

THE ALPINE ECHO



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY

*"The art of mountaineering is knowing when to go,
when to stay, and when to retreat."*

-Ed Viesturs



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 December 2022 Winter Issue of the Alpine Echo. We have a few trip reports from your colleagues and some club announcements.

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/sJpEVJJu>

Aww, Shuksan!

By: Cindy Li & Andrew Kehl

TL;DR: The boot path on the Sulphide glacier avoided most of the crevasses. For Shuksan's gully, we felt there were lots of good solid handholds and footing available when we stayed between the 5-6 existing rappel stations on either side. 30m is fine for rappelling as long as you are willing to down climb between stations.

Day 1: Saturday Sept 3rd

We started at Shannon Ridge trailhead at 9:30am and took our time heading up the well-maintained trail. On the ridge line, we took in the foggy views and enjoyed the abundance of blueberries and huckleberries along the trail. We even took a little cat nap at lunch break. After the ridge went around the base of a mountain, we found several water sources from snowmelt. At 6200 ft, the trail ended, and the Sulphide glacier started. The snow was soft enough to not require spikes or crampons, so we took the easy ridge and then hooked climber's



left to find a great upper base camp. We found a small trickle stream to fill up our water and enjoyed the composting toilet with a fantastic view of Mt. Baker in all its glory. At the basecamp, we met a professional boxer, Patty "Boom Boom" Alcivar! It's cool meeting people from all over, especially on top of a mountain. We watched two groups return to camp and found out they were both part of a guided group that summited that day. They kindly shared beta on the glacier and the summit pyramid.

Day 2: Sunday, Sept 4th

On the morning of our summit day, a heavy fog set in, so we chose to delay our planned 4am departure in favor of greater visibility at sunrise. At 6am, we were treated to a beautiful sunrise with mostly clear skies. We roped and headed up the glacier on soft but

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firm snow and soon found the main boot path that made its way up above the crevasse field. As the climb flattened, the lead climber “postholed” and soon realized it was a small crevasse opening across the path. Later, we crossed an even larger 1 foot wide crevasse on the boot path that we hopped over. We arrived at the bottom of the summit pyramid at 8:30am.

With the summit pyramid melted out, there were lots of good solid handholds and footing available when we stayed in the gully between the 5-6 existing rappel stations on either side. The easier way up was following the rappel stations on the right side of the gully. We made it to the summit after 10am and had the top to ourselves between a low and high cloud layer that surrounded Mt. Shuksan when we started the climb. When we began our descent, a light rain started and made the rock slick.



At the rappel stations, the slings were in good condition. Each station had rappel rings and there were multiple slings all on them except for one, so we rappelled as much as we could on our 30m. A 60m rope would be ideal, because you could go from station to station without down climbing. However, our 30m worked well and there were never sections that were too steep to down climb. All in all, rope management took the most time, because we often had to carry the rope from station to station.

When we got to the glacier, we descended into the lower cloud layer and were socked in with about 30 ft of visibility. We made it back to camp at 3pm and soon after the rain started. We decided stay for another night rather than hike down in the rain. That afternoon, we met some new groups of climbers who arrived at camp and were eager for beta.

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Day 3: Monday, Sept 5th

In the morning, we enjoyed another great sunrise, this time with lots of clouds. We packed up and headed out around 6am, determined to spend more time enjoying the delicious trail side berries.



Sun, Storm, and Salvation - A Snowshoeing Tale

By: Elden Altizer

I wasn't sure what I'd gotten myself into when I started joining the Boealps Snowshoeing outings. The Snowshoe outing series grew out of a few individuals that loved to summit mountains in the winter. Mike Bingle, Doug Sanders, and Tim Hudson were the founding members, with Mike Bingle starting the Boealps winter series in January 2000. It helps to have more people to help break trail!

It was 2004 and I'd had a rude awakening to my mortality. Two coronary stents to open blockages at age 44. I'd fallen into a routine that so many others had taken of working too much, gaining weight, stressful job and juggling a family life with three young children helped me justify less climbing and "me" time. Fortunately, I was cleared for unrestricted physical activity, and I was invited to join the snowshoe outings. The first couple of outings really set the expectation bar high. Silver Peak and a trip to Union/Jove in wet snowing conditions with no view felt like a sufferfest. But beyond the suffering I felt the draw of the outdoors that I'd always loved.

A nice day on Avalanche Mountain. Doug Sanders, summit with Mike Bingle 2nd from right

Over the years I attend many of these outings, which were organized through a Yahoo Groups page. Yahoo deleted the Groups feature, and perhaps many of the photos that were shared are lost. Many of the climbs were based on Dallas Kloke's book, *Winter Climbs: One Day Ascents*. Doug Sanders, living to the north, favored trips off Hwy 2 and the Mountain Look Highway. Those of us down south liked trips along the I-90 corridor. All trips started in the dark, and often ended that way.

The 2022 outing session is in motion. The dates for outings are:

Dec. 4 & 18, Jan. 1, 15, & 29, Feb. 11 & 26

Feb. 11 is a Saturday as we avoid Super Bowl Sunday on the 12th.

Focal & Contact: Elden Altizer at elden.altizer@outlook.com

Like the last two years, members of the Washington Alpine Club can join the outings by signing the Boealps waiver. Basic Class or equivalent experience is required. Trip destinations and details will be posted about a week in advance on Facebook (Boealps Snowshoe Outings) and for Boealps on Discord under Winter Climbs.

In 2018 I retired and hit the mountains a lot. I thought "this is the life!", but I got another rude cardiac event while snowshoeing Arrowhead Mountain east of Stevens Pass. The route had deep powder and a lot of vertical. We took turns breaking trail like on all trips, but I had a session with thigh deep snow that wiped me out, and I was not recovering the way I should. Something was wrong, and I let

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the others know. I was able to make my way down okay once my heart rate dropped, but the short story was that one of my stents from 2004, that was partially blocked in 2014, finally became fully blocked. I'm fortunate to have an incredible cardiologist at UW Medicine use their robots to open it up – and they found that it had not been properly expanded back in 2004 so they expanded it as well. Below is a photo of the conditions that sent me over the edge.

I've been out on many outings since, and I hope you might join us for one of the outings. There seems to be a lot more interest in backcountry skiing, but it seems that more summits and conditions can be covered with snowshoes, and perhaps the pace is slower, but the conversations are longer. See you in the hills!



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.

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!



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/ mailing-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.

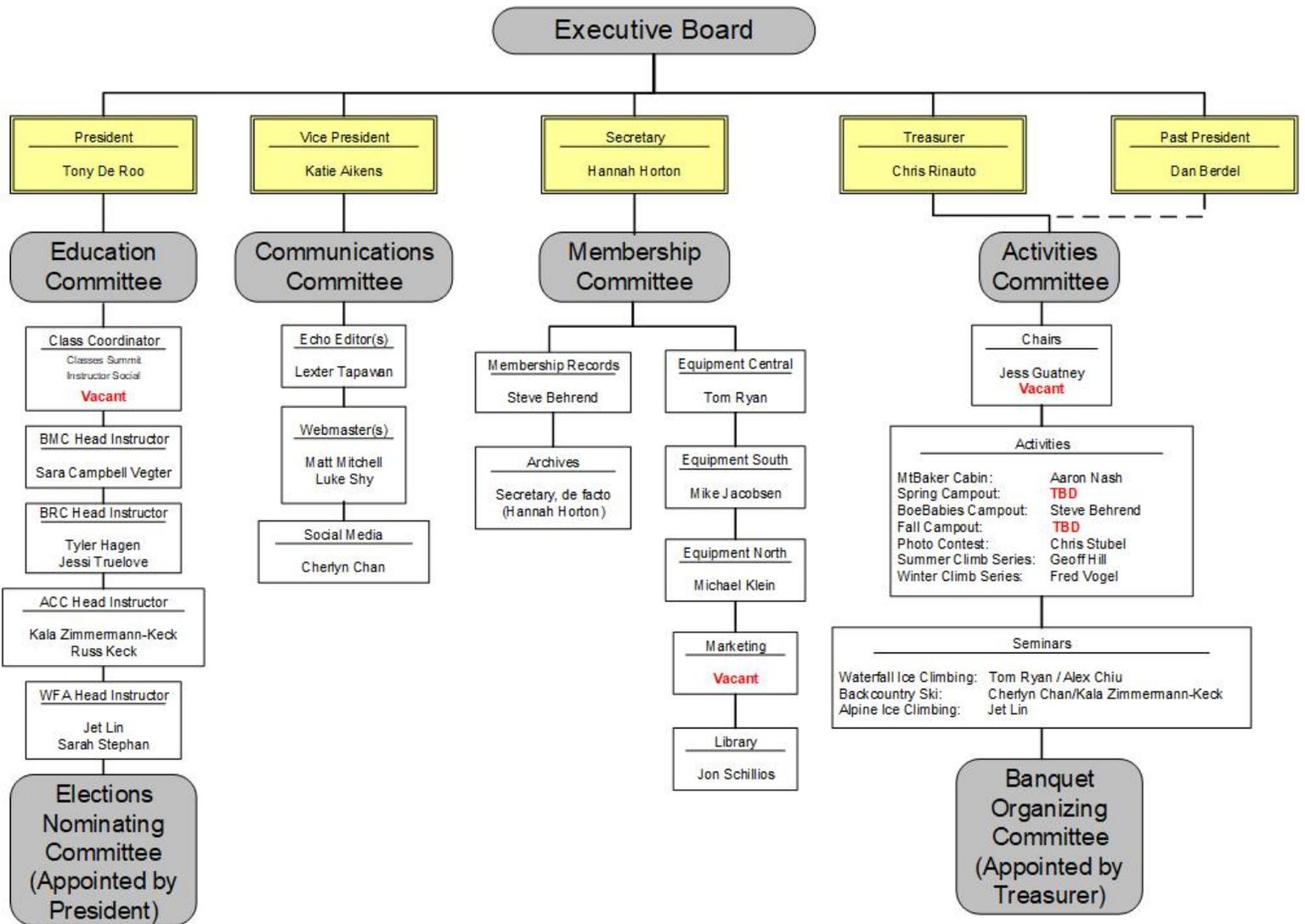
****NOTE:** A valid BOEALPS membership card is required at the time of purchase!!

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>

Rev Orig - 8 Dec 2022

2023 BOEALPS Organization Chart



THE ALPINE ECHO

ORG CHART

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Past President

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Katie Aikens
Hannah Horton
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ACC Head Instructor
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Thanks for the content!

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