

THE ALPINE ECHO



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOEING EMPLOYEES ALPINE SOCIETY

*“Mountains have a way of dealing
with overconfidence.”*

-Newmann Buhl



Photo by John Scurlock 2022

In This Issue:

- Club announcements
- Board Member Intros
- Club Information
- And more!

THE ALPINE ECHO

A word from your editor:

Hello all,

It's been a long time since we last released an issue, but alas we are here. In this issue, we're introducing the new members who have joined the board! We also have a few trip reports from our fellow climbers—prepare to be inspired!

We encourage you to continue contributing your own trip reports. Whether it's a challenging climb, a serene hike, or any adventure in between, your stories are a vital part of what makes our newsletter special.

Shoutout to our friends taking BMC and ACC this year.

Climb on!

-Lexter



President 2024 - Lauren Auerbach

Hi BOEALPS friends!

I'm Lauren Auerbach, and excited to be serving as club president for the first time. I have been involved in BOEALPS since 2019 and have gained so much more than technical climbing skills in the time since. The club has given me community, introduced me to great friends, and given me space to grow so much as a climber and person. I'm here as president because I want to do what I can to give all our members a positive experience and a home here!



Despite growing up in Sammamish, WA at the foothills of the Cascades, I didn't start spending time outside in a significant way until returning home after college when I dove headfirst into hiking and backpacking. I started at Boeing in the fall of 2018 and impatiently waited for BMC applications to open for spring 2019. After BMC I rolled straight into BRC and then volunteered to help put on the banquet at the end of that year. Even though we had to cancel classes in 2020 I stayed involved as activities co-chair and then finally got to teach a full season of BMC when classes returned in full in 2022.

Having just graduated from ACC, I'm lucky to have a lot of climbs from this past year that I would want to talk about but I'll actually go with one of the few non-class outings I did - Dorado Needle. Over 4th of July weekend a friend and I set out with the primary objective of the NW Ridge of Dorado Needle in the North Cascades. We started up the steep, forested climbers trail that I'm sure many of you are familiar with both cursing the grade and at the same time grateful for the ability to quickly gain the large amount of elevation we had for the day. Just as we were about to transition on to snow I heard "is that Lauren?" from a party going the opposite way and came across two BOEALPS members and longtime friends coming out from the same exact climb we were going in for.

After a quick exchange and the freshest of beta we set off again towards camp. The path towards our destination for the night passed right through high camp for Eldorado and while we talked about attempting that peak on our way out we were feeling strong and had plenty of daylight left so we detoured to the summit of Eldorado. I was stoked to finally tick off this classic climb and we even had the rare privilege of having the summit ridge entirely to ourselves. Still not done for the day though we descended the ridge, traversed Inspiration glacier, and built camp all before the sun set behind our next objective.



The next morning we moved a bit slowly, feeling the big day we had put ourselves through before but the

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MEET THE BOARD

warmth of the sun perked our energy as we moved across the McAllister glacier to the base of the ridge. Setting off to lead the first pitch I felt like I was putting all my new ACC skills into practice. Snow protection, a committing step over the moat, then finding a route that had the most solid rock possible made it a true alpine adventure. A few more short pitches after that brought us to the summit and I took a minute to enjoy the view of the surrounding peaks, remembering previous climbs looking at the ones I'd summited before and plotting future adventures looking at the ones I hadn't. We had a long way out but the excitement of getting to sleep in our own beds again prompted a speedy departure and hike out and we even made it back to the parking lot without needing to turn headlamps on thanks to the long midsummer days.

I'm really honored to take on this role with the club. If there's anything you want to see, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any other board member. And if you ever see me in the wild, say hi!



Vice President 2024 - Hannah Horton

Hi everyone! I'm returning to the board for the second year, but this time as the Vice President, previously Secretary. I enjoy running the communications for the club so you'll see my emails and posts on Discord a lot!

My history with the club starts with the canceled BMC class of 2020. I stayed somewhat involved over the next two years and did some climbing on my own and with friends. I was able to take the full class in 2022 and kept climbing into the Fall. In 2023, I returned to instruct BMC (shoutout Alpineapples) and took BRC as a student. My goals this year are to keep growing my climbing skills and keep active. I'm hoping to take ACC and do some bike-packing!



Dakobed (Glacier Peak) was the most interesting glacier climb of the summer. The hike to camp has the most beautiful and varied terrain. White Pass was vibrant green with a marmot hiding around every corner. After marmot pass, a rocky basin with glacial lakes far in the distance. At the confluence of the Suiattle and Cool Glacier is a very neat ice-boulder field with whistling crevasses. To make it even more memorable, my team of 5 decided to make it a 2 day trip ending up with a 22 miles, 4k ascent, 10k descent, and a 20 hour day.

As the Vice President, I'd like to promote more community activities within the club. If anyone has any ideas for events or would like to organize please reach out!

Secretary 2024 - Nima Forghani

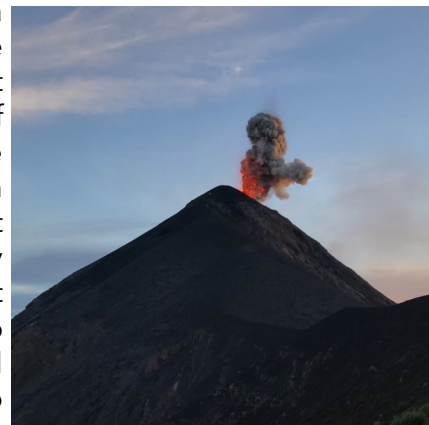


Hello BOEALPS community! I'm Nima, your 2024 BOEALPS Secretary.

I grew up in the mountainous central and eastern regions of Iran and have lived in four countries before moving to the United States. I enjoy nature and outdoor sports/adventures of all kinds including skate nordic skiing, backcountry camping, and bike touring. I started my adventures with rock climbing and bouldering in 2014 on and off and took a three year break to work on some personal film art projects. My journey and interest in mountaineering began in 2019 when I traveled to central America to climb several of the 14K footer active volcanoes in Guatemala and joined BOEALPS in 2020 to learn the necessary skills for glaciated and more technical adventures.

I moved to Seattle to start my career at Boeing in 2006. I'm a Brake Control Systems Engineer and a FAA Engineering Unit Member in the area of Brake Controls.

One of my most memorable mountaineering climbs was my third Tahoma (Mount. Rainier) ascent in the summer of 2023 where a small team of three BOEALPS climbers and I spent 23 hours camping on the summit crater at ~14,200' and explored one of many ice-caves at the summit. Not a lot of people are aware of the system of deep ice caves and lakes that have formed right beneath the crater ice plug. An icy alpine start tearing down our day one low camp site in the Emmons Flats proved to be almost impossible with our tent snow stakes frozen solid in the frigid early morning hours. The journey up Emmons glacier was one of the most beautiful experiences I've had minus hauling a 40+ lb overnight pack up to the summit of Tahoma. The following evening on the summit I witnessed the 4th of July fireworks from multiple directions before heading back to the crater campsite to take refuge from the frigid summit winds.



Aside from work and the outdoors, I'm passionate about human rights, social justice, photography, contemporary cinema, ceramics, macabre, and filmmaking. Believe it or not I'm on IMDB. You can look me up!



I'm excited to work with this year's board to ensure all BOEALPS members get to experience the club activities organized by our volunteers. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or other board members if you have any suggestions or feedback on any of the club classes or activities. It's going to be another beautiful climbing season. See you all out there!

Treasurer 2024 - Grant Dowell

I'm Grant Dowell, and I'm excited to be serving as your club Treasurer this year.

I moved to Seattle from the Midwest in 2015 and promptly decided to join BOEALPS after seeing how much fun a number of college friends were having with the club. I took the Basic Climbing Class (now known as the BMC) and the Basic Rock Class in 2016. I've enjoyed instructing both of those classes ever since (shoutout to all the Team 7's over the years). In 2018 I took the ICC/ACC and enjoyed getting to push into leading more difficult rock and alpine climbs.



Over the years, there have been a number of climbs with the friends I've made in BOEALPS both in classes and out of class. One that sticks out was an attempt at Dragontail and Colchuck in July of 2020. Another club member had won the enchantments lottery and four of us had set up camp at the head of Colchuck Lake. Our original plan had been to climb the Colchuck Glacier and tag both peaks. However as we examined the route, we decided the glacier was at this point mostly an ice sheet. Delaying to the next morning, we instead ascended Asgard Pass and submitted Dragontail from the other side. With one teammate already feeling unwell, a few of us explored the traverse to Colchuck. It was clearly too far to continue that day, but while reconnoitering the route we discovered a skier descending the Colchuck Glacier (their whooping of joy drew our attention). Upon closer examination we realized there was still a small section of bootable snow on the far side of the glacier. We retraced our route down Asgard and returned to camp for the night.

The next day we decided to make another attempt of Colchuck, this time up the glacier. It was the last of the 8000' Enchantments peaks for a few of our group, and we were eager to leverage the campsite. Prior to reaching the glacier, one team member fell ill and elected to stay back while the other three of us continued the climb. We agreed upon a return time and continued up. The glacier proved difficult. Snow conditions were good for kicking steps, and a fall would be arrestable. However, any delay in arresting would result in a long slide down the ice sheet below. The remaining three team members felt confident in our abilities and we slowly continued up. Upon reaching the col, we quickly realized that summiting would require pushing past our agreed upon return time to our friend below, and would result in us descending the glacier even more fatigued than we already were. We instead decided to turn around from the col and all four teammates returned to camp safely.

I think this climb was a good example of what we strive to teach in the various BOEALPS courses. Our team adapted to the conditions we encountered, set clear safety boundaries, and turned around when it became clear that things weren't going in our favor. We ultimately returned the next year and submitted Colchuck with a single day push up the glacier in much more favorable conditions. The mountains will always be there for another attempt.

I look forward to meeting more of the club (look for the guy with the blue racing stripe on his helmet). If you have any questions or feedback, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at treasurer@boealps.org

Gunrunner Traverse Trip Report

Jean Ruggiero & Andrew Fabian

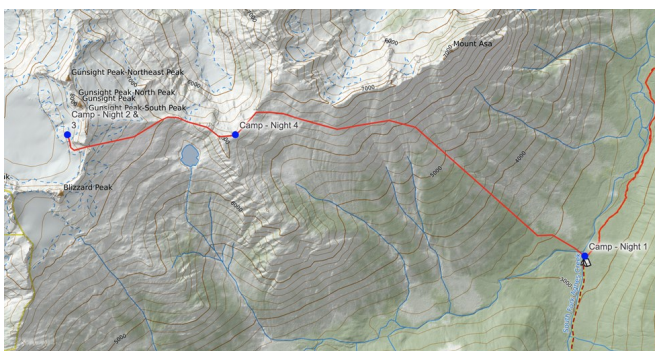
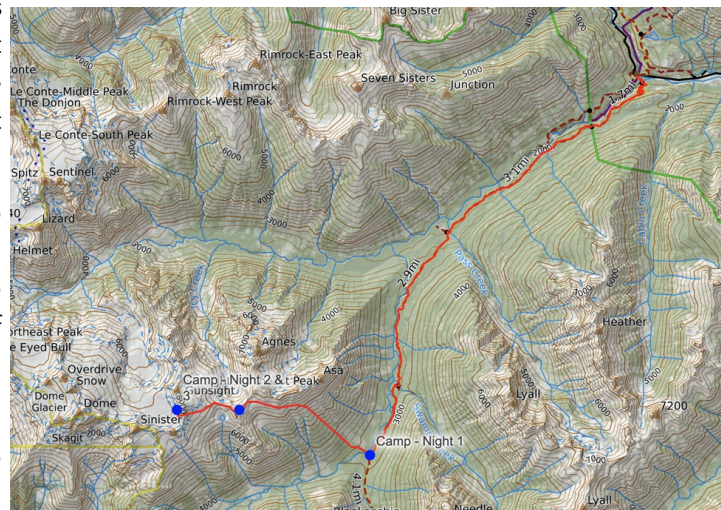
August 6 - 11, 2022

This trip report is extremely delayed, but hopefully it's useful to anyone planning a trip out to the Gunsight Range this year. Last summer, Andrew and I made the long and logistically-complicated trip out to the Gunsight Range to climb the Gunrunner Traverse.

The Downey Creek approach was closed due to fires, so we opted to approach from Stehekin, which involves a long drive, a long ferry ride, and then a bus ride to the PCT trailhead at High Bridge, about 10 miles northwest of Stehekin. We left Seattle early in the morning on Aug 6th and arrived at High Bridge around 5 pm.

From High Bridge, the approach into the Gunsight Range involves 9 miles of hiking on the PCT and then an additional ~5 miles of grueling off-trail travel (not even a climbers trail - lots of straight bushwhacking). We hiked the PCT section the evening of the 6th and arrived at camp around 9 pm. It took us the better part of the second day to tackle the 5,000 ft and ~5 miles of bushwhacking, traversing, and scrambling to get to our high camp below the Gunsight peaks.

There are no reliable water sources between the PCT and the alpine meadow just below the point labeled "Camp - Night 4."



The final section of the approach to camp involves going up and over a col immediately south of the Gunsight peaks to gain the Chickamin Glacier. We should have channeled our inner Fred Beckey and taken the "obvious" col but instead, we stuck to the description in Blake Herrington's book, which says to take the second notch looker's left of the peaks. This resulted in some steep snow climbing followed by a mandatory 100 ft overhanging rappel with our overnight packs. This could have been easily avoided by taking the obvious col, which was an easy snow walk up and down the other side.

We camped on an exposed rock slab at the upper margins of the Chickamin Glacier, just below the peaks. It turns out Andrew sneakily packed a few luxury items for camp...

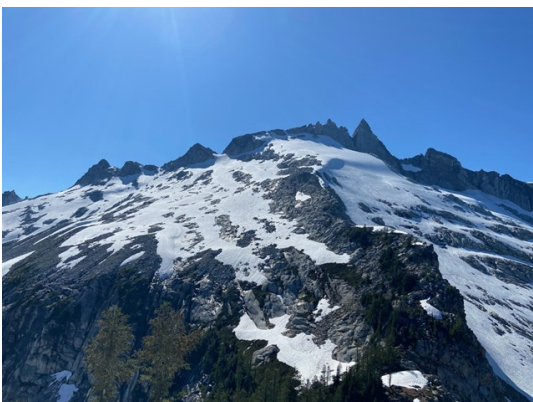
The Gunrunner Traverse is a long and wild ridge traverse of the Northeast, North, Middle, and South Gunsight Peaks. It involves many pitches of climbing up to 5.10 and rappels down into the notches from each of the summits. It approximately follows the red line in the photo below.

From camp, it took us about an hour to traverse over on snow and find the base of the route. We tried to generally

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TRIP REPORTS



The final climb before dropping onto the Chickamin Glacier. Note the obvious col at center.

follow the route description in Blake’s book but suspect we were off-route for a significant portion of the climb up to the Northeast Gunsight Peak. The first ascent party performed a pendulum on the climb up to the North Gunsight Peak and thus rated the climb at 5.10 C1. A few parties since then (including us) found a way up without needing to aid.

In total, it took us 20 pitches of climbing (some stretched by simul-climbing) and 8 single rope rappels (≤ 30 m each) to complete the traverse. We left camp at 6:30 am, started climbing at 7:30 am, reached the final summit around 9 pm, finished rappelling to the Blue Glacier by 10 pm, and returned to camp at 11 pm. Andrew wrote up some detailed pitch descriptions that are omitted here for brevity; if you are planning to do this climb, we’d be happy to send them to you!

Very few parties have climbed this route since its first ascent in 2007, so expect a lot of loose and lichen-covered rock. Bring an extra cordelette and lots of tied runners and expect to leave many behind to build or replace rappel anchors. Only a handful of the 8 rappels we did were from established rap stations - the rest we had to build ourselves. This is classic Cascade adventure climbing at its best!

The next day, we slept in, relaxed at camp, and then headed down a day earlier than planned due to thunderstorms in the forecast. We took our time on the way out and decided to move camp rather than descending in a single push. On the last day, we had another relaxed morning and made it back to High Bridge in time to catch the 5 pm shuttle to Stehekin. It would be feasible to hike all the way out in one day if climbing a shorter route the day before (or moving faster!).

No trip to this area is complete without a visit (or two) to the Stehekin Pastry Company.



Photo by John Scurlock (our route overlay)

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TRIP REPORTS



Looking out over the North and Middle Peaks from the North-east Peak.



No trip to this area is complete without a visit (or two) to the Stehekin Pastry Company.

Report by: Amanda Mazzenga

Being on a temporary assignment in El Segundo since March of 2022, I've had a chance to explore more of Southern California. I put together a list and brief description of some of my favourite (mostly longer) hikes I've done for anyone in the SoCal area for work (or for fun) who have a couple of days off to explore. I'd be happy to share more info or provide other suggestions to anyone who is interested!

Trans Catalina Traverse

Mileage: 38

Elevation Gain: 8,000 feet

TH: Avalon

GPX: <https://www.strava.com/activities/8891190025>

Resources: <https://hikingguy.com/hiking-trails/best-la-hikes/trans-catalina-trail-tct-hike-guide/>



The Trans Catalina Traverse (TCT) is a fun logistical challenge. You'll need to take a ferry from the mainland to Avalon (or Two Harbors) to start your journey, traverse to the opposite side of the island, and then return by ferry. In a short one-hour ferry crossing you end up in what feels like a completely different place from where you came. The trail is scenic and easy to follow with a lot of ups and downs. I'd recommend stopping at The Airport in the Sky to refuel with a coffee and a cookie on your journey. If you're lucky you'll have the chance to spot a few bison or tiny island fox on your route. Once you finish make sure you jump in the Pacific to cool off and maybe try the "Buffalo Milk" while you wait for your ferry.

Cactus to Clouds (Mt San Jacinto)

Mileage: 20 miles

Elevation Gain: 10,500 feet

TH: Palm Springs Art Museum

GPX: <https://www.strava.com/activities/6311201638>

Resources: <https://hikingguy.com/hiking-trails/best-la-hikes/cactus-to-clouds-hike/>

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Starting in Palm Springs, this route allows you to slowly watch the desert change to the alpine as you climb from the sea-level cactus to the clouds at the top of Mt San Jacinto. You'll need to plan your route around the weather and ensure you're up high before the desert starts to heat up. Once you reach the tram area you'll be surprised to see that you've made it to the forest and much of the climbing is behind you (although you still have a ways to go to reach the top of San Jacinto). When you head back down you have the choice to descend the way you came (adding on more mileage) or to take the Palm Springs Aerial Tram. I'd highly recommend the tram so that you can take a break at the bar and soak up the views.

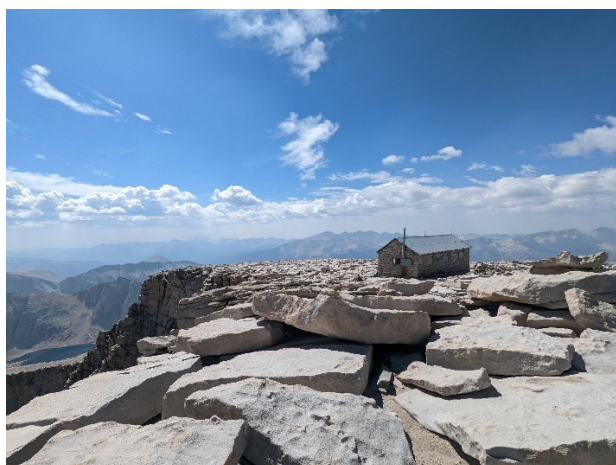
Mount Whitney

Mileage: 21 miles

Elevation Gain: 6,200 feet

GPX: <https://www.strava.com/activities/7782357953>

Resources: <https://hikingguy.com/hiking-trails/hikes-around-mt-whitney/mt-whitney-hike/>



It can be tough to get a permit the hike Mt Whitney, the highest point in the contiguous United States, during the lottery but you can often snag a last-minute permit the day before. This trail is also a great way to experience some of the beauty of Sequoia National Park. You'll spend most of your trip above tree line so you'll have never ending views. The toughest part of this hike is that most of it takes place at elevation so you'll need to be mindful of altitude.

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TRIP REPORTS

Make sure you stop by the Whitney Portal Store when you're done for a burger!

Mt Baldy (Mt San Antonio)

Mileage: 11 miles

Elevation Gain: 4,000 feet

GPX: <https://www.strava.com/activities/7293684524>

Resources: <https://hikingguy.com/hiking-trails/best-la-hikes/mt-baldy-hike/>



Mt Baldy is the highest point in LA! I'd recommend doing this loop CCW so that you can end with an easy downhill (or have the option to pay to take the ski lift down if you indulge too much at the lodge towards the end of the trip). A highlight of this hike is the Devil's Backbone Trail that takes you along a ridgeline. Mt Baldy is also a popular ski tour in the winter so depending on when you're visiting the winter route might be worth checking out.

Cucamonga

Mileage: 12 miles

Elevation Gain: 4,100 feet

GPX: <https://www.strava.com/activities/7219024654>

Resources: <https://hikingguy.com/hiking-trails/best-la-hikes/cucamonga-peak-hike/>



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There is a lot to explore from the Icehouse Canyon Trailhead. You could connect Cucamonga Peak with quite a few others if you have all day. Cucamonga was one of the first hikes I did when I arrived and it's a good introduction to SoCal hiking. If you are really embracing the SoCal activities, Creekside Tavern has a sand volleyball court out back if you're not too tired from the hike.

Tips:

Be prepared for the sun. A lot of trails are not shaded so you'll need to be ready for the sun (with plenty of sun protection) and the heat.

Water sources aren't as abundant (or may not exist) compared to Washington. Make sure to check your sources and carry plenty of water.

Traffic always exists here but isn't terrible leaving the city before 07:00. I'd recommend leaving early to avoid traffic and be prepared for your way back to take longer.

All Trails is the most used resource for trip planning. All Trails also tends to under estimate distances.

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 2024 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 membership card!



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

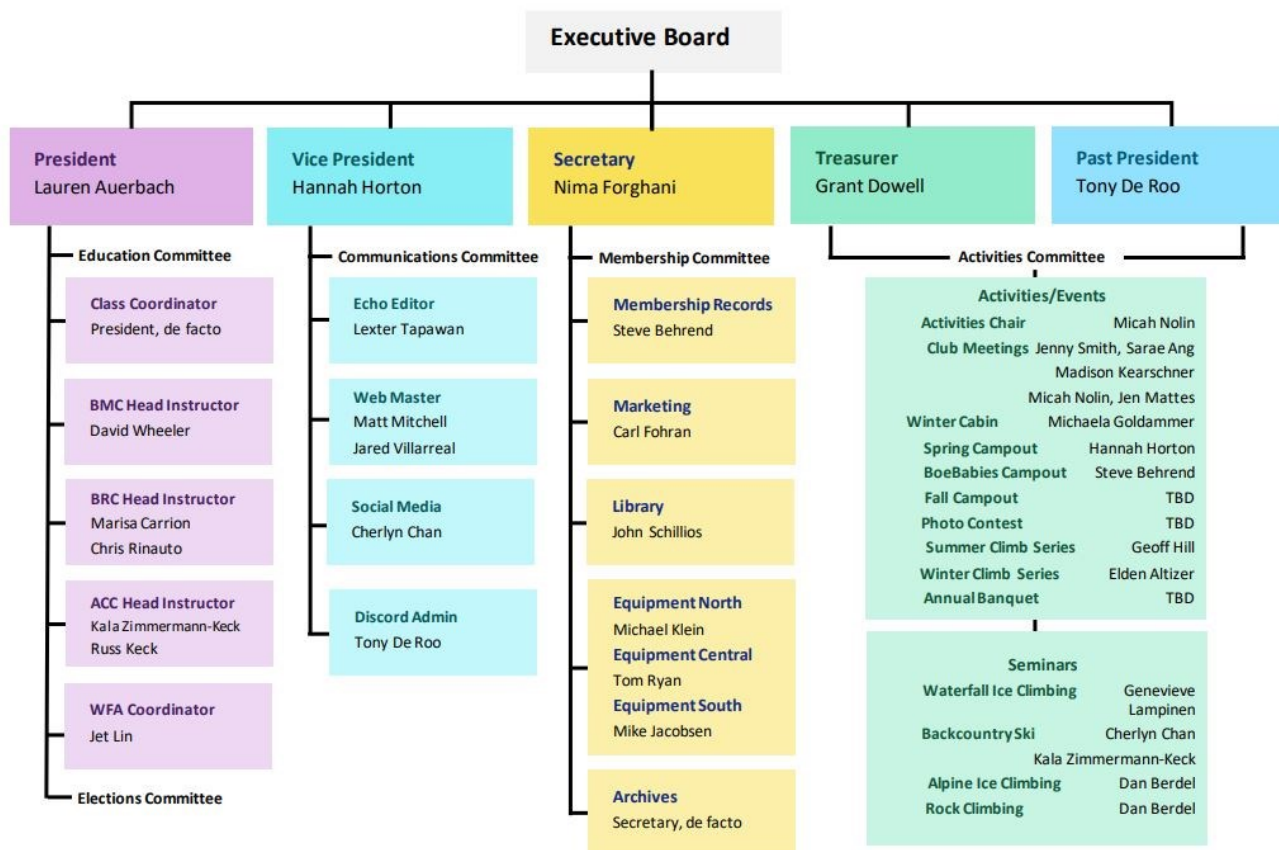
**NOTE: A valid BOEALPS membership card is required at the time of purchase!!

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



THE ALPINE ECHO

ORG CHART

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Secretary	Nima Forghani	secretary@boealps.org
Treasurer	Grant Dowell	treasurer@boealps.org
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South	Mike Jacobsen	equipment-renton@boealps.org
Central	Thomas Ryan	equipment-seattle@boealps.org
North	Michael Klein	equipment-everett@boealps.org

ACTIVITIES

Summer Climb Series	Geoff Hill	scs@boealps.org
Winter Climb Series	Elden Altizer	wcs@boealps.org
Winter Cabin	Michaela Goldammer	
Spring Campout	Hannah Horton	
BoeBabies Campout	Steve Behrend	
Fall Campout	TBD	
Photo Contest	TBD	

EDUCATION

Class Coordinator	President, de facto	education@boealps.org
BMC Head Instructor	David Wheeler	BMC@boealps.org
BRC Head Instructor	Marisa Carrion / Chris Rinauto	BRC@boealps.org
ACC Head Instructor	Kala Zimmermann-Keck/Russell Keck	ACC@boealps.org
WFA Head Instructor	Jet Lin	wfa@boealps.org

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