Kitsap Mountaineers Executive Committee
January 28, 2021 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Debbee Lynn, Branch Chair; Gretchen Ta, Branch Vice-Chair; Bill Bandrowski, Treasurer; Christine Grenier, Secretary; Jerry Logan, Board of Directors; Tom Finley, Member At-Large; and Eric Lee, Member At-Large.

Also present: Ralph Wessels, Chase Gruszewski, Climbing; Mark Goodro, Mike Harlow, Intermediate Climbing; Suzy Diesen, Scrambling; Tina Marie Fox, Jordan Knott, Navigation (also Intermediate Climbing); Barney Bernhard, Kayaking; Jeff McKay, Hiking & Backpacking; Dave Johansen, Photography.

The following Board Member was absent: Ciara Sampaio, Member At-Large.

Meeting was convened at 6:30 PM via Zoom with Introductions followed by Break-Out Rooms to discuss challenges, celebrations and intentions for the new year.

New Business
A motion to approve the Kitsap Branch By-Laws (as presented) was made by Tina; and seconded by Christine. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion about the status of activity charters which was continued to the next meeting.

Status of Activity Summits
Chase and Mark announced that the Climbing Summit is planned for March with standards to be reviewed. Branch involvement at these summits has improved over recent years.

Tina announced that she’s not attended a Navigation Summit; and Gretchen has not yet attended a First Aid Summit so this will be new territory.

Barney announced that the Sea Kayaking Summit is planned for next Saturday.

Christine and Jeff attended the Hiking & Backpacking Summit a few weeks ago; and there are ongoing discussions about standard revisions.

Executive Committee and Recruiting New Chairs

Debbee reminded everyone that we are looking ahead to 2022, and now is the time to indicate if you are leaving a position to allow time to recruit for replacements. She also mentioned that we can expect this for the Vice-Chair position.

Gear Donations

Debbee welcomed boots and backpack donations to be donated to Coffee Oasis for youth outreach. She added that due to the pandemic, Forest Theater programs are on-hold but Adventure Camp appears to be in progress due to increasing group size for Mountaineers activities.

Reports

Board Rep – Jerry reported that despite the pandemic, the club is doing quite well financially due to the Annual Gala and ongoing donations. The Gala will be virtual again in April 2021 with a date to be determined. The club is also near to reaching a resolution on the lawsuit with KETA Legacy Foundation. He also welcomed volunteers for the Board and that includes duties like fundraising and wellness calls for senior members.

Treasurer – Bill indicated that we are operating with a modest budget during the pandemic. He discussed the monthly lease for the building; purchasing new gear like ropes; reimbursing leads for permits; and improving course attendance as vaccinations become more prevalent.

Secretary – Christine indicated that the Meet Up subscription automatically renews. A decision on whether to continue or cancel will be deferred to the next meeting, which will be ahead of the next renewal period.

Gear Officer – Tom announced that the Avalanche Beacons (for the Climbing Program) will either need new software or need to be completely replaced in the next few years; and that these higher priced items will need to planned in the budget. The Inreach Subscription will need to be reinstated when the program returns.

Jerry and Gretchen commented that new ropes (up to 20m) will be added to the inventory; and that spreading out the rope purchases will help in budgeting. There is a rope log to indicate each use and to note any abnormal conditions.

Tom reported that there is an official library at the program center and books may be checked out.

The entire gear inventory is available for viewing on Base Camp.

Climbing & Scrambling – Chase stated that there may be a need for a dedicated rock lead for the Basic Climbing Course. Jerry reported that the Rescue Methods portion of the Intermediate Climbing Course has been completed with a recent trip to Mt Ellinor for snow anchors. Mark was excited to keep the courses and trips moving despite the pandemic. Eric discussed the possibility of refreshing Basic Graduates in March. Suzy announced that there is 1 graduate for Scrambling and while there is a Basic Climbing Course listed for this year, there are no plans on how to proceed.

Hiking & Backpacking – Jeff and Christine attended a recent Summit; and there is ongoing discussion on updating the standards to include guidance for youth backpacking, urban adventures as an activity, and to update trip difficulty ratings.

First Aid – Gretchen was pleased that group size is increasing which means more trips. First Aid has been changed to online modules with an in-person workshop but in small groups. Scenarios are being waived this year and there may be some flexibility (extension) in renewing due to the pandemic.

Kayaking – Barney indicated that there are a lot of paddle trips right now and a possible course in the works for late summer or early fall of this year. After the summit next weekend, he’ll be moving towards addressing equivalencies for leaders and practice/training trips. There is also a new Hood Canal Kayak Series Badge.

Navigation – Jordan and Tina are transitioning into their roles; and are looking at permits but no dates set yet. Tina is also volunteering with Tacoma Branch which will help provide a comparison in how to run courses.

**General Discussion**

Suzy announced that EdgeWorks in Tacoma has re-opened. Gretchen added that Insight in Bremerton has also opened. Bill and Jerry confirmed that Island Rock Gym on Bainbridge Island is open by appointment only.

Bill reported on a recent trip to Olympic Hot Springs.

Eric suggested Miller Peninsula as a possible location for trips or training.

There was a brief discussion about what group activities would be allowed. Jerry clarified that 500 square feet/person is currently required so indoor socials or classes would not be encouraged. Ralp suggested Silverdale Waterfront Park; Gretchen suggested Green Mountain; and Christine suggested Buck Lake (Hansville Greenway).

Christine announced that the next “State of the Mountaineers” will be on Thursday, February 25 at 6:00 PM on Zoom; and the next ExComm Meeting is scheduled on Thursday, March 25 at 6:30 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM.