upper slopes consisted of deep snow, and we wallowed the last 400m to the summit ridge at 7,000m. Our weather forecaster warned us that we would encounter the jet stream above 6,500m with sustained winds of at least 45km/hr and a morning low of -21C; he was correct. This late season ascent meant climbing in cold, clear, windy weather, and especially short days and cold, long nights.

*Continue to next page...*



*ABC with K6 behind*

## THE ALPINE ECHO

We climbed new terrain along the traverse from K6 West to K6 Central. The West Face of K6 Central was up to 80 deg ice/snow including a bergschrund and a tenuous cornice to overcome.

The North side of the sharp, rocky summit ridge of K6 Central precipitously dropped dead vertically into the Charakusa Valley. When we finally reached the highest point of the fan-shaped crest of K6 Central's summit, we sat on the knife-edge ridge with one leg over the Lachit Valley and one leg over the Charakusa Valley. Strangely, climbing an unclimbed peak did not feel any different from climbing any other peak. However the clear weather gave us great views of the enormous 7,000 and 8,000 meter peaks that spread out around us in a vast panorama in all directions, and we felt exuberant and humbled. But our elation was short-lived because we had a long way to descend.



*Final slopes to K6 Central*

## TRIP REPORTS



*Our basecamp crew: Jeff, Priti, Colin, Azhar, Ali, Captain Zohaib, Ishaq*

We owe many thanks to Steve Swenson, Graham Zimmerman, and Ian Welsted for their helpful beta, to Colin Haley for his great advice and wonderful company, to the rest of our base camp crew, Ishaq our basecamp manager, Azhar our cook, Captain Zohaib our liaison officer, and of course Ali Saltoro, our expedition tour operator. We couldn't have done it without them!

### **Editors Note:**

All of this was taken from Priti & Jeff's blog which can be found here - <https://alpinevagabonds.com>

Visit their blog for more photos from this trip as well as other trip reports.



# THE ALPINE ECHO

# TRIP REPORTS

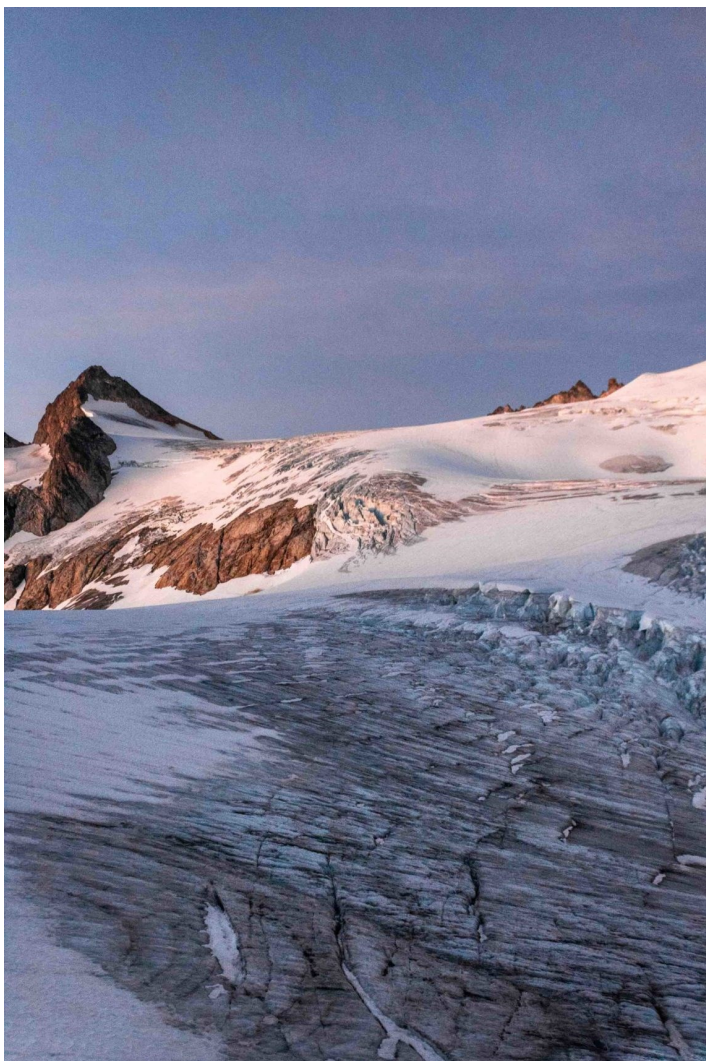
## Chilling on glaciers | Snowfield Peak

By: Cherlyn Chan

I can't say that it's common to cross multiple glaciers for a single climb. Sure, traversing might get you on several glaciers like the Ptarmigan Traverse or Isolation Traverse. The standard Camp Muir/DC route on Rainier passes 2 glaciers, but generally on many climbs (that I've done at least), you sort of pick a glacier to tackle and then climb that one glacier to reach a single summit.

But Snowfield is quite different. A col divides the Snowfield group into two sections, a lower cirque boasting Colonial Glacier and upper section that is still somehow a saddle point with Neve Glacier spilling out onto two opposing tongues. It is such an odd phenomena and I was just constantly amazed by these

open glaciers throughout the whole trip. Most pictures are from early season where everything is covered, and there aren't many pictures that fully encapsulate how wide Neve Glacier is!



Originally, Evelynne and I wanted to explore the Pickets, but given the long weekend, it would be a fight for the few permits that exist. The Picket Range in the North Cascades is a highly coveted destination for many climbers and two moderately easier peaks to climb are West McMillan Spire and Luna Peak. They are less technical and were cut short from the Washington's 100 highest peak list (the Bulgers). Knowing that it was possible that we wouldn't get the permits for the Pickets, we had backup Plan B (another permit region) and even Plan C (no permits) all in the North Cascades. The day before we wanted to leave, we checked the [Backcountry Camp Availability](#) and as expected, no more Picket permits left. The system works as such: go in person the day of or before your trip and take your permit first-come, first-serve. Sometimes there are permits than can be reserved way in advance, or by email, but those are fairly unusual circumstances. The whole national park is divided up into regions with different number of availability per spot. A nifty map for how it's divided is linked [here](#).

As with every adventure, they begin prior to stepping foot on a trail. Ours truly began at the Marblemount Ranger Station, a Wilderness Info Center that distributes permits.

*Continue to next page...*

## THE ALPINE ECHO

## TRIP REPORTS

At 7:30am, we got our number – more than 30 groups ahead of us, and only 2 rangers available to issue permits. Everyone was politely standing >10 feet apart due to the pandemic, and we continued eating our breakfasts as we waited for the ticker to get closer to our number. At this rate, it seemed they would only go through 15 groups per hour. Should we wait 2+ hours or just head over to our no-permit Plan C? We concluded it was a short enough trip even with the longer drive, that we can make the decision by 10am. Just keep waiting, waiting, waiting, what do we do? We wait, wait, wait. And all of a sudden it seemed like people just couldn't wait and the kept calling the next numbers, and before we knew it, 1.5 hours later we had a permit in hand!

We drove another half hour east to the Pyramid Lake trailhead. Unintuitively, the parking was on the opposite side of the trailhead and was more of an extended



shoulder than anything. But we parked, repacked a bit, stuffed our faces more with some food for morning energy and headed on up. The Pyramid Lake trail was fairly short, but there are some steeper, rocky sections to a pretty underwhelming lake. So underwhelming I didn't even take pictures. First, the lake was murky (later on our way out, I realized that with certain lighting it was actually a pretty blue-green in parts). Second, there was no Pyramid Peak to be seen from the very sheltered lake. From the trailhead to the lake, it took us about an hour for a little under 2 miles and 1500 ft gain.

And then began the steeper climber's trail, albeit one of the nicer climber's trails I've been on. It would offer some flat sections that was enjoyable between the steeper climbs. We soon passed a couple who were also at the ranger station this morning. And we continued on up another 40 min (1 mile and another 1500 ft) after the lake to what we endearingly called our "Lily Pond". Here, we took a nice snack/lunch break, enjoying views of the Hwy 20 valley below and up towards Colonial Peak. Snowfield still remained behind the mountains. And at last, we could finally see the famed Pyramid Peak that the lake had hinted on.

From here, we took another hour or so to get to what people call "high camp". We traversed some boulders and navigated around snow and surprise, surprise, a glacial lake awaited us. Evelyne had done this peak several years ago when the snow coverage was higher and the lake was not to be seen. It wasn't on our maps, but I would assume it's called Colonial Lake since it overflows to Colonial Creek Falls. Wow was it gorgeous and these dwarf fireweed were still blooming! Looking up, we saw looming before us, Colonial Glacier. It seemed quite formidable with all its cracks and bare ice.

### Editors Note:

For Cherlyn's complete account of her trip, visit her *blog* here - <https://www.cherlynelizaphoto.com/alpinewanderlust/chilling-on-glaciers/>

There's a ton more content to be read in her *blog* along with some really cool pictures, so check it out!



# THE ALPINE ECHO

# STORIES

## You Found What!

By: Fred Vogel



*Fall colors in their prime on the Granite Mt. Trail (North Bend)*

This story begins four years ago when Bin Liu and I went on a hike to see the fall colors up on Granite Mt. (Snoqualmie Pass area). Sure enough the red colors and ripe huckleberries were out in force along the trail up to the Lookout Tower. Lunch was extra nice as Bin had carried two IPA's for a summit treat. After taking the obligatory photo next to the Lookout Tower we decided to explore a new way down to the Pratt Lake trail via the saddle between West Granite Mt. and Granite Mt. Initially this unknown route was fine as we went down into a basin full of more red fall colors and tasty huckleberries. Indeed, we even took a group photo in the basin with Granite Mt. in the background. However, the way down quickly turned into a super nasty bushwhack. Finding no suitable alternative way around this section we just forced our way through the dense brush. Pulling, pushing, hanging on, groping onto vegetation of all sorts and sizes. At this point all that was on our minds was making a way through this crazy bushwhack as soon as possible. After shedding some blood, sweat and tears we made our way out of the brush and into the adjacent forest. Happy now to be back to normal off-trail hiking. Continuing down the forested slopes we eventually met up with the Pratt Lake trail as originally planned. All seemed to be going fine now as this real trail would soon get us back to the car. I reached for my camera to take a photo of this trail. To my shock and disbelief the camera was gone. The

camera must have snagged on a branch as we force our way through that bushwhack higher up on the mountain. I did have thoughts of retracing our path (although neither of us had a GPS tracking app running). It was a good camera and had been on many mountains. It took good photos and wasn't cheap to buy. I wanted that camera back not to mention I wanted all the scenic photos from Granite Mt. After thinking it over for a moment we decided the chances of retracing our exact (to the foot) path in that horrendous brush and finding a small camera were just not likely to happen. So sadly, we had to admit defeat and leave the camera (and its photos) on the mountain never to be seen again. What a bummer.



*Obligatory summit photo at Granite Mt. Lookout Tower*

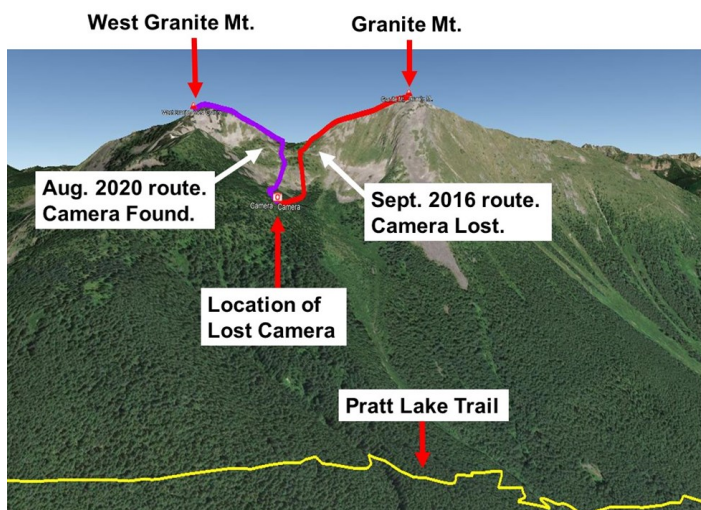
Fast forward four years later to August 14, 2020. Charlie Soncrant did a summer hike up to West Granite Mt. (also known as "Tusk O'Granite"). West Granite is not visited that often. Charlie was the first to sign the summit register in three weeks. He decided to see if there was a more direct way down through the basin that would eventually intersect with the Pratt Lake trail. He didn't find any good way down below the basin and wound up in thick brush and difficult bushwhacking. While pushing and pulling on branches Charlie's eye catches a reflection of something on the ground around 4400 feet. Bending over and looking more closely he saw that the reflection was the display (glass) side of a small camera.

*Continue to next page...*



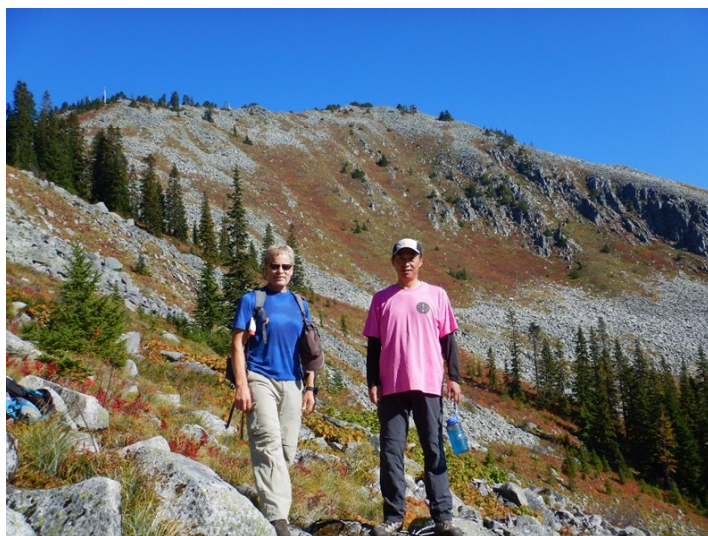
# THE ALPINE ECHO

# STORIES



Approximate location of the two off-trail routes that crossed at the exact spot of the lost camera.

Charlie picked up the camera which looked to be in rough shape. Battered and worn from being in the mountain side for who knows how long. He brought the camera to his house and cleaned it up. But the camera would not turn on or take a charge. Charlie opened the camera to retrieve the SD card. He put the SD card into a computer to see if any photos exist on the old SD card that might help him find the camera's owner.



Last photo on the SD card in the lost camera. September 26, 2016.

To Charlie's astonishment the last photo taken on the SD card was of Bin and me. He could not believe the chances of him knowing the people in the photo of a camera he had found high up on the mountain. The photo was taken in the basin between Granite and West Granite. It was the last photo I had taken before entering that unforgettable bushwhack from hell.

Charlie sent me an email describing his find of a lifetime.

My respond was "You Found What! My oh my that is so crazy. I wouldn't even go back up there myself to look for my camera knowing how that bushwhack would result in no chance of finding a small camera."

A few days later Charlie and I met up to return the camera and to hike up the steep Green Mountain (North Bend) trail.



Charlie Soncrant returning the camera he found four years after I had lost it. August 25, 2020.

After I got home, I put a new battery in the camera, and it worked great. It still takes great photos even if it looks rough on the outside.

That camera is now with me again on my new adventures. Not wanting to lose it again I now keep it double secured to my backpack.

Charlie's unplanned and unfortunate bushwhack ended up being my lucky day.

## Membership - New or Renew?

If you are (or were) a Boeing employee or someone in your immediate family is, consider supporting BOEALPS by becoming a member or renewing your membership this year!

Signing up for membership helps us raise the funds we need to keep supporting the great activities and events you enjoy throughout the year. The membership also gives you access to negotiated discounts at several Seattle-area stores, and other benefits - including borrowing gear (see details at <http://boealps.org/members/gear-locker>)

The 2021 BOEALPS membership form - as well as a list of membership benefits - are available on the website at <http://boealps.org/members>.

If you have any questions about membership, contact us at [membership@boealps.org](mailto:membership@boealps.org)

Safe and happy climbing!

You also get a really cool membership



# THE ALPINE ECHO

# MEMBERSHIP

---

Online forms can be found at: <http://boealps.org/members/>

## **MEMBERSHIP RATES:**

- Individual Member / Associate: \$30
- Individual Retiree: \$25
- Family Membership: \$35

## **BENEFITS INCLUDE:**

- Subscribe to the Club Mailing List at <http://boealps.org/publications/mailling-list/>
- The Basic Mountaineering Class (BMC) offered each spring is a fantastic, fun way to learn safe climbing or a great opportunity for graduates to volunteer as an instructor.
- The Basic Rock Class (BRC) offered each summer helps you hone your rock skills.
- The Alpine Climbing Class (ACC) is also offered each spring. Protection, leading, ice climbing, aid climbing taught with a great instructor/student ratio and an emphasis on safety.
- The Wilderness First Aid (WFA) certification courses are available to teach you how to respond to an emergency in the backcountry.
- General meetings and social activities throughout the year such as campouts, picnics, photo contests, and organized climbs.
- A winter and summer climbing series to keep the blood flowing.
- Seminars on rock climbing, leading, ice climbing, avalanche awareness, backcountry skiing, etc. are offered as a great way to continue learning throughout the year.
- A quarterly newsletter "The Alpine Echo," featuring the club calendar, events, activities, trip reports, outdoor topics, and more.
- Great exercise with wonderful people in the beautiful Cascades and beyond!

## **DISCOUNTS:**

- Feathered Friends: 10% discount
- Outdoor Research: Selected discounts.
- Pro Mountain Sports: Selected discounts.
- Mountain Hardware: 15% discount.
- Mazama Lodge: Affiliate pricing.

**\*\*NOTE:** A valid BOEALPS membership card is required at the time of purchase!!

## **MORE INFORMATION:**

More information on the membership types as well as club documents including PRO-99, BOEALPS Constitution and Bylaws, and BOEALPS Operating Procedures can be found online at <http://boealps.org/members>

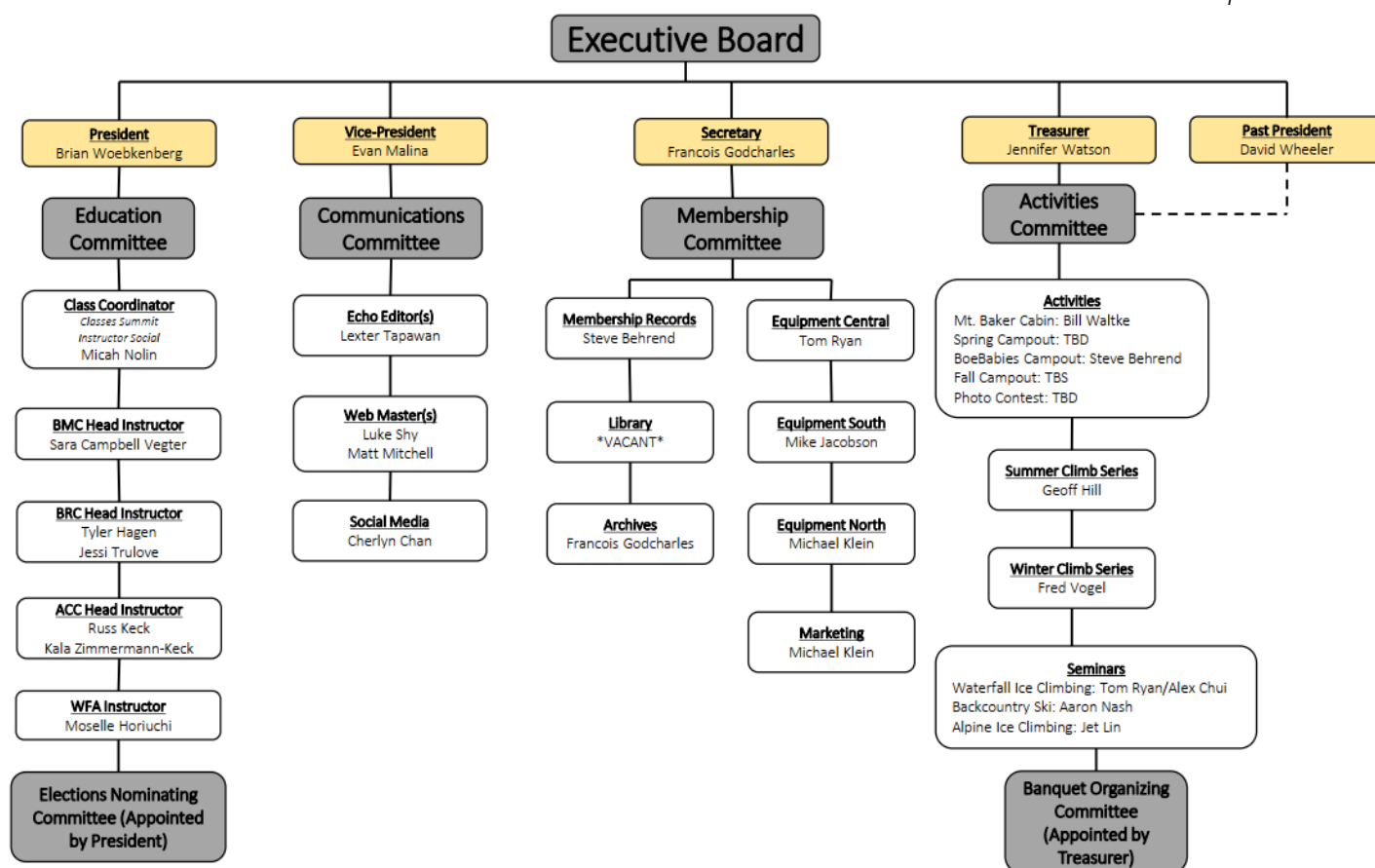


## THE ALPINE ECHO

## EXECUTIVE BOARD TREE

## BOEALPS EXECUTIVE BOARD AND COMMITTEES

Rev. 2—22 September 2020



# THE ALPINE ECHO

# ORG CHART

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Brian Woebkenberg	exec-board@boealps.org
Vice President	Evan Malina	president@boealps.org
Secretary	Francois Godcharles	vp@boealps.org
Treasurer	Jennifer Watson	secretary@boealps.org
Past President	Dave Wheeler	treasurer@boealps.org
		past-president@boealps.org

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership	Steven Behrend	membershiup@boealps.org
Marketing	Michael Klein	marketing@boealps.org

## ACTIVITIES

Summer Climb Series	Geoff Hill	scs@boealps.org
Winter Climb Series	Fred Vogel	wcs@boealps.org

## EDUCATION

Class Coordinator	Micah Nolin	education@boealps.org
BMC Head Instructor	Sara Campbell Vegter	BMC@boealps.org
BRC Head Instructor	Tyler Hagan/Jessi Truelove	BRC@boealps.org
ACC Head Instructor	Kala Zimmermann-Keck/Russell Keck	ACC@boealps.org
WFA Head Instructor	Moselle Horiuchi	wfa@boealps.org

## EQUIPMENT

South	Mike Jacobsen	equipment@boealps.org
Central	Thomas Ryan	equipment-renton@boealps.org
North	Michael Klein	equipment-seattle@boealps.org
		equipment-everett@boealps.org

## PUBLICATIONS

Web Master	Luke Shy/Matt Mitchell	webmaster@boealps.org
Social Media	Cherlyn Chan	www.facebook/boealps
Echo Editor	Lexter Tapawan	echo-editor@boealps.org

# THE ALPINE ECHO

---

## Contributors in this publication

Cherlyn Chan

Devin Monas

Fred Vogel

Jeff Wright

Priti Wright

*If you have any content, ideas, feedback or anything vaguely mountaineering or outdoors related, please email them to: [echo-editor@boealps.org](mailto:echo-editor@boealps.org)*