

THE ALPINE ECHO



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY

"Giving up is not in the blood, sir."

-Nirmal "Nimsdai" Purja



Photo from Cindy Li & Andrew Kehl, 2022.

In this Issue:

- Trip reports
- Club Announcements
- and more..

THE ALPINE ECHO



A word from your editor.

Hello,

Welcome to the July 2022 Issue of the Alpine Echo. We have a few trip reports from your colleagues and some club announcements. Hope you stick around to see what the club and your fellow climbers are up to this summer.

Also, remember that if you have any content that you would like to share with the club, just send them over to me at:
echo-editor@boealps.org

Thanks, and stay safe climbing, hiking, or whatever outdoor activity you all enjoy this summer.

Lexter

BOEALPS Discord Reminder

The club recently rolled out a BOEALPS Discord server as a new tool to enhance our community collaboration! If you have never used Discord it is very similar to other collaboration tools such as Microsoft TEAMS or Slack. Many members that participated in the Basic Mountaineering Course are already using the BOEALPS Discord with great success. Our hope is that this will provide members more opportunity to join and plan climbs, connect with other members, and generally build our community up as we move more and more toward virtual environments.

Some features you can look forward to using include:

- Subject based channels and threads to keep conversations organized
- Voice channels & screen sharing for integrated group trip planning sessions
- Visibility on member climbing education (BMC Grad, BRC Grad, ACC Grad, ect)
- Direct message ability amongst members
- Emoji reactions
- Link sharing for google photos or drive documents

Note that the BOEALPS Discord will not be replacing any of our current community communication tools. You can still expect club announcements to be shared officially via email.

You can get access to the BOEALPS Discord Server by clicking the link below. This link will expire after 7 days so if you miss it and want to join at a later point you can email vp@boealps.org to get a new link. To protect the privacy of our members and community you will not automatically receive full access to the community chats. You will have to follow the instructions in the Getting Started channel and allow us to validate your affiliation to the club to gain full access to the server.

Discord Server Invite Link: <https://discord.gg/tPyCPGFC>

Trip Report Contest

We will be doing a trip report contest this year to encourage people to submit their reports to the Alpine Echo! The community really likes to see what everyone is up to and climbing, it's good motivation, gives ideas to less experienced climbers, and generally keeps the stoke high! You get one entry into the trip report contest for every trip report you submit to the Alpine Echo. If multiple people contribute to the report then you both get an entry. At the end of the year we will do a random drawing to see who wins the \$100 value prize! There is no limit on the number of reports you submit as long as it is a climb you did this year.

The Return of the Library

BOEALPS friends and family,

I am pleased to announce that one of our members, Jon Schillios, accepted the position of Librarian and has graciously opened his bookshelves to house the club's collection. With easily accessible trip reports online and the halting of in-person events over two years ago, the library has been paused. Now our active members can borrow up to four books at once. Take a look at our up-to-date inventory and begin the loan process on the [new website page](#)! There are plenty of historical archives like the American Alpine Journal, accurate guidebooks for your trip-planning needs in the US and abroad, and some gripping essays and novels surrounding climbing topics. Not sure what you want to borrow? Jon is more than happy for you to stay awhile to peruse and read on-location.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions to round out the collection, then please contact Jon or myself!

Thanks,
Alex Strait
BOEALPS Secretary
secretary@boealps.org

Enchantment Bulgers: Dragontail, Little Annapura and McClellan Peak

By: *Cindy Li and Andrew Kehl*

The plan was to hike into the Enchantment Core via Stuart/Colchuck Lake trailhead and bag some of the Bulgers in the area in a four day, three night trip from June 10th to 13th.

TL;DR - Bagged Dragontail, Little Annapura and McClellan Peak. McClellan was our favorite, because it had a very cool technical climb near the top. The weather changed dramatically (rain → sun → snow) over the span of the trip, so we were grateful for bringing trash bags and our down parkas!



Dragontail

Day 1:

We started walking from the trailhead at 7am Friday morning, June 10th. It was sunny and we had the entire trail to ourselves. Overall, Asgard Pass still had a solid snow pack despite slushy pothole prone snow due to the warm weather. At the bottom, the stream was visible on climber's left, but as we climbed on the right side of the tree cliff, the snowpack was soft, and well covered throughout the entire pass. There were steps visible heading up most of the pass. Near the top of the pass, there was a huge headwall of ice, so we headed to our right and cut across the snow field and continued climbing. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up, it started raining. After about an hour or so of walking, we reached the Core and found a spot near the base of Dragontail and set up camp in the rain. We were prepared for the rain in the afternoon, but it still led to our mountaineering boots getting wet. By early evening, the rain stopped.



Enchantment Core: Winter Wonderland Edition

Day 2:

We began our bid towards Dragontail peak at 7am with damp boots. The weather was clear and snow conditions were soft, so we did not need crampons for the entire day. We followed a very visible path up to the base of Dragontail. There is a moderate couloir near the top that we used to ascend to the back side of Dragontail and summited around 10am. A cloud came in when we reached the top and we had no view of the Core. On our way back, we had the option to go around the back side, instead heading down the moderate couloir, making it a safer descent. As we were heading down, we set off a

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Towards McClellan!

couple small slides along the headwall. The snow was loose and wet. Next, we trekked east across the Core and headed towards Little Annapurna. It was not steep and we summited around 2pm. By the time we made it down Little Annapurna, our boots were completely wetted out and we decided to return to camp instead of trying to summit another Bulger. There was a lot of postholing as we headed back to camp. We arrived at 4pm and spent the rest of the afternoon, making the most of the sunny day by drying as much of our gear as we could. That evening, we shared a beautiful sunset with a resident mountain goat.

Day 3:

With most of our gear dried from the previous day and good weather, we headed for McClellan Peak at 8am. There was an overnight freeze, so the snow was in fantastic condition and we were able to travel quickly across the Core to Perfection Lake. There, we took a small shortcut over the lake's frozen waterfall and around the southern side of Perfection Lake to reach the west base of McClellan. We kicked steps, traversing the north face of McClellan and headed toward the Prong. Although we used crampons most of the way, there were only a few icy spots near the base of the mountain with tree cover. Otherwise, the snow was soft enough that crampons weren't necessary. We reached the base of the couloir, took off our crampons and scrambled up the rock to the shoulder. There, the peak was visible, but it required a walk around the backside of the mountain to avoid a steep pillar of rock. As we got 100 feet to the top, the climb became more technical (5.2ish) with a short, but difficult slab section at the start. (This section is difficult descending if you are short) About 50 ft from the top, we followed a huge flake on the climber's left to summit at noon. The peak has a very large piece of loose rock, so after we got our photos we headed down as quickly as we could. When we were having lunch, it started snowing! We saw the cloud roll in throughout our climb, but we originally did not see snow in the forecast aside from overnight freezing conditions on Saturday night. On our way back to camp, the snow continued and it was like walking through a winter wonderland. All of the lakes within the Core were mostly frozen and where they were melted out, you can see the crystal blue water underneath.

When we got back to camp, the wind was howling and more snow was falling. Luckily, we wrapped our backpacks and approach shoes in trash bags before leaving in the morning. We prepared hot water bottles and began to hunker in for the night, hoping the weather would improve by morning. During the night, the

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wind was so intense, it blew snow up under our vestibule and into the tent (Note: build rock/snow wall). This created a nightmare scenario where we woke up to find a layer of snow covering everything INSIDE our tent including our sleeping bags and inside our boots. We stuffed our sleeping bags with our clothes and did what we could to stay dry while we waited for morning. With no improvement to the weather, we decided at first light (4:30am) to pack up and leave. The wind was still howling and visibility was poor. After pushing our feet into our cold and frozen boots, we broke down camp, all the while struggling to keep the tent from blowing away. When we first started descending Asgard Pass, the wind was so strong it kept pushing us back uphill and we were struggling to stay upright. There was also nearly 6 inches of snow and lots of icy spots, making descent even more difficult to navigate. After 30 ft down the pass, we finally were able to stand up and made good progress toward Colchuck Lake, reaching it at 10am. We made it back to the trailhead about 2pm.

Advice on Gear:

1. The weather was insane our last night and we were able to stay warm with our down parka (ex. Mountain Hardwear Phantom, Rab Positron Pro, Patagonia Grade VII, etc). Down parkas are expensive, but worth their weight in gold on cold nights like these. Thin down/synthetic jackets (ex. Mountain Hardwear Ghost Whisperer) will not cut it.
2. Bring a couple of trash bags. They are lightweight, extremely waterproof and multifunctional.
3. Bring an extra pair of socks. Mountaineering boots are impossible to fully dry once wet, so having warm dry socks is worth it.



McClellan from the west.

Advice on Food:

1. For this trip, I discovered the pure magical deliciousness of a savory Indian snack called kachori! They are deep fried wheat balls stuffed with a spicy chickpea filling. YUM.

Approach Trail Olympics - W. Buttermilk Trail

By: Paul Tyndall - Solo Venture (because people learn from their mistakes)

The mountains are calling but I had to get past the approach trail first. Objective: An early season summit of Oval. I should have knocked this one off a long time ago. First attempt I tagged Star but heavy smoke started to roll in about the time I got back to the turn off for Courtney and Oval. Called it a day. Second attempt my son Mikey and I turned it into a camping trip and a shot at his first WA top 100. He was 10 at the time and had been wanting to bag his first for several years. I finally let him and after Courtney he was satisfied with the day so we passed on Oval opting instead to camp out at Star Lake and headed home the next day. The time had finally come. Do a quick tagup of Oval and finish off this group to get the climbing season going.

Little Beta. Though a nice area this is not the most impressive set of peaks as far as top 100s go. It is scenic but Bigelow/Martin/Switchback are right next door and with the meadows and lakes offer much better aesthetics in my opinion. In terms of fun scrambling it is pretty much all walkups hence why I choose the area for my 10 year old to get his first top 100 vs something like Easy Mox (his preferred objective). For scrambling HooDoo and Raven Ridge are also next door and have much better scrambling to offer. So why Oval? Only real reason for me to go get Oval is that it is a top 100 that I walked past twice and didn't summit. I hate that. And one of the appeals for this one is that although it has a longish approach trail it is a very nice trail with a pretty consistent low grade climb. Makes for fast travel.

So long weekend with nothing to do. Time to go clean up a loose end named Oval.

This was my first warning sign(s) of things to come.



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So the rest of this trip report will have incredible beta on the approach trail and no valuable information at all if you want to go climb the actual mountain. I will call it “Approach Trail Olympics”.

Warm Up: Stretching Event – High Step



First event. Basic qualifying Round: The step over. Extra points if you step on it and break the branches so future competitors don't have to step over it at all.



Same Event: Qualification Round 2 – Step over but followed immediately by a waist high. Slightly annoying but nothing more.



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Same Event: Final Qualifyng Round – Running Jump?. It's the type of obstical you make really cleaver jokes about like "trails blocked, lets go get a beer" to momentarily distract yourself and then keep going.



The Triple Jump. Getting annoying. Don't mind the occasional but little more frequent than preferred.



More jumping, some swearing. Lots of scratchy crap so wear long sleeves.



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The Scratchy Limbo Event. It is about shoulder high across the trail so no good way over. Obvious way is under and doesn't that look fun. Guaranteed to catch your trekking poles strapped to your pack for extra fun. Bonus points for most creative swearing.



The Peek a Boo Trail Event. Now you see me. Now you don't. Really fun. What a prankster this trail is.



Find the trail in this one. I dare you. Do it. Do it now!



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Gotta have a swimming event. It is about 2 feet deep here with a full creek running on the far side.



Balance Beam Creek Crossing. More sweeper branches please? Trekking poles doing their originally designed purpose of catching everything in sight and trying to put me in the creek.



Hello God, I think you left some trail over on the left. Can you take care of that when you get a chance.



Not even mad about the “trail”. More perplexed how a tree uprooted and then had another large cut log

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attach its self vertically to said root mass. Velcro? I really just wanted to see this one happen. Defies logic.



Belly Crawl? Those are all 12-16" diameter trees BTW. Not a trick of the camera.



This one I like to call "Are you freaking kidding me"



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And in conclusion I highly recommend Oval Peak for all our new BCC graduates!!! It is amazing in every way or so I am told. I went 2.5 miles in (and past that last picture) before my soul cracked into several pieces (one of which was lost in the underbrush, please return if found) and my stoke level went very deep into negative numbers. For many sections it was in fact easier to bushwhack off the trail rather than use the "trail". Most amazing trail conditions I have ever experienced.

I dedicate this trip report to Amy England who thought I took her thru bushwhacking hell coming off the Gardeners.

An Enchanted Experience...

Area: Alpine Lakes Wilderness, the Core Enchantments

Dates: 5/23/22-5/25/22

People: Katie Aikens, Patrick Fiedler, Hannah Horton, Tony DeRoo, Lydon Kersting, Jared Villareal

Peaks Bagged: Dragontail & Enchantment Peak

Written from the Perspective of: Katie Aikens

Myself and 5 others set out May 23-25 for a trip to the highly sought after core enchantments permits area. While we had high hopes that the forest service road up to the trailhead would be open by this point the cards were not in our favor. So alas we started the trek from the Bridge Creek Campground adding an additional 3.7 miles and 2000 feet gain to our day.

The road walk was uneventful, some small branches were strewn across the road and a small patch of snow was hanging on in a shaded area of the parking lot. The trail through the valley was generally in good shape, mostly snow free and easy walking. When we got to the turn off from the main trail up to Colchuck lake we stopped here for some of us to stash our hiking shoes and put on mountaineering boots. From this point on snow cover on the trail was fairly consistent but packed down, typical early spring conditions. Once at Colchuck lake we stopped for a longer lunch. The lake was still frozen but Patrick made sure to probe through the foot of slush on the top to verify the solid state underneath. We put on snowshoes at this point and opted to walk across the lake to save us from forest scrambling around the lake. We also took some time here to top off our water using a filter that I had intended to leave at the car but mistakenly forgot (although this turned out to be a blessing at this point and later on).



Here began the dreaded slog up Asgard pass. The snow at the bottom was very wet and soft and some skiiers that were coming down gave us some good beta that we followed to avoid areas that were most likely to trigger a wet loose avalanche. Around where the tree island starts the terrain was starting to get steeper and we decided that it would be easier to kick steps the rest of the way up vs using snowshoes. Really the rest of this was just a long miserable slog were everyone was generally struggling from fatigue having already come some 7 miles and 5000+ feet with overnight packs. Several false summits gave us hope of a finish then preceded to crush us when we realized we still has a little ways to go. But we persevered and finally made it up to the Core Enchantments area right around 6 PM making our travel time about 10 hours. It was pretty windy on ridge just above Asgard pass and I could spy an area that looked relatively covered below. This turned out to be Isolation Lake which as soon as I realized it was a lake I knew

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it would be the perfect camping spot. Since frozen lakes are inherently flat, we wouldn't have to spend time digging out tent platforms. We also realized later that we could dig up enough slush into a hole on top of the frozen part of the lake to filter water which saved a ton of time from having to melt snow. All in all a great success and a great campsite.



We decided to sleep in a bit on day 2 because people were suffering a bit from lack of sleep the night before but we still were up and about leaving camp around 8:30 AM. Our first Objective of the day was Dragontail. The snow conditions were quite hard early in the morning so we all put on crampons and started up the snow to the gap between dragon tail and the ridge coming off of Witches Tower. There was a nice boot path that we were able to hop on about halfway up which made travel much easier than going straight up the steep hard snow. Once we got up to the saddle we continued right and followed the ridge straight to the top of Dragontail! Everything was snow covered still to the top so we had minimal rock scrambling.

After taking many pictures from this unique and spectacular peak we made our way back down. The snow was starting to soften up a bit and we were able to plunge step some of the way back down to camp. Once at camp we took a quick lunch break before packing up for our next objective. We had debated doing McClellan or Enchantment Peak but ultimately decided on Enchantment Peak. Being the easier of the two we felt it was more likely achievable given the experience of our group. So across the core we went toward Prusik Pass. We had decided to leave our snowshoes at camp but realized very soon that this was probably not a good idea. However, none of us wanted to go back to get them so we suffered through the slog across the quickly softening snow. The up to the base of the Enchantment peak summit block was relatively uneventful. We were able to kick good steps all the way up, most of us I think were starting to feel pretty tired at this point but the peak fever had us continuing on. There was snow all the way up to the final class 3 scramble to the very tippy top of enchantment peak. Weather was coming in right as we got to this point so we quickly scrambled up the solid rock a few at a time and rotated through touching the top before heading back down. At this point we were submerged in a



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cloud with some snow and low visibility. The weather mostly stayed this way for the rest of the way back to camp and the rest of the night so we didn't mingle much (if at all) before hiding away in our tents for the night.

The morning of day 3 some of the clouds from the day before started to lift offering us some peeks into blue sky and peak beyond. We Quickly packed up and heading out around 7:30 AM as we had a ways to go and some of us were trying to make it back to Seattle for the BMC class that evening. We were able to glissade about 50% of Asgard pass with patches of shuffling around rocks and trees and avoiding the notorious waterfall of death route. Colchuck lake was already looking much more thawed out than the few days before and the snowy sections of the trail proved to be post hole galor as the previous packed snow had softened enough to not quite hold our weight over sketchy rocks and trees. The road to the trailhead was still closed adding that extra mileage on the way back down as well. We made it back to the cars around 3 PM, happy to be free of our heavy packs and heading home.



Summer Climb Series

The 2022 Summer Climb series is kicking off! Bag-it Night was a great success and we have lots of great climbs on the agenda. Everything from weekday training hikes to an expedition of Aconcagua so the opportunities are endless!

If you missed Bag-it Night but still want to participate in climbs, contact Geoff Hill at scs@boealps.org. We are also utilizing our BOEALPS Discord and/or Summer Climb Series Facebook page to organize climbs so make sure to join those if you want the most up to date info on what is happening!

To sign up for an available climb, you must:

1. Have signed the BOEALPS Release of Liability. Available here: <https://boealps.wufoo.com/forms/r16owzz60dxa1sc/>
2. Have completed the BOEALPS Basic Mountaineering Class (BMC) or have an equivalent level of experience (contact the Summer Climb Coordinator Geoff Hill if you're unsure).

To organize a climb, you must:

1. Have completed the two steps above and:
2. Have at least one BOEALPS club member with you on your climb as a club rep. (If none sign up, take your climb posting off and organize your climb with the folks who did sign up off-line).
3. Create a Discord thread or Facebook event for your climb. Please include: peak(s), route(s), dates, gear needed, and links to any beta (caltopo map, SummitPost, etc.). Climbs must be approved by the Summer Climb Coordinator.

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 2022 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 Safe and happy climbing!

You also get a really cool (virtual) membership card!



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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 Hardwear: 15% discount.
- Mazama Lodge: Affiliate pricing.

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

MORE INFORMATION:

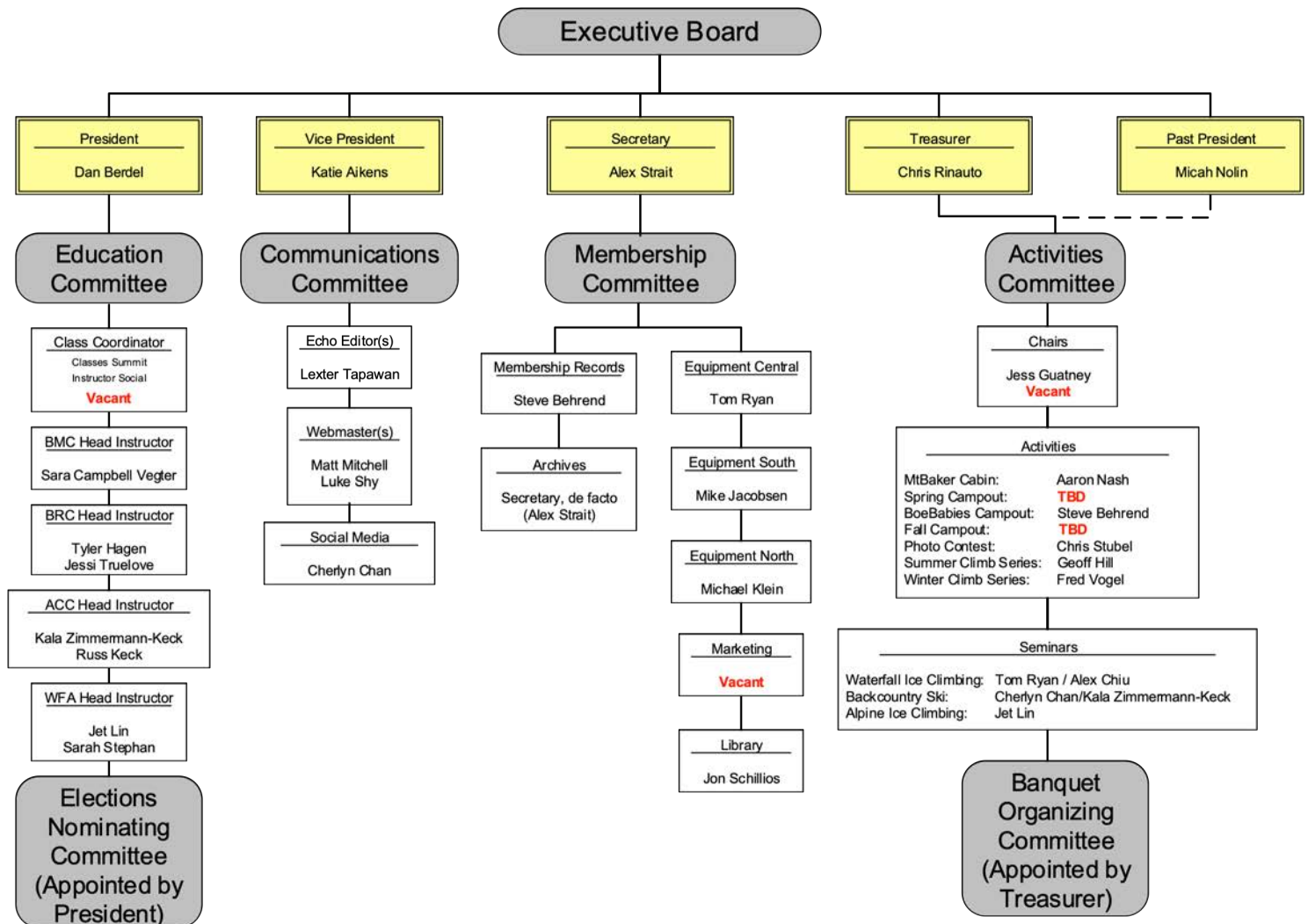
More information on the membership types as well as club documents including PRO-99, BOEALPS Constitution and Bylaws, and BOEALPS Operating Procedures can be found online at <http://boealps.org/members>

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EXEC BOARD TREE

Rev 1 - 20 April 2022

2022 BOEALPS Organization Chart



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ORG CHART

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Secretary
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Thanks for the content!

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