Kitsap Branch Mountaineers Branch Leadership Committee Meeting - Nov. 19

Attendance: Christine, Susan, Jeff, Vern, Dave, Mark, Linda.

September 2015 Branch Leadership Committee meeting minutes were approved.

Branch Financial Status (Sept. '15 data): There are a number of expenses not yet paid; however the Branch carried over $1300 to the new fiscal year.  $1800 of course revenues from new fiscal year seem to have been captured on the previous year's “books”.  Probably in the red as of Oct as a result.

New Reimbursement Form in use.  See Volunteer - Leader Resources - Financial Forms on the Mountaineers website.  Need to supply name, what was purchased when and why (be specific) and where to send the check.

Expenses are becoming more important for the Branch.  Need budget requirements for the year (by May 1, need to submit FY17 budget - e.g. cabin use, printing costs).  The Mountaineers are changing its budget process.  Hold off on purchasing satellite phones this year but, if we need them, be sure they are listed as an expense in the budget to be assembled in May.

Navy Winter Expo: Special discount ($48) for active duty military members.  See Pacific Navy Northwest for discount for Mountaineers membership.  Jeff will also talk to the Army and Air Force (JBLM).

Vern noted that Board policy requires membership for equivalency.  Charlie had a question on membership requirements in order to get equivalency.  Participation on two trips without Mountaineers membership does not apply to those activities requiring successful completion of a course or equivalency.  In some cases we want to attract nonmembers (e.g. nonmember participation reduces the cost of pool play).  Benefits of membership and liability must be considered. (A subsequent review of Board policies was unable to support Vern’s assertion).

Branch Leaders felt strongly that the Mountaineers Headquarters should not dictate course fee structures.  It benefits leaders across the activity to discuss similarities and differences in fees, what is taught, etc.  Overhead runs at about 40% and should be covered.  Payment for all activities and courses is now via the website is preferred.  Checks are still accepted but it creates more work at both the branch and headquarters levels.

Climbing: signing up instructors for basic mountaineering field trips and classes (24 students have applied).  At least three new intermediate climbing students.  Phil will be leading the scrambles course (to date, no one has signed up).  January 30 Climbing Summit in Seattle to discuss the independent assessment of the basic climbing program.

Sea Kayaking: Vern is offering a course in advanced kayak navigation on Nov. 21, a wind and waves clinic on 11/22 (free), as well as a class on carving a greenland paddle and how to use it.  Charlie will be moving over to the Tacoma Branch and will no longer be helping the Kitsap Branch with teaching kayaking.

Naturalist: There will be a mushroom talk and hike for 12 people.  The Branch would like to have a full naturalist course like Seattle's (lecture then weekend field trips by phylum, including a beach component).

Hikers: Doug Terry is leading a winter camping/winter travel/snowshoe light course.  Christine will lead some snowshoe trips and Jerry Logan will help her.  Need to list these on the website and the meetup site.  This is a Mountaineers class.

Dec. 2 from 7-8:30 there will be a Public Works Meeting to discuss the closure of the highway for culvert replacement (could impact trailhead access).

Hiker Summit: will be held again in February to gather all the Branches to discuss standards for hiking and backpacking.  Tools are available on the website to help manage activities (e.g. a person's history).  Bill McCoy is becoming a hike leader.  Hiking minimum standards will be reviewed.  Kistsap has more requirements than other Branches for hiking.

Trail Running: Mark is getting calls from other Branches.  Tacoma has started a program.

A box at the bottom of the activity form can be checked to to alert the participant of any changes.

Tom Thrasher is the Branch Safety Officer.  Linda will attend a Dec. 8 meeting in Tacoma to discuss a report on a 2014 fatality on a Global Adventures trip.

Salmon Safaris are youth events (with funding subsidized by the Club).  Becca is taking over financial management.

Nominations for the Branch Annual Service Award: Greg Theiss, John Mackey,

Volunteer Recognition: ideas include paid courses (e.g. AIARE Level 1 certification).

Jeff mentioned the option of using some of the Branch's endowment to help the Players replace their bathrooms.  No decision was made.

Those in attendance selected the third Thursday in March as the date for the next EXCOM meeting.