

## Bellingham Branch Committee Notes- July 2014

Welcome guests. *No guests present*

Reading and approval of previous month's minutes. *No previous minutes available.*

Managing Committee Report- *None. Bryan and Minda were absent at July MC meeting.*

Board of Directors Report-*None. No recent Board meetings or activities.*

Treasurer's Report-*After minor corrections at last Branch Committee meeting Rhett submitted the budget and it was accepted by the mother branch after and addition brief descriptions of our course offerings.*

Hiking Committee- *None*

Snowshoeing Committee- *Surprisingly, none.*

### Communications Committee

*\*Newsletter timing- Seattle asked that we not send ours on or around the first because that is when they started sending theirs and they don't want to bombard people's inbox. We like it on the first and no one has complained so we will keep it as is.*

*\*Discussion of an email request Krissy received-Special request will go out to leader and instructor list*

*\*Ken requests we put Chris Williams on the list to receive newsletters. **Done-minda***

*\*Minda requests that Bellingham Mountaineers events go to the top of the list.*

*\*Ken requests that one safety tidbit from recent incidents get put in the newsletter.*

***Minda tried to set a reoccurring reminder using outlook to James and Krissy.***

*\*Krissy reminded us it would be great to have the newsletter available on the website. **Minda sent Jeremy and Krissy and email to bring up the request and connect them.***

**Safety Committee-** *James states that since the launch of the new website the way that safety incidents are recorded are just via an email to a general safety address that gets routed to all of the safety officers and a handful of others. He gets pelted with a myriad of incidents and has expressed concern for a lack of consistency, ability to store history and a need for a standardized form to fill out to report incidents. Martinique has responded that she has received several similar concerns and it is one of the top priorities that they are working on.*

AAFA

Old Business-

New Business

*\*Determined procedure for picking Branch Volunteer of the Year. Branch Chair will use Survey Monkey (Mountaineers have an account) to create a survey to send out with the August newsletter. The Branch Chair will solicit two other individuals to sift through the results and determine who to give the award to. The awardee will be recognized at the October Fall Rendezvous. **Minda created survey and sent out a test to the Branch Committee before handing it over to Krissy put in the newsletter.***

*\*Discussion started in regards to what to do this fall. So far the majority is leaning toward using the legion again and having the branch provide steaks and salmon and having the rest of the sides be potluck style. Jake kindly accepted the task of creating the slide show. We will try and host another raffle as that was well received.*

*\*Vice Chair? We need to continue to rotate and fill positions with new folks. Please think of who would be a good candidate and solicit them.*

Basic Course Report

*\*Nathan will begin upkeeping the Student Progress Sheet once minda sends him a current list of students. **minda send Nathan the list 7/24***

Intermediate Course Report

*\*Rock II delay due to fires*

Climbing Committee

- \*Ken suggested that we advertise that if you sign up to take the climbing course you are then welcome to come back and attend lecture and field trips in the future to re polish your skills. We would have people sign up to attend by the Dec before the course for planning purposes. This suggestion was approved.*
- \*Several concerns were received about John being a safety concern on basic climbs. minda will follow up.*
- \*A discussion about removing a climbing course graduate badge and having a recognition badge occurred. This conversation has been going on at the Climbing Chair level as well so minda will keep the branch informed.*
- \*minda request to distribute her liaison duties for 2015 and oversee them and suggested that they be assigned to 2015 intermediate students as this is how other branches do it. The request was supported and minda will begin writing up how-to's for the various tasks.*
- \*Keeping the leader list current- It was decided that climb leaders will remain active as long as they have led a climb within the last 3 years. If they have become inactive they need to send a request to the climbing committee or climbing chair to be reactivated.*
- \*Andrew requests that we incorporate a technique review into our monthly meetings. This suggestion was well supported. Next month we will be reviewing alternative methods to rappel besides the ATC.*
- \*Issues with the lag time of submitting routes to be created and when they are created was discussed. For the time being if a route is not ready, run the climb and submit time, location and roster details to the Climbing Chair and then retro book the trip.*
- \*A big round of applause was delivered to Rich in thanks of his huge effort in providing practice sessions at his house throughout the course for all of the students. The practice sessions made a significant difference in the level of student knowledge this year.*