**Kitsap Mountaineers Executive Committee Meeting November 20, 2014**

Executive Committee Members Present:

Jeff Schrepple, Dave Burton, Sue Labrie, Dianne Carey, Tom Thrasher, Mark Thibault, Christine Grenier, and Vern Brown.

Meeting commenced at 5:35 pm

Treasurer’s Report: Dianne reported that the branch ended the fiscal year in the black with a balance of $1,224 on revenues of $9,910. The climbing committee brought in the most revenue with kayaking close behind. She also asked why the branch’s shared services allocation had risen so much since last year and Jeff said that, after trying for 7 months to get an answer to that question, Leann finally admitted that the allocations among branches had been done erroneously. However, Jeff also stated that as a result of the analysis done to determine that error, another much larger omission was discovered by Leann and Martinique. Jeff told the group if that this omission (between $157,000 and $200,000) was added to the allocations for the branches and outdoor centers, each of their current allocations would roughly double. Jeff has been in contact with the Mountaineers treasurer, Steve McClure, as well as other members of the Finance Committee and these errors and omissions will be discussed at a future Finance Committee meeting before being presented to the Board of Directors for resolution. Because of the potential of further harming not only the Kitsap branch, but all the other branches and outdoor centers, Jeff told the EXCOM members he was going to watch the process unfold to prevent the same sort of problems next year, but he would not push harder at this time (beyond the 25 hours he has already spent) to correct this year’s allocations. Some members of the EXCOM urged Jeff to fight harder this year, but he repeated that he was certain that if all corrections were made it would surely lead to more financial harm to the branch and let them know that they were free to pursue such action as individuals but that he would not.

Finally, Dianne let the members know that there was a new Chart of Accounts system that was developed to reduce the incredibly large number of accounts within the Mountaineers financial reporting system with the hope that simplifying the system would lead to fewer errors. She also said, and Jeff agreed, that this new system would have very little impact on our branch financial reporting. As an aside, this Chart of Accounts effort also led to the use of a Microsoft Excel pivot table tool which would be updated in Dropbox for selected members to see. She asked Jeff if he could check whether we would be allowed to put our monthly financial reports on the website in light of the new confidentiality statement that was recently issued by the Mountaineers. Jeff said he would check with Leann and get back to her.

September EXCOM minutes were approved for posting to the website.

ACTIVITY CHAIR REPORTS: (only reported if present or if provided in some manner prior to the mtg)

Sea Kayaking Committee: Vern reported that there would be no roll class this year due to lack of interest, but that basic sea kayaking classes would be taught in the spring (May). He has listed a number of sea kayak trips in December.

Hiking Committee: Christine reported that subsequent to her hiker’s survey she can count 14 active hike leaders and two more close to completing their requirements for that badge (one needs one more mentored hike and the other needs to take the navigation course. There are also 9 backpacking leaders.

She also reported that the hiking committee can support the navigation field trip in February, but there does not appear to be sufficient support for a branch winter or summer lodge weekend. There was continued support for the monthly hikers meetings. Introductions to Hiking classes will again be taught in the spring.

Painting Committee: Dave reported that there has been no recent activity and he noted that he is not inclined to conduct any courses so long as branch money is being assigned erroneously to the headquarters’ use

Trail Running Committee: Mark reported that 3 trail runs have already been scheduled with the first one coming up this weekend. He still would like to get an exception to the two “free” Mountaineers trips but will wait to see how many participants he garners for the first three runs before asking again for such relief.

Photography Committee: Jeff reported that the branch currently does not have a photography committee since Jon DeArmans left after the one year he agreed to serve. Jon nominated Josh Bone as his successor but Josh does not appear to be interested in serving as chair since he has not returned Jeff’s email query.

Climbing Committee: Jeff reported that he had been at the first climbing committee meeting chaired by the new climbing committee chair, Linda Anderson-Carnahan. Everyone seems really energized to move into the new year with the new leadership and the Basic Climbing, Intermediate Climbing, and Scrambling Courses have already been posted on the Mountaineers website.

Snowshoeing and Winter Travel: Jeff saw Doug just before this meeting and he reported that he had two classes scheduled for this coming weekend at Fire Station 56 with about three new members.

Conservation and Education Committee: Jeff mentioned that Rick had had another successful Salmon Safari season and that he had wrapped up his last class today since Jeff had been to the cabin after it was over. Mark asked for and got committee approval to remove the very outdated Salmon Safari information from the Kitsap webpage.

OLD BUSINESS

Updated Version of the Branch Bylaws: Jeff wanted it recorded in the minutes that the updated bylaws were approved by voice vote at the Annual General Membership meeting on October 22nd. He wanted to record that vote in this month’s minutes since no minutes were recorded at the AGM.

Update or Managing Committee Activities: Jeff intended to discuss two issues but the activity relative to the errors in the branch allocation of shared services funding was fully discussed when Dianne gave her Treasurer’s report (see above). The other issue of note is the Branch Relations Subcommittee of the Managing Committee which will interview 48 members of the branches, the Board of Directors, and the staff in an effort to determine why relations between these “constituencies” are so strained. Of our branch, Jeff, Christine, Mark, and Mike have been nominated to be interviewed and all have consented to participate. Interviews are to be scheduled in December or early January and a report, with recommendations for improvement is planned for March to be presented to the Board of Directors. While the subcommittee is a part of the Managing Committee, the MC has not met in several months although all the branch chiefs are eager to get back to work with the new chair, Leah Schultz.

NEW BUSINESS

Acceptance of Service Award Nominations: Jeff reminded everyone that traditionally each branch is asked for a name for the branch Service Award awarder in January of each year to be presented at the annual Volunteers Appreciation Dinner which is usually held in the early part of February. Since our new bylaws only require us to hold a face to face meeting once a quarter, the EXCOM members will have to vote electronically in December to have an awardee by January. Coming into the EXCOM, Dave Burton had been nominated. Jeff also nominated Mike Raymond and sent reminders to all EXCOM members to send in their vote by December 10th.

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 MOFA Update: Jeff noted that Linda was planning a MOFA class with a certified instructor around February 27 and 28th. While this class was primarily intended to complete climbing class requirements, Jeff intended to contact Linda to see if (a) she could expand the class to include non-climbers as well and (b) to see if the course would be listed on the Mountaineers website.

Discussion of a January Hiking Summit: Christine reported that she had received a notice for a possible Hiking Summit to be held on January 10th. This summit is intended to share hiking information across branches. More to follow on time and place.

Last call for Recommended Improvements to the Website: Jeff reported that he, and maybe Mark, was planning to attend a website focus group meeting in Tacoma on December 3rd to discuss issues and concerns about the website with the developers of the software. He already had a number of inputs from Mark, Christine, and Vern and asked if there were any more. Additional inputs were provided by the group.

Discussion of subsequent meeting location/excess property: Jeff asked if the group felt strongly about continuing meetings at the Bremerton Bar and Grill. No one did and Sue noted that Fire Station 56 is actually closer for her and Dianne. For those who want to eat early FS56 does allow food to be brought in. Dianne asked that we still start at 5:30 so that she can attend and still catch a ferry at a reasonable time.

Jeff also told the group that he had received some blankets, ponchos, and assorted arts and crafts stuff that Katha had used for a Youth Camp that the branch used to run. He also had several caps, T-shirts, and vests with Mountaineers logos in very large or small sizes left over from a long ago sale of such items. As it was unlikely that the branch would ever conduct another Youth Camp and because the remaining logo items were such outlying sizes, he recommended that we give all those items to Goodwill or a church group. The group agreed that giving to a church would be more beneficial as Goodwill sells their items and a church would ensure that the items go to the neediest people.

Closing Remarks: Based upon the consensus on meeting place as well as month, Jeff would try to schedule the use of Fire Station 56 for our next meeting on March 19, 2015. Tom Thrasher correctly reminded everyone that our updated bylaws allowed any significant items before that time to be addressed via email.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.