

ISSUE
01
FALL
2020

Quarterly
Newsletter
for the Mt
Baker Rim
Community

Baker Bits

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Tex Devenport

This newsletter is a work-in-progress and open to continuous 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.



Welcome "back" to Baker Bits

Hello Rim members! Welcome back to the Mt. Baker Rim Community Club newsletter, Baker Bits. The newsletter has been on hiatus for a few years and the Board thought it would be a great idea to bring it back. We've been through a summer without the shared enjoyment of our pool and clubhouse and we need new ways to feel connected to our friends and neighbors here at the Rim. Covid-required social distancing can make us feel isolated and disconnected from our neighbors. The goal of this newsletter is to keep our sense of community alive and

encourage a spirit of sharing and common purpose. Let's take time to learn about our interesting, talented neighbors, their diverse backgrounds and the ways in which we can support one another.

This year we won't be able to gather in the clubhouse for winter holiday activities but we can still show our holiday cheer - extra lights, decorations, smiles and waves go a long way! And lastly....to our Canadian neighbors - we miss you! It's not been the same without you and we want you to know that we look forward to seeing you back at the Rim in 2021!

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, Laura Meyer, who does a fantastic job of keeping it current.

COVID News & Updates

At the time of this newsletter (Nov 2020) Whatcom County is in Phase 2 which means that social gatherings shouldn't exceed five people from outside a household. Everyone is anxious to get back to group activities but MBRCC reminds members that it is important to continue to follow the county guidelines.

The clubhouse and office remain closed and will likely need to stay that way through the remainder of the year. Members will be notified when status changes.

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

Our bookkeeper, Laura Meyer, does a great job of keeping our website updated and relevant. Check out 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 laura.meyer@mtbakerrim.com if you have resources to add.

Online Payments

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

November Events

- **Nov 7: Hazardous tree assessment day.** An ISA-certified arborist will be at the Rim to evaluate trees. This is being organized on a quarterly basis so that participating members can share the cost. If you wish to have trees assessed, contact Tex via email at caretaker@mtbakerrim.com and include your Rim address
- **Nov Chipper day(s).** The board is arranging for a wood chipper and skilled operator to be on site for one or two weekdays in mid-November (website will post actual dates when known). Members will pay a small amount (likely \$20/truckload) to have yard debris chipped. Wood must not be more than 4" in diameter and it must not include nails or lumber. Contact Tex via email at caretaker@mtbakerrim.com for more info.

Recent Progress

- Use of ElectionBuddy was very helpful in coordinating the AGM. The board plans to further use this tool in the future to solicit membership feedback.
- Assessments for wildfire risk from the DNR were done for MBRCC-owned properties. In addition, the board set up a process for members to request assessments on their own.
- Effort is underway to find the best option for providing fast internet to the Rim. There are three possible options under consideration – stay tuned for more info.
- Research into a vendor to implement a members-only portal has identified an excellent option. The board has received a competitive and comprehensive quote from this vendor and is proceeding with a contract and timeframe for implementation.
- Computer and camera replaced at the clubhouse.



As the weather turns colder, the use of a portable outdoor "fire pit" can help to extend our time outdoors. Fire pit usage in the Rim is subject to county regulations including burn bans. Fire pits are usually wood burning and constructed of steel, concrete, clay or other noncombustible materials. They should be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and should not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material. For a full set of rules go to the [County Fire Marshal web page](#).

Rules & Regulations - 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. The board would love to spend their time on improvements to the community rather than dealing with regulation-breaking fines. Below is a list of common violations to help serve as a reminder to everyone to avoid them.

- Failure to submit a renter form or failure to fill the form out accurately.
- Renters using community club facilities.
- Renting property without waiting a full year after purchasing it.
- Disposal of items in the garbage area that are not considered standard household garbage. Such items include furniture, appliances, rugs, yard debris, etc.
- Burning waste without a permit and/or leaving a burn pile unattended.
- Breaking or running the entry gate.
- Not acquiring board approval for cutting down any trees over 9" in diameter.
- Not acquiring board approval for construction activity.
- Not keeping dogs on a leash when off an owner's property.
- Incessant barking or aggressive behavior from an owner's dog(s).
- Burning during a burn ban.
- Generating excessive noise.

A full list of all the rules and the fine schedule are published on our website. Thanks to everyone for supporting the rules and regulations of our community!

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



Out & About

Bald Eagles

In December and January, bald eagles arrive along the Nooksack in the hundreds to feast on the winter run of returning chum salmon.

Although normal human events centered around the homecoming such as river tours will likely not occur, the pandemic won't stop the eagles from arriving. Venturing out on your own to observe them is easy to do.

One good spot is on Mosquito Lake Road at the Welcome Bridge. Another area, two miles west, is the Deming Homestead Eagle Park on Truck Road. Both spots have small parking areas.

Mt Baker Ski Area Operations

The ski area plans to open on Nov 26th (snow permitting) with the following Covid-response policies in place. Policies and plans are subject to change so consult their website for the latest information.

- Season passes are available now (purchase on website)
- Reservation days – there may be a few days during the season when an online reservation is required. See website for how reservations will work.
- There will be reduced capacity for Instruction and online reservations will be required for daily lessons.
- 6-foot distancing protocols will be in place in all facilities including chairlifts and lift lines.
- Masks will be required.
- Indoor seating in the lodges will be at 70% reduced capacity.
- Menus will feature more grab&go items and outdoor seating areas will be increased.



Winter is coming

Getting your home prepared for wind & ice and snow:

- Prevent water issues by insulating water pipes, especially those that border an exterior wall. They can easily be insulated with a towel or other piece of cloth. If expecting extreme cold, you may want to allow water to drip slowly into an indoor sink which can prevent the water lines from freezing.
- If you have a generator, test that it is working as expected and stock up on fresh fuel.
- Make sure you have one or more good snow shovels and keep paths well shoveled during snow falls.
- Confirm that your supply of candles & matches, flashlights with batteries and power blocks is in a handy & easily assessable spot.

Power outages:

Our most common winter-storm emergency at the Rim is the loss of electricity. Go to the Puget Sound Energy website to sign up for updates which can arrive via text and/or email. The power outage map is also available on the PSE website.

Getting supplies ready:

It is recommended that households be prepared to survive on their own for three days. The following are the minimum items recommended for a 72-hour kit:

- One gallon of water per person per day.
- Adequate non-perishable food for three days.
- Prescription medications and first aid kit.
- Battery-powered radio (& extra batteries).
- Spare reading glasses and/or contact lens supplies.
- Personal hygiene items, extra clothing and warm blankets for bedding.

Reminder: during emergencies the police, fire, and medical personnel are very busy. Only dial "911" if you need emergency medical, fire or law enforcement assistance.

Nature's Neighbors

Big Leaf Maple

The yellow-golden canopy of big leaf maple leaves is a certain sign of autumn here at the Rim, creating a carpet of big, earthy leaves everywhere. The big leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) is native to western North America and grows mostly near the Pacific coast. It has the largest leaves of any maple and commonly grows to a height of 50-65 feet. The greenish-yellow flowers start to show up when the tree is about 10 years. The seeds are born on double "wings" and dispersed by the wind. The seeds provide food for squirrels, chipmunks, mice, and birds. Elk and deer also like to nibble on the saplings.

Native Americans had many uses for the tree. They made a fiber from the inner bark to make ropes and baskets. The large leaves were used for storing food and also burned in steaming pots to add flavor to food.

Tuberculosis was sometimes treated with an infusion made from the bark of the tree. A sticky gum can be obtained from the buds in the spring, mixed with oil and applied to the hair as a tonic to promote healthy growth.



Meet Marlee and Clark Huber. They have had their cabin on Picket Lane for 14 years. Their permanent home is in Everett, WA. Clark is an electrical engineer at Fluke Corporation and Marlee coaches creativity. Marlee is an avid photographer and is often sighted toting her camera as she walks the Rim roads. The pictures here are some that Marlee has taken around the Rim and surrounding areas.



Meet Our Rim Neighbors

Marlee and Clark Huber

Photographing the beauty around us

In Marlee's words:

We have two married daughters (and two wonderful sons-in-law) and three grandchildren.

Our family loves to hang around our cabin and read, do puzzles, and watch cave man TV (our wood stove). The grandchildren love to do chalk art on our cul de sac. Pie iron breakfasts out by our campfire are a favorite. You are welcome to drop by for lessons on cooking with pie irons if you like.

We ski, hike, get our hair cut at the Hairstream, and enjoy pumpkin donuts from the Wake'n Bakery. We love our Canadian neighbors and miss them so much. The cul de sac feels pretty empty right now.



Favorite hikes include Lake Ann and Skyline Divide. We have discovered the Maple Falls hike and the Whatcom Land Trust hike out to the beaver dams. In September we hiked up Wells Creek to get photos of the falls. It is a hike not for the faint of heart and was quite the achievement for us!+



Nature's Neighbors

Owls

In the trees around us, there are a number of different owl species making their homes. The northern pygmy owl and the barred owl are the most likely to be seen or heard. Less common are the great horned, the western screech, the spotted and the northern saw-whet. The great horned owl is easily identified by its large ear tufts. The barred owl is distinguished by its dark eyes, lack of ear-tufts and a barring pattern on the neck, breast and belly. The barred owl is a recent arrival to Washington. The spotted owl is closely related to the barred but is slightly smaller and has a combination of spots and bars. The call of the barred owl is the classic one often referenced: hoo-hoo-hoo, hoo, hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo-a-aw. In words: "who-cooks-for-you, who-cooks-for-you-a-all".



Susan and Dace Campbell started building their new home across from the clubhouse in the spring – you've probably noticed it!

Baker Bits reached out to them to find out more about their family and their backgrounds...

Tell us about your family.

We are family of five, with three energetic boys: Arlan (8th grade), Corban (6th grade), and Declan (3rd grade). Susan leads user experience research at Warner Media and Dace is a licensed architect and the Director of Product Management in Construction at McKinstry. We enjoy whitewater rafting, hiking, and camping in the summer, and skiing, snowboarding, and snowshoeing in the winter. We're also on Year 13 of a 5-year remodel project of our mid-century home in Shoreline, Washington.

What do you love about the Rim?

Back in 2006 (before kids!), we searched far and wide for a property with a mountain view, near a river, where we could build a ski cabin. In that search, we found the Rim and fell in love with the community and amenities. We bought property on Glacier Rim Drive with a peek-a-boo view of the Mt. Baker summit. Life got in the way of our immediate plans to build but we found time to design (and redesign) the cabin that we're finally building today.

What were your priorities in building your cabin?

First and foremost, we wanted to capture the view of Mt. Baker, and the design places the cabin to take best advantage of that. Because the view is narrowly slotted between trees, the cabin is tall and narrow with a lot of front windows. We also like the look of cedar log cabins, so we chose a "modern log look" with laminated cedar timber walls that interlock. The lower level will be clad with metal siding to withstand wet snow, so the combination led us to design a "rustic modern" style reminiscent of a ski lodge.

Any advice on building?

Don't build during a global pandemic! Okay, seriously, the best advice we could offer is to dream big, be willing to compromise to meet your budget, and do your research. The county and the Rim both have plenty of documents and construction guidance on their web sites and it helps to know what to expect before you start. For example, the neighborhood requires its own construction permit in addition to the county. Take the time to get multiple bids and do thoughtful interviews with homebuilders. Supporting local businesses is important to us, and we were fortunate to find a local builder who uses local labor and subcontractors.

We're really looking forward to spending more quality time at the Rim, getting to know our new neighbors as soon as the cabin is complete in 2021.

Meet Our Rim Neighbors

The Campbells Building their long-awaited MBR cabin



Nature's Neighbors

Salmon

The Nooksack River is one of the few remaining river systems in our state that supports populations of all five species of Pacific salmon, as well as steelhead, bull trout, and cutthroat trout.

Outside the Rim, Glacier Creek road crosses Thompson Creek (a Nooksack tributary). This is often a good spot for viewing fish.

Species to be seen include coho salmon, pink salmon (only in odd years, such as 2019), steelhead and sea-run cutthroat trout. Spawning activity of any of the above listed species might be viewed. The time of year for viewing: Oct-January for coho; September of odd years for pinks; May-June for steelhead and sea-run cutthroat trout.



Coho salmon

Pink salmon



Born in Seattle, Sally Hewitt moved steadily north to Bellingham and then headed east to Glacier to be close to Mt. Baker, where she taught skiing in the 1980s. She's lived in Mt. Baker Rim since 2004 and worked part-time in the Rim office from 2005-2010. When the MBR Board needed to fill a vacated Secretary position, she stepped in.

After obtaining degrees in English literature from the UW and fine arts (painting) from WWU, Sally spent many years hiking and backcountry skiing in the North Cascades, Tetons, and Sierras, and finally settled down to writing poetry and music here in Glacier. She also edits a small newspaper and a literary journal, so there aren't many free minutes in a day.

Sally prefers our mild winters and doesn't enjoy winters of lingering snow.



Meet Our Rim Neighbors

Sally Hewitt

Artist, writer, poet,
singer, dog-lover & 16
year resident



Above: Mt. Baker from
Chowder Ridge

Right: Chowder Ridge



During this time of Covid-19, her heart has been warmed by the offers of help from neighbors to pick up groceries and other items. She's grateful for this community, for Tex the caretaker, his assistant Ken, people in the office, and neighbors. And, she especially appreciates the delicious homemade food a neighbor often delivers to her doorstep.

For Sally, living in MBR is akin to staying at a writer's retreat — she loves the hum of Glacier Creek filling her office; loves the otherwise absolute quiet here; the cinnamon scent of soil, cedars, and firs in her backyard; and the camaraderie (from afar during Covid) of longtime friends here.



History Blast



The Coleman Party



Mount Baker, also known as Koma Kulshan, is a 10,781 active volcano with eleven named glaciers. The Coleman glacier, named after Edmund, is the largest of the eleven with a surface area of over 1200 acres. It is located on the west slopes of Mt. Baker and still provides the most popular climbing route to the summit.

1868 First Ascent and Edmund Coleman

The Coleman party summited Mt. Baker over 150 years ago on August 17th, 1868. The party consisted of Edmund Coleman, an English climber, three local white settlers and two Lummi guides. One of the men was John Tennant, the first non-native settler on the Nooksack River and from whose riverside cabin the party started their expedition on August 7th. They took canoes from present-day Deming as far as they could upriver, about 15 miles. After leaving their canoes, they entered into fir and hemlock forest, scrambling over and under fallen trees, down steep ravines and over high rough rocks. Their tents were canvas and their food was basic fare consisting almost exclusively of bread, bacon and tea. It was an exhausting slog as evidenced by the names they gave their overnight campsites - "Camp Fatigue" and "Camp Doubtful." They finally entered an open basin at 5175 feet with nearby snowfields and where they camped for two days while they searched for a route upwards, naming the site "Camp Hope. On August 16th, after ascending to their last camp, John Tennant recorded the following in his journal:

"Went out on the snow a good long way and took a good look at the glaciers, moraines & all the different kinds of stones... short ptarmigan & a small furry animal about the size of a rat with the shape & motions of a rabbit."

On August 17th at 5am, they roped up without their Lummi guides and starting their climb up to a vast snow field, taking off their packs and heading up a ridge for the final ascent. Once they summited, they stayed on top for an hour and planted a small American flag along with a copper plate which recorded their names.

Their descent took much less time. On August 20th, they were back at their canoes and John Tennant was purportedly back at his homestead picking peaches the next day. Meanwhile, Coleman continued to sea-level and the small settlement of Sehome where he telegraphed to the world his news of the first successful summit attempt.

(Source: Historylink.org)

Mt Baker Ski Area Snowfall Decade Records (inches)

1970-71	1,063
1981-82	819
1998-99	1,140* (world record)
2005-06	805
2016-17	866

January 13, 1950

Between January 1st and February 3rd 1950, Whatcom County experienced a month-long freeze unlike any seen since. Seventeen of the 35 current record low temperatures in Bellingham were set during this time, including three of the all-time record low temperatures. Snowfall was measured in feet and winds were on par with Category 1 hurricanes at times. Even the Nooksack River froze in some parts.

During this arctic stretch, January 13, 1950, is singled out as the worst winter day in Western Washington history with hurricane force winds mixing with single digit temperatures. It is on record as the coldest overall day in Bellingham history and also holds Seattle's second largest one day snow record with almost two feet of snow recorded (only the 1919 blizzard had more).

Reading Recommendations

- *Impressions of the North Cascades*. John C. Miles. Essays discussing the North Cascades landscape – what it has been in the past, what it is today, and what it could become in the future.
- *The Living*. Annie Dillard. NY Times best-selling novel by Pulitzer prize winning author.
- *Koma Kulshan: The Story of Mt. Baker*. John C. Miles. The story of the “our mountain” and firsthand tales from people who knew it.
- *Valley of the Spirits: The Upper Skagit Indians of Western Washington*. June McCormick Collins. The first in-depth description of the upriver Skagit people.



Indoor Ideas

As winter brings shorter daylight hours and more outdoor cold, here are some ideas for feeding your body and brain from the comfort and warmth of your cozy Rim home.

30 Minute Borscht

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 medium beets, peeled and diced (1/2 inch)
- 2 medium carrots, peeled and diced (1/2 inch)
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 4 cups vegetable broth (or beef for non-vegans)
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 2 cups finely chopped cabbage
- 1 medium russet potato, peeled and diced (1/2 inch)
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 1/2 tablespoons lemon juice
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Sour cream (for vegans, use yogurt or vegan sour cream)
- Chopped fresh chives and/or parsley, for garnish

Cooking Directions

1. Add olive oil to a large pot and heat on stove top. When the oil is hot, add the beets, carrot and onions. Sauté until the veggies start to soften, about 10 minutes. Add the garlic and sauté another minute.
2. Stir in the broth, tomato paste, cabbage, and potato. Bring to a boil and then lower to simmer uncovered until the veggies are tender, 15-20 minutes. More broth or water can be added if desired for
3. Remove the pot from heat and stir in the lemon juice. Add salt and pepper to taste.
4. Ladle into bowls, top with sour cream and garnish.

Board Games

Exploding Kittens (a card-based game for ages 7+ & 2-5 players) It's easy to learn and fun for the whole family. Similar to Russian Roulette in gameplay, players draw cards until someone gets an Exploding Kitten. If you make it through without exploding, you're the winner.

Unstable Unicorns (ages 14+ & 2-8 players) A funny and creative game of strategy with the competitive goal of being the first player to collect seven unicorns.

Candyland (ages 3+ & 2-4 players) the 65th edition of this classic beginner game has new packaging that evokes the original design aesthetics. No reading is required so this a great game to introduce young family members to the shared joy of playing board games.

Last Run

Introducing Sheri Hargus, your “new” newsletter editor...

Hi Members, I thought I should give you a little background on me. My immediate family consists of myself, my husband Brian and four adult kids – the oldest lives in Seattle, two live in California and the youngest is returning from a couple years of living in Yongshuo, China in December. We bought our cabin 22 years ago and the kids grew up learning to ski at Baker (they all took advantage of the 5th graders ski free pass – does that still exist?) and their love of hiking, climbing and mountain sports was born in the North Cascades.

Brian and I have a house in Seattle in which we have lived for 32 years. My grandparents immigrated from Holland and settled in Lynden and I still have a large extended cousin group in the Bellingham area. My father left Lynden at the age of 16, eventually becoming a ship captain in the merchant marine which took our family all over the world. I was born in Seattle but raised in Hawaii until high school and then lived overseas in Africa and Australia before returning to Seattle in 1973. I attended the UW and have a BS in Electrical Engineering and a MS in Computer Science. I’ve mostly lived in Seattle as an adult but also lived in Colorado, Oregon, China and Hawaii (where I returned for a year in 2014 to work on a year-long software project).

My professional career has always been in technology-related jobs. For the last six years I have worked for the City of Seattle IT Department as a technical project manager and a strategic advisor. Prior to my current job, I mostly worked for tech startups, one of which merged with Adobe after 10 years and another one which blazed a trail in making Nancy Drew computer games. Since most city workers now work virtually, I’ve enjoyed being able to work from the Rim since June (once I finally got Zply to install DSL) - one of the very few silver linings to the pandemic.

Speaking of Covid, the seriousness of the virus became very real to me in May when my mother and father (age 92 and 93) both caught it. It hit them hard but luckily both recovered. Take it from me that this can be a scary virus and the lockdown restrictions are necessary until we have a vaccine.

In addition to doing the newsletter, I’m also the interim Member Relations director. I look forward to 2021 when we will hopefully be able to return to normal activities and gather together for MBRCC events! Until then, stay thankful for friendly neighbors and community.

Our MBRCC Board

President, Lisa Beliveau | president@mtbakerrim.com

Property Standards, Peter Hauser | standards@mtbakerrim.com

Secretary, David Hill | secretary@mtbakerrim.com

Treasurer, Chris Park | treasurer@mtbakerrim.com

Violations, Rheannon Shoephoester | violations@mtbakerrim.com

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

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

Legal & Insurance, Rosalind Hauser | legal@mtbakerrim.com

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

Director changes made at Oct board meeting: Roy Massie and Angela Griffin needed to step away from their board positions. As a result, Rip Robbins and Sheri Hargus are filling in as interim director in their place. Rip is handling Grounds & Maintenance and Sheri took over Member Relations from Rosalind who graciously agreed to handle Legal & Insurance.



Newsletter Suggestions?

If you have ideas for the newsletter, I would love to hear them. Please don’t hesitate to contact me, the editor, at sheri.hargus@mtbakerrim.com

Credits

Photos: Marlee Huber, Brian Hargus

References: HistoryLink, audubon.org, Bellingham Herald