

ISSUE
02
Winter
2021

Quarterly
Newsletter
for the Mt
Baker Rim
Community

Baker Bits



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Baker Bits welcomes suggestions and ideas for improvement! Members are encouraged to contribute ideas and content for upcoming issues.

Do you have a neighbor to suggest for the next "Meet Our Rim Neighbors" feature? Do you have ideas on historical events that you think members would find interesting? Any books, recipes or other suggestions that you'd like to share?

Email your ideas, suggestions and stories to sheri.hargus@mtbakerrim.com.



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Hello Baker Bits Readers

Happy 2021 Rim members! Welcome to the second edition of Baker Bits, our quarterly newsletter. I received a lot of positive feedback about the first edition which was great to get. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to those of you who found the time to read it and especially to those of you who followed up with an email offering your words of encouragement and suggestions.

Although we were not able to gather in the clubhouse to celebrate the winter holidays, there was still lots of activity in the Rim and it was great to see many small groups walking our roads and residents enjoying time up on the slopes.

A lot of us are hopeful that things will be opened up again in the summer but it is still too early to forecast dates and predict a timeline.

We had a few board changes in December and you can read more about new board directors on the next page.

Let's hope that spring brings renewal and with it an opening of the border so that our Canadian neighbors can join us again in our beautiful, peaceful slice of the North Cascades. We miss you!

This newsletter will be distributed on a quarterly basis. If dates are announced, they may have changed after the date of distribution. For the latest updates, go to our website at www.mtbakerrim.com which is updated on a regular basis thanks to our capable and talented bookkeeper and office helper, Laura Meyer, who does a fantastic job of keeping it current.

COVID News & Updates

The Mt Baker Rim Community is adhering to Whatcom County rules governing the Covid-19 pandemic. At this time that means that our clubhouse, pool and office are closed and restrictions on social gatherings are in effect. Please continue to follow important guidelines for mask wearing and other social interactions. We are now a full year into this pandemic and everyone knows the public health consequences that we see when rules are not followed. Our goal is to protect the overall happiness, health and well-being of all members of our community.

MBR Board Updates

Board meetings are held monthly, usually at 7pm on the third Friday of the month (but it can change depending on availability of the directors). Until pandemic restrictions allow in-person meetings, they are being held virtually. If you are interested in attending, please email memberrelations@mtbakerrim.com for the invite.

mtbakerrim.com

Check out the MBR website for the following:

The "Emergency Response" tab- contains useful resource links for preparing for wildfires.

"Local Resources" under the "For Owners" tab contains a contact list of vendors and contractors who provide services in the Rim.

Email office@mtbakerrim.com if you have resources to add or other suggestions.

Online Payments

[Click here if you'd like to pay for annual dues, dumpster charges, gate cards and fines.](#)

Meet our new interim Board Directors!

We lost two valuable board members at the end of 2020 due to increased demands on their time from other higher priority commitments. We would like to recognize and thank Peter Hauser and Rosalind Hauser for the dedication that they gave to the Board and are comforted knowing they remain engaged friends and neighbors. The good news is that two members have volunteered to take over the vacant positions on an interim basis until the next AGM. Here are short intros from our new directors:

Ben Williamson – Property Standards

I have been living in Glacier for 10+ years. I went to WWU and moved here shortly after graduating. I work year-round at Mt Baker Ski Area where I am the Patrol Operations Director in the winter and in the summer I operate heavy equipment and run a wide variety of projects. I have been an EMT for 12 years and I am a first responder both at Mt Baker Ski Area and for the Glacier Volunteer Fire Department. In my time off in the winter I enjoy skiing, snowboarding and snowmobiling in the hills surrounding Glacier. In the summer months I ride mountain bikes, kayak and grow a family garden in Maple Falls. I grew up on a tree farm so have extensive tree removal experience and I understand all steps of developing a property. I have volunteered to be on the board to help protect everyone's investments as well as preserve the feel of this neighborhood. We are all neighbors and I hope that we can all remember to respect each other and lend a helping hand when needed.



Steve Pand – Legal & Insurance

I am a lifelong resident of Washington and have been at the Rim since 2005. I received my BA from the University of Washington and my JD from Seattle University. I have practiced law for over 30 years with a primary focus on Construction Contracts, Defects/Defaults Bonding and Insurance. I have had previous experience serving on the City of Covington Washington's Economic Development Council and currently serve on the City's Parks and Recreation Commission. In my spare time, I volunteer for World Children's Organization helping orphan and at-risk children obtain an education. I am married and have two children. As a family, we have spent years hiking, skiing, snowboarding and enjoying the outdoors.



Current MBRCC Board

President, Lisa Beliveau | president@mtbakerrim.com

Property Standards, Ben Williamson | standards@mtbakerrim.com

Secretary, David Hill | secretary@mtbakerrim.com

Treasurer, Chris Park | treasurer@mtbakerrim.com

Violations & VP | **Rheannon Shoephoester** | violations@mtbakerrim.com

Grounds & Maintenance (interim), Rip Robbins | grounds@mtbakerrim.com

Member Relations (interim), Sheri Hargus | memberrelations@mtbakerrim.com

Legal & Insurance (interim), Steve Pand | legal@mtbakerrim.com

Director At-Large, Joshua Lozman | directoratlarge@mtbakerrim.com

Rim News & Reminders



MBR Store

We are in the process of setting up an online store that will provide MBR branded items for members to purchase. Even when you can't be here, you'll be able to wear a hat or t-shirt to remind you of the Rim. Not to mention the solution this will provide to the situations when you need to come up with a gift idea for the friend who has everything except a MBR coffee mug!

Coming soon – MBR Membership Portal

The membership portal will go live in March. The development of it has been completed and we are currently doing a soft launch with a small number of members to work out any kinks before rolling it out to all members.

What to expect:

1. Your portal account name will be the primary email that we have on file.
2. We will be sending out an email to all members to let you know that a portal invite will soon be coming. We will be asking you at that time to confirm the primary email address that we have on file for you.
3. Portal invitations will be emailed to all members with instructions on how to log into your portal account and set up your password and other account details.
4. With your portal account active, you will have secure access to your info.

Membership Dues and Pandemic Impact

Some members have asked about whether there was a savings in Rim operational costs as a result of the clubhouse and pool being closed last year and whether member dues would be reduced as a result. Here is the answer to that question...

There have been some savings with respect to COVID's impact on MBR's operations but those savings have been offset in other areas where costs have exceeded the budget.

We saved on the pool heating but not the pool chemicals or the clubhouse heating. We also were overbudget on recycling. The most impactful areas where we are running larger surpluses than expected are higher rental fees, skipping a year of road maintenance (to double up next year) and savings from salaries for the office manager position and summer help we did not need to hire in 2020.

When we present the budget this year in 2021, this higher-than-expected 2020 surplus will be transferred to the capital reserve. We have large projects coming due such as installing a new pool deck, floor in the clubhouse, clubhouse roof, etc. In the last couple years, the actual operational surplus has been lower than expected meaning our capital reserve has decreased. As we don't generally adjust dues for years when our operational costs are higher-than-expected, we likewise don't usually adjust the dues because of unexpected surpluses.

Dog Owners – rules reminders

Members are required to know and follow all MBRCC rules and are responsible for making sure that their guests and tenants also abide by them.

Most of our dog-owning members are aware of the rules that relate to dogs and abide by them fully. Recently, though, there have been more frequent cases of off-leash dogs and poop piles. Our dog-related rules are strictly enforced and important for all members to follow as they help to ensure that all members can remain dog lovers regardless of whether they are dog owners or not!

- All poop must be picked up and properly disposed of in appropriate trash can, or garbage compactor. Fines: \$50 (1st) up to maximum (\$700)
- All dogs must be on leash when off owner's private property. Fines: \$100 (1st) up to maximum (\$700)
- All dogs must be controlled by owners and not threaten others. Fines: \$100 (1st) up to maximum (\$700). An attacking or biting incident results in an immediate maximum fine (\$700).
- Incessant barking is not permitted. Fines: \$100 (1st) up to maximum (\$700)

Thanks for supporting the rules and regulations of our community! The full list of [rules](#) and [fines](#) are found on our website.

Rim in Winter

Useful Numbers

Glacier Fire Dept:
360-599-2447

Glacier Water District:
360-599-2558

Glacier Post Office:
360-599-3208

Glacier Ranger Station:
360-599-2714

Whatcom Sheriff
360-676-6911

Whatcom Health Dept
360-676-6724

Whatcom Burn Ban Info:
360-676-6934

Whatcom Planning & Dev
360-778-5900

Animal Control:
360-733-2080

Emergency #s

PSE 24 hr emergency line:
1 (888) 225-5773

Dept of Transportation:
1-800-695-7623

Emergency Mgmt hotline
360-738-4551

Whatcom County
Emergency Response
360-676-6681
www.co.whatcom.wa.us/dem/

Local radio stations for
emergency broadcasts:
KGMI – AM 790 (the EAS,
Emergency Alert System)

KISM – FM 92.9
KPUG – AM 1170

January Windstorm

On January 12th a powerful windstorm hit our corner of Washington with rains and strong gusts of wind (up to 70mph were reported in some areas of Whatcom county). We lost power at the Rim for three days because power lines brought down by falling trees were hard for PSE to reach. To exacerbate PSE's slowness to respond, there were over 200,000 customers without power in the region and over 15,000 of them were in Whatcom county – the Rim had to get in line.

Although it is not uncommon for trees to fall at the Rim, this storm resulted in more than the usual number of hits and near misses. After a storm, our caretakers do visual drive-by checks of homes to look for damage. If damage is observed, owners are contacted using the information that is on file for them. But caretakers aren't responsible for thorough damage assessments. Ultimately it is the responsibility of each owner to find out if any damage has happened to their property. If you are not at the Rim often then establish ties with other neighbors who are at the Rim more frequently and ask them to be your "eyes". Most of our Canadian neighbors have had to rely on such support during the past year and have found it essential.

Winter Driving

Slow down & increase distance behind other vehicles
Plan your route and avoid back roads
Check your tires – legal tread depth in WA is at least 2/32nd of an inch.
Keep wiper blades in good condition
Use wiper fluid rated for freezing temps
Don't rely on AWD or 4WD.

Reminder: the most valuable safety feature behind the vehicle is yourself.

Propane 101

Many of our homes at the Rim have propane tanks. Propane (also called LPG - liquefied petroleum gas or LP gas) is a liquid fuel stored under pressure and is vaporized to a gas before it leaves the tank. Propane tanks do not often develop leaks but it is good to know what to do if one is suspected.

A leak is commonly suspected when an unpleasant, rotten-egg odor is detected. This smell comes from a harmless chemical called mercaptan which is intentionally added to gas for the purpose of detecting it. Sometimes the smell may have dissipated due to rust inside the tank. It is also possible that people on certain medications or the elderly may not be able to smell propane as well as others. Another cause for concern would be if your tank seems to have visible damage after a storm. The soapy water test (best to google for instructions) can be used to test for a leak but note that it is not necessary to confirm that you have a leak – even if you only suspect a leak, these are the recommended steps:

1. Immediately put out all smoking materials and other open flames. Do not operate lights or cell phones in vicinity. Flames or sparks can trigger an explosion or fire.
2. Shut off the tank valve by turning it to the right (clockwise).
3. Leave the area immediately.
4. Report the suspected leak to your propane supplier. If you cannot reach your supplier, call 911 or your local fire department.



Nature's Neighbors

Salmonberry

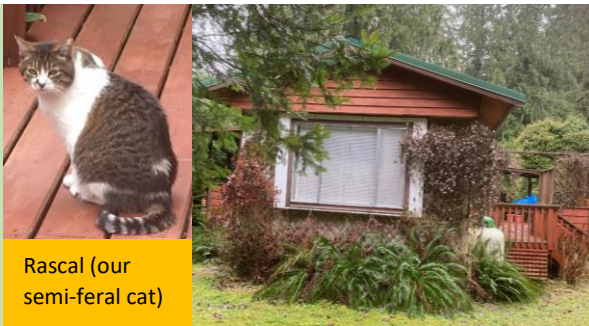
Like its better-known cousins, the raspberry and the blackberry, salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*) is a member of the rose family. It is endemic to the Pacific Northwest and can be found in moist to wet forests from sea-level to mountain passes. It is not cultivated, so its berries must be locally gathered.

The shrub produces a fruit that is similar to the raspberry and is orange-red in coloring. The flowers are pink to magenta and arrive in spring with the berries maturing in mid-June to July.

The mature berries are sweet, soft and watery and savored by people as well as forest animals. Its green shoots and leaves are also eaten by deer and its flowers are a source of nectar for hummingbirds and bees.

Salmonberry has been a part of the PNW indigenous peoples' diet for thousands of years. Local lore attributes the name of the plant to the fact that the berries were often mixed with salmon roe by native people.

Salmonberry also has medicinal properties. It can be consumed as a tea to treat diarrhea or dysentery. As an astringent, a poultice of leaves and bark can be used for dressing burns and open sores.



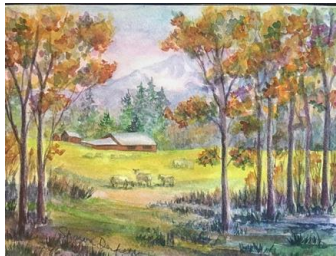
Rascal (our semi-feral cat)

Rim Neighbor Sharon Danhelka 1986

My husband and I became members at MBR in 1986, the year of EXPO in Vancouver. At that time the Rim was mostly small cabins, empty lots and big trees. We installed a mobile home which had been sitting empty on a farm and it needed a lot of hard work to make it cozy and livable. We love it as much now as we did then, and always look forward to going down there. There have been a lot of changes in thirty-two years. There was only one tennis court and it was so popular that they had to post a daily sign up. We were there before the big flood and we witnessed homes being washed away at the bottom of Shuksan and Glacier Rim Drive. There also used to be numerous feral cats who were hungry. With assistance from an excellent organization called WE SNIP, they were given veterinary care and we returned them to health.

I have lived in Canada all my life. My father's paternal family immigrated from Ireland during the potato famine in 1842 and his mother's family emigrated from England. My mother's parents immigrated from Galicia, Austria (Ukraine now) in the 1890s. Eventually all families ended up in Edmonton where I was born along with my three siblings. I met my husband there in 1969 after the Russians invaded his homeland of Czechoslovakia. We eventually moved to Vancouver and got married over 45 years ago.

Like many people, I love to travel. I've spent a lot of time in Europe and even worked in Germany and London. I love the Swiss Alps and particularly love Italy - it's an artist's paradise. I went to Shanghai and Beijing while our son was working there. Walking the Great Wall was the most incredible experience imaginable.



Art is my passion. From the time I was very young I have loved art and I started painting seriously when I was still in my teens. I had wonderful inspiration from my favorite aunt who taught painting for years. She was the greatest influence in my life. I started painting with her when I was 16 but stopped at the age of 20 when I went to Europe for a year with a girlfriend. We worked in London and Germany and hitch-hiked for a year.

I enjoy working in watercolors, oils and pastels. I prefer pastel for portraits because you can capture lifelike skin and hair and fur. I prefer oils for larger painting and for when I want to create texture as in mountains and trees. I always save watercolors for travel and working on location. I also love to work in charcoal, pen and ink and pencil. Some of my favorite subjects are Mt. Baker, Shuksan and Picture Lake, seascapes, street scenes and pets and people.



For Canadians, the pandemic has been difficult as it has been for everyone. Being retired, our lives haven't changed that much. I continue to go for long walks, sometimes with friends, and bike rides on the seawall. I have read lots of good books and spent time puttering on my beautiful garden deck. But I have missed my friends, going to movies and live theater. Once the pandemic restrictions are lifted, I look forward to seeing our dear son and his lovely wife and precious baby daughter (born a year ago on Feb 1st) more than anything. I look forward to not having to wear a mask every time I step outside, to meeting friends, being able to hug people and to seeing lots of people smiling again.



Nature's Neighbors

Pileated Woodpecker

This crow-sized bird is the most common large woodpecker in the United States. It is non-migratory and is common in wooded habitats of western WA.

It mainly eats insects, especially carpenter ants and wood-boring beetle larvae. It nests in cavities, nearly always in the trunks and branches of trees. The cavity is abandoned once the brood is raised.

Drumming is a distinctive woodpecker sound and results from the bird rapidly tapping (20-30 taps/second!) on a resonant object such as a hollow tree. Since woodpeckers do not have a unique song, drumming is essential for communication, used to attract a mate and establish territory.

The pileated woodpecker has a life span of approximately ten years. The cavities that it excavates provide good homes in future years for forest songbirds and a variety of other animals.



Rim Neighbors Julie and Steve Guay 2004

(As told by Julie)

Steve and I purchased our cabin in 2004. We purchased it from the family that had it built. Our son was just 10 years old at the time. There were a number of unfinished areas to the cabin that we finished. We added a fireplace insert to the rock fireplace. We remodeled one bathroom and updated all appliances and fixtures. We replaced the roof, added a storage shed, updated the front door and upstairs deck doors, and regularly stain the log wood exterior. We had a contractor add a large picture window to the dining room which really opened up the room and added a lot of light. We do still need to add a live edge fireplace mantel.

Steve is from Montana and I grew up in the greater Seattle area. We were both skiers in our younger years, although less so now. Our son is now 26. He grew up snowboarding at Mt. Baker, and loves to spend time at the cabin as well. We always have our 85lb German Shepard/Lab mix with us, and he does enjoy a good walk.

We live in Bellingham and visit our cabin often. We find it to be a very relaxing getaway when broader travel is not in the cards. We really use our place to get away with friends or family, and obviously the ski hill is the main attraction.

There are so many things to like about the Rim. We love the pool, the river, easy to walk trails, and the fact the roads are so well maintained by Rim staff in the snow. We appreciate that the Rim is gated. We have great neighbors and a few friends that also own in the Rim community. We really appreciate that we have very friendly full-time residents as our neighbors.

Steve golfs and I have a number of hobbies that include making jewelry, scrapbooking, and volunteering on non-profit boards. We both work full time and love to travel. So far, Steve and I have traveled to 29 countries and most states and have enjoyed about seven multi-week cruises – most were taken with friends. A few of our top favorite countries to visit were Croatia, Barcelona, Costa Rica, Netherlands, Switzerland, Russia, and Australia. The world has so much to offer, and we have many more places on the bucket list to visit.

During 2020 pandemic restrictions, we were both able to work from home for a third of the year. We did get a bit stir crazy, along with the rest of the world, having to be home so much, and did have to cancel a couple of travel plans including an Alaskan Cruise.

But staying safe is the number one priority for all and we will look forward to making plans to be out and about with family and friends when it is again safe to do so.

Nature's Neighbors

Hoary Marmot

The marmot is a large rodent closely related to ground squirrels and prairie dogs. The species most commonly encountered on North Cascades mountain slopes is the hoary marmot. These marmots live at high elevations above timberline in the sub-alpine and alpine zones. They are often observed on W to SW talus slopes, sunning and standing sentinel on large rocks.

They excavate burrows in moist soil around and under boulders. They hibernate in these burrows for 8-9 months starting in late September. Their natural predators include eagles, wolves and bears. To protect themselves, they look up often while feeding and are in tune with the warning calls of chipmunks and pikas. The word "hoary" refers to the silver-gray fur on their shoulders and upper back.



Hoary marmots eat a wide variety of leaves, flowers, seeds and grasses with the occasional insect. Hoary marmots drink water daily from snow, pools of standing water and from morning dew and the vegetation they eat.



Rim Neighbors Kim & Chad Epple 2018

(As told by Kim)

Our family joined the Rim in 2018. We had been looking for a home in the area and our wonderful real estate agent, Maryanne, knew of this home that that was soon going to be listed. It had been remodeled down to the studs but the owners were looking to sell. We were able to see it before it was even listed and snagged it up – it was a great fit for us.

My husband's name is Chad, and we have two kids, our daughter Reese who is 12 and our son Baer who is 10, nearly 11. I grew up in Moses Lake, WA and my husband grew up in eastern Colorado, so being in Western Washington is quite a change. We don't have any pets, mostly because we love to travel quite a bit so a pet doesn't fit for us right now.

Chad and I are both insurance brokers and even when we were going to the office, it was still nice to see each other during the day! We recently did an ancestry.com test, and I am mostly Chinese and Malaysian, and he largely English, Scottish and Swedish, so we are both learning more about our heritage- those tests are really eye opening!

We live in Woodinville, WA and come to the Rim on our weekends and breaks. There are many things we like about the Rim. We have enjoyed meeting neighbors, using the pool and pickle ball courts, the amazing views of the mountains, and the proximity to the mountains. It's only a two-hour drive from our house to the Rim, and with Covid's impact we rarely hit traffic, which has been so nice to avoid. We love to ski and hike, and enjoy the pool, so we are hoping the pool opens this year!

We love to travel to experience new cultures and dream about retiring someday. Chad was in the army and all over the world but one of the best places we have traveled together as a family is the Cook Islands because of the snorkeling and lack of crowds- they say it's like Hawaii was 50 years ago. We have also enjoyed Germany at Christmas and a resort in Nicaragua named Rancho Santana. These trips have all been incredible and life-changing experiences for our family. We also like to try new restaurants wherever we go and we like the variety of foods here in Washington.

We have been working from home and having remote learning since March 2020. Due to being home so much, I also recently got a Cricut machine, so I'm learning how to use that and make fun (for me) crafts with my daughter.

Organized sports for our kids have mostly been shut down, so Covid has forced us to come up with different activities in and out of the house. We have done smaller trips to keep our sanity while spending 24/7 together. As an example, we went to Yellowstone this summer and since it was very empty, we went twice and also got to mountain bike at Big Sky. However, the pandemic has really freed up our evenings and we don't miss the rushing - we have enjoyed not having to rush home, rush to practices get through homework and somehow fit dinner in between it all!

Nature's Neighbors

Cascades Frog

The Cascades frog, as its name implies, can be found throughout the Cascade Mountains. It is green to brown in color with a yellowish throat and belly. The frogs can be found in lakes, rivers, temporary ponds and marshes and usually above 2000 ft. elevation. Cascades frogs lay their eggs May 20 through July 10, depending on when the snow melts and creates ponds in which the eggs are laid. First, egg masses are deposited in comparatively warm water along gradually sloping shorelines, often over soft substrates protected from severe wave action. Females can only breed once a year, but whether they skip years remains unknown. A female frog lays about 400 eggs at a time, but very few tadpoles will live past their first year. The eggs hatch in 10-20 days. The average lifespan is 5-7 years.



For some Northwest tribes, the Frog totem symbolizes a powerful communicator and often represents the common ground or voice of the people.

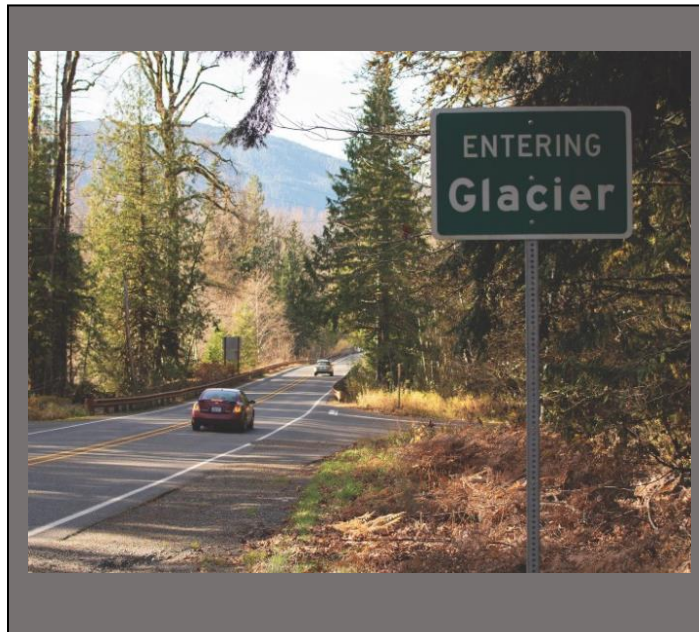


Rim Neighbors Roy & Wanda Graham 1994 (1989)

(As told by Roy)

Wanda and I were first introduced to the Rim back in 1989-90 by our neighbors who owned a lot there with a 60X14 trailer. We visited and loved the environment and amenities and the smell of the fresh air. As they were approaching retirement and were not using the trailer as much as before, they asked us to take advantage of the site...and we did....most week-ends. Finally, they offered to sell it to us in 1994 and we gladly accepted and 1400 sq feet of space.....enough to accommodate our growing family (including grandkids). We love it!

Wanda is a teacher (now retired) and my background is Automotive Dealer Management....so the opportunity to get away each weekend was a blessing for our sanity. At that time, we had a wonderful dog named Bailey who loved the walks in the forest areas...and we went places we really should not have...alone. However, we made it through and spent a lot of time at the water enjoying the changes in the level and the salmon runs. We were there for the great flood (1990) that washed away the lower section of the Rim and happened to be there one day after a home was flipped over and washed away. Incredible force! After enjoying the property almost every weekend, I was encouraged to run for the Board.....and remained on the board in various positions until they forced me to be the President. Wow, so many interesting stories to tell! We are so very lucky to have such a wonderful place with so many great and caring members.



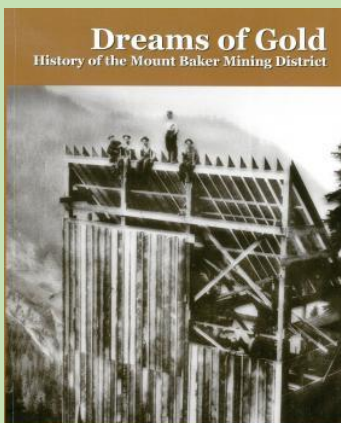
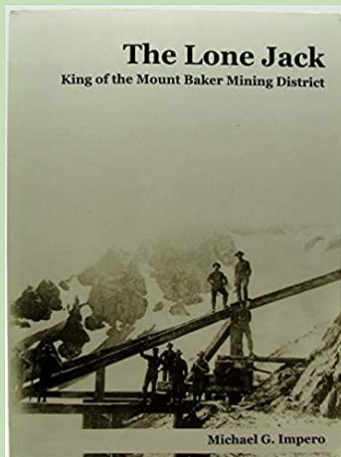
Since March of 2020, we have not been able to cross the border, as the pandemic has closed the border. Fortunately, we have great neighbors, as the Mark and Jennie Ablondi family have taken care of the property and removed all the food in the home to use in the local foodbank. Jennie feeds our feral cats, Bobby cuts the grass and Mark snowboards! We are so blessed to have the Ablondi family looking after our home. Thank you!

The virus is not as bad in BC as you are experiencing in Washington, but we are isolating, wearing masks and staying apart from friends and family. We expect this to go on until everyone has received the vaccine. Sounds like Fall 2021.

We hope this notice finds you all well and safe and thank you for being such a wonderful community. We so look forward to being there, our little peace of heaven.

Michael Impero Books

Michael Impero is a longtime Bellingham resident with a deep interest in the history of the North Nooksack River Valley. He retired from ownership of a successful construction company and began a second career as a local historian. He has two books detailing the history of the Mt Baker Gold Rush. His first book, "The Lone Jack" and second, "Dreams of Gold", both contain a wealth of historical data pulled from original sources such as newspapers, old photos, court records, assay reports, court records, claim files and original maps.



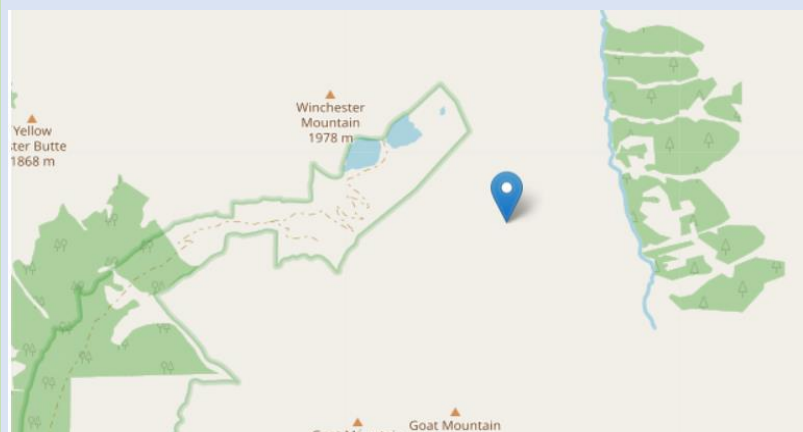
Mt Baker Gold Rush 1897-1920

In 1897 gold was discovered at the site of what became Lone Jack Mine. Directly south of Winchester Mountain, on Bear Mountain, a trio of miners found an exposed vein of quartz containing gold-bearing ore. The miners made claims and soon sold to the Mount Baker Mining Company. Other mines were also staked in the area, creating a mining district of twelve mines including the Boundary Red Mountain Mine, Gargett Mine, Gold Basin Mine, Silver Tip Mine, and the Evergreen Mine.

News of gold on Bear Mountain ignited the Mount Baker Gold Rush and prospectors flooded to the area. Mining towns such as Gold City and Gold Hill sprung up quickly. Structures such as a mill, bunkhouse, general offices and hydroelectric equipment were erected. The early development of the North Fork of the Nooksack River Valley can be attributed to this gold rush.

The Lone Jack and Boundary Red mines were two that prospered for many years. The Lone Jack Mine is primarily a gold and silver mine still operated intermittently today during summer months.

The mine is a private inholding within the Mount Baker National Forest. Since the mine claims were made before the Wilderness Act, they are allowed to exist and operate today. The Twin Lakes road leading to the mine is actually a county mine-to-market road with The Forest Service maintaining the first 4.5 miles, and the final section of the road is maintained by the miners.



Lone Jack Mine Trail

From the Yellow Aster Butte trailhead hike or 4WD the road two miles to Twin Lakes. About a half mile past the lakes, the trail turns off to the right. Look for a small sign notifying you that you are departing National Forest and the trail starts to the right of it. The trails meanders for about a mile and then switchbacks down to the mine site. Access is usually gated since the mine is still worked. There is an old cabin near the road below where the miners used to rest up before another day of digging.



Reading Recommendations

Lynden resident author, Jo Dereske, has written twelve mysteries featuring Helma Zukas, a librarian in the fictional city of Bellehaven (which I'm guessing is a cross between Bellingham and Fairhaven). The third book is loosely based on our annual Ski to Sea Race. In the tenth book, a snowstorm brings the city of Bellehaven to its knees. If you enjoy mysteries and books, you might want to check the series. The books in order are:

1. Miss Zukas and the Library Murders
2. Miss Zukas and the Island Murders
3. Miss Zukas and the Stroke of Death
4. Miss Zukas and the Raven's Dance
5. Out of Circulation
6. Final Notice
7. Miss Zukas in Death's Shadow
8. Miss Zukas Shelves the Evidence
9. Bookmarked to Die
10. Catalogue of Death
11. Index to Murder
12. Farewell, Miss Zukas



Indoor Activities

Here are some suggestions for nourishing the body and mind after coming inside from outdoor winter activities.

Creamy Hot Chocolate- ready in 7 minutes

- ½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- ¾ cup white sugar
- 1 pinch salt
- ½ cup boiling water
- 3 ½ cups milk
- ¾ teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ cup half-and-half cream

Directions

Combine the cocoa, sugar and pinch of salt in a saucepan. Blend in the boiling water. Bring this mixture to an easy boil while you stir. Simmer and stir for about 2 minutes. Watch that it doesn't scorch. Stir in 3 1/2 cups of milk and heat until very hot, but do not boil! Remove from heat and add vanilla. Divide between 4 mugs. Add the cream to the mugs of cocoa to cool it to drinking temperature.

Après Ski French Toast – ready in 15 minutes

A freshly squeezed or high calcium orange juice to get that extra boost, and

- 4 slices multigrain bread
- 2 eggs
- ¾ cup milk
- 1 teaspoon orange juice
- 2 teaspoons grated orange zest
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon white sugar
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ tablespoon ground nutmeg
- 2 teaspoons butter
- Maple syrup and/or powdered sugar for topping

Directions

Place bread in a flat-bottomed dish. Whisk together the eggs, milk, orange juice, orange zest, vanilla, sugar, salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg in a mixing bowl. Pour egg mixture over bread, and refrigerate until bread absorbs the liquid, about 10 minutes.

Melt butter in a large non-stick skillet over medium heat. Place bread into skillet. Cook until golden, about 3 minutes per side. Top with pure maple syrup and/or powdered sugar when serving

Wingspan

This aesthetically gorgeous strategy board game has beautiful, well-designed components that make it all the more fun to play. It has gameplay that is relatively easy to learn and a typical game takes about an hour to play. Up to five players compete to build the most impressive nature preserve, hoarding and relinquishing tiny eggs and food tokens as turns are taken. It includes 170 illustrated cards depicting North American birds. Cards contain myriad facts about the species, so the more you play the game, the more you learn about birds – it's educational but don't tell your kids!

