

W I N T E R I N T O S P R I N G



Baker Bits

FEBRUARY | MARCH | APRIL 2018

Official quarterly newsletter for Mt. Baker Rim Community Club.

Created and produced by office staff and approved by the Board Secretary

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HELLO, GROUNDHOG DAY

It's Groundhog Day this February 2nd, a time-old tradition observed in both the U.S. and Canada.

Whether overcast or sunny this Friday morning in Pennsylvania, the prediction of a late or early spring here in the Pacific NW isn't very relevant, but the cultural history is interesting.

Interesting fact: Did you know that Groundhog Day marks the middle-point between the winter

solstice and March equinox, known as a "Quarter Day?"

Coincidentally, the new target publish dates for

future editions of Baker Bits each land on one of these Quarter Day astronomic seasonal midpoints. This timing makes for a nice assortment of newsletter-worthy

topics. In this edition, we'll share highlights from the recent past, relevant news for the present, and important dates in not-so-distant future. Enjoy!



Next Board Meeting

Friday, Feb. 16, 2018
7:00 PM @ the Clubhouse



You can now make your payments to Mt. Baker Rim online on our website using PayPal's secure and trusted payment platform. No PayPal account needed.

<https://mtbakerrim.com/pay-online>

Mt. Baker Legendary Banked Slalom

In a week from now on the weekend of February 9th-11th, Glacier, WA will be the most coveted destination in the snowboarding industry. The Mt. Baker Legendary Banked Slalom, or just LBS, is as much a reunion for the who's who of snowboarding as the race itself. In all its grass-roots modesty, LBS remains one of the most prestigious events in the industry.

BIGGEST LITTLE SNOWBOARD RACE IN THE WEST

Most folks in Glacier are aware of the famous snowboard race held each year at Mt. Baker Ski Area every February, but did you know that Mt. Baker was the very first ski resort to host a race specifically for snowboarders? Touted as the



longest-running contest in snowboarding, Mt. Baker Legendary Banked Slalom (LBS) has remained true to its humble beginning in 1985.

Snowboarding picked up in popularity in the early 1980's but it took a while for other ski resorts to

warm up to the new sport. In 1985, only seven percent of ski areas in the U.S., and similarly Europe as well, allowed snowboarding. In fact, three resorts in the U.S. still do not allow snowboards on their slopes today.



This year the event will be held the weekend of February 9, 10, & 11, ending with the award ceremony and famous salmon BBQ on Sunday after the race. You find more information on Mt. Baker Ski Area's LBS website at: <http://lbs.mtbaker.us>. There you will find past race results, photos, and names of the local Glacier and Whatcom County residents who qualified for the race this year. Many folks wonder if they can go up to the ski area and watch the race if they do not ski or snowboard. Unfortunately, the race is held in an area only accessible by chair lifts, meaning you must be on skis or a board to get watch the live action.



CONGRATULATIONS, IAN & TARA KAPLAN

A wedding took place at the clubhouse on January 18th. The couple said their vows and enjoyed a meal by local caterer Paella Works with about 60 close friends and family. These were the first nuptials to take place in the clubhouse for many years. Congratulations, and here's to many years of happiness and laughter from all of us at the Rim.

The storm that almost stole New Year's Eve

The last few days of December were a doozy for many Whatcom County residents. Friday, December 29th at approximately 9 PM, the Glacier area endured yet another power and phone outage lasting 30 hours or so (slightly longer for some, some of which in the Rim). Saturday, the eve of New Year's Eve, came and went, and still no electric or phone service, which means no Internet, either. For many vacationers, late Saturday afternoon marked decision-time for finalizing plans for New Year's Eve celebrations. The Mt. Baker Rim office served as an unofficial outpost of the Glacier grapevine for news or updates as to when the power might be restored. It was great to meet many long-time and newer members who stopped by, and a testament of how MBR members embody the true spirit and definition of what community really means.

Fortunately, power was restored in the wee hours on December 31st (for most, some had to wait until afternoon, including some in the Rim), and everything was up and running in time to celebrate with lights, heat, and everything else needed to ring in the New Year.



Temperatures dropped to record lows in the northern parts of the county and areas like Sumas and Lynden suffered major damages to power and utility poles as a result of the ice storm. In some areas, multiple poles were toppled in an awesome display of Mother Nature's power.

When the lights go out...

POWER OUTAGES, EMERGENCIES, AND WHAT-NOT

GOOD TO KNOW!

Power outages in Glacier rarely affect the ski area.

Mt. Baker Ski Area generates all of its own power and there is cellular service up there, too. As long as the roads are open, you don't need to worry about your snow day being ruined if you wake up to a dark cabin in Glacier. In fact, it may be the best possible way to wait out the outage. Even if you do not ski or snowboard, a drive up to either lodge for the phenomenal cascade views and some warm food and drinks is a wonderful alternative to playing board games by flashlight in the cold.

EMERGENCY PHONE LOCATED IN GLACIER



The Glacier emergency phone is mounted on the Glacier Fire Station exterior door. Calls to 9-1-1 can be placed when you witness an accident or medical emergency and do not have access to a phone. This phone is for emergency use only.

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION WHEN PHONE LINES ARE DOWN IN GLACIER

It can be frustrating not knowing what is going on when we experience power failure in Glacier.

What?! That never happens –hah ha ha.

If your phone lines are down as well, your best and closest option is to go over to Chair 9. Generator-ready, and almost always open, you will no doubt meet somebody who has heard

information on the current situation. For cellular and Wi-Fi service, Maple Falls is the closest town to find those connections. The Visitor's Center in Maple Falls, (Mt. Baker Hwy and Silver Lake Road) the Kendall Library (Mt. Baker Hwy at Kendall Hwy roundabout) or The Northfork Brewery (Mt. Baker Hwy mile 20) are great places to get online and get in touch with Puget Sound Energy about your situation.

2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Mark your calendars! The date has been set for the 2018 Mt. Baker Rim Annual General Meeting (AGM) this summer.

June 9, 2018 at 1:00 PM in the clubhouse

This is a great time to meet your neighbors, voice your compliments or concerns, and vote on issues that affect everyone in the Rim. Last year, owners and staff enjoyed getting to know each other over lunch from the El Agave Mexican Restaurant food truck. Volunteers are needed to help run the meeting smoothly. If you would like to help, please contact the MBR office and let us know.

2017 Holiday Events Recap

One Heck of a New Year's Eve

In one of those “what the heck?” moments, Dawn and Jim Chaplin arrived at their vacation home in MBR on Dec. 30 to find their power and phone out. That was the night Dawn, who is Member Relations Director and chair of the Social Committee, had planned on preparing part of the MBR New Year's Eve dinner. Their propane-powered stovetop worked, but not their oven, which needs electrical power to start. A neighbor loaned them a generator, which gave Dawn enough light to cut up vegetables for the NYE meal, and to cook some items.

Although the power mostly came back on the morning of December 31, it was still out in sections of MBR, including the oven in the clubhouse.

Dawn had no choice but to cook the baron of beef in their oven at home. Plans were touch and go that

day, preparing for the party. Would people still show up or would they assume the NYE festivities had been cancelled? Dawn and Jim persevered, working diligently to get food ready for the dinner at the clubhouse.

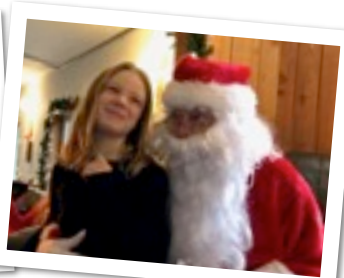
Despite these inconveniences, Dawn put on a delicious spread for the NYE party. Jim delivered the baron of beef to the clubhouse just in time for dinner to begin. Attendees raved about the delicious meal. While members socialized and enjoyed the evening, people still without power traipsed in and out of the clubhouse for showers. Dawn worked extremely hard under trying conditions to make sure a good time was had by all — revelers happily danced and partied until after the year spilled over into 2018.

Happy New Year to all!

Santa visits Mt. Baker Rim *Fans go wild!*

Santa Clause, or sometimes sneaking around under the alias *Kris Kringle*, was spotted stopping in to use the Wi-Fi in the Mt. Baker Rim clubhouse on December 16th. Luckily, Santa always has an endless supply of candy canes on hand because there was a large group of little people that saw him that day and his visit was even caught on film.





Thank you, Grannie Gooch!

Grannie Gooch, grandmother to one of our young residents Savannah Gooch, has been donating her hugs, time and art supplies to host a children's cookie-decorating get-together in the Rim for many years. December 16, 2017 was Grannie's last time to host the event, and both Santa Claus and the Rim families will miss her dearly! Grannie would bake batches and batches of delicious, perfect sugar cookies for the

event. She whipped up a selection of frosting colors and brought truckloads of sprinkles and toppings along with holiday art projects, goodie bags for each child, and even supplies to decorate the box used to take cookies home. It was a fun-filled afternoon and Santa could never resist stopping in to check on Glacier's kiddos. There was much talk of continuing this event in more of a B.Y.O.C. (bring your own cookies) style next year. This attendee hopes we still call it the Grannie Gooch cookie party and that Grannie will make appearances (instead of doing all the hard work) just like Santa. Thank you, Grannie.

-Angela Urso, Mt. Baker Rim Office Manager



2018 Social Events Calendar

All events take place in the Mt. Baker Rim Clubhouse unless otherwise specified

Feb. 10th Karaoke

7 PM, B.Y.O.B. & snacks

Mar. 17th St. Patrick's Day Dance

8 PM, B.Y.O.B. & snacks

Mar. 19th Karaoke

7 PM, B.Y.O.B. & snacks

Mar. 31st Easter Egg Hunt

3 PM, everyone welcome!
Gate will be open during event

May 5th

Cinco de Mayo Pot Luck

6 PM, B.Y.O.B.

Apr. 21st

Karaoke

7 PM, B.Y.O.B. & snacks

Jun. 9th

AGM

1 PM

Jun. 30th

Summer Carnival & BBQ

Time TBD

TRASH TALK



Seems there is still lots of trash talk out there about our disposal capacities and costs.

Recent issues with a power outage did lead to a very bad accumulation of garbage on a very busy holiday weekend.

Unfortunately, no one at MBRCC can force PSE to fix a power outage here because it is inconvenient for our trash compactor. Power outages are fairly common here, and it is an inconvenience we have to deal with.

To clear up some misconceptions, I have put together some facts that may help everyone appreciate our disposal area and related costs.

GARBAGE AREA AND RELATED COSTS

Garbage disposal is paid for by the pound plus transportation charges. Normal household waste that goes into our compactor costs each dues-paying lot in MBRCC \$2.65 per month. In addition to that cost is the labor that we pay to our staff tasked with cleaning up after some inconsiderate members and guests. If you pay for curbside service at another home, you will see this is a bargain. For the members who still do not believe that the compactor is saving any money, I offer these facts:

- When we had the old dumpsters they were used to dispose of all sorts of items that should never have been dumped in them, furniture, building materials and lots of other items that were not supposed to be put in but were on a regular basis.
- In 2014, our last full year of using the dumpster, our garbage cost \$19,792.73. In 2015, we had a dumpster for part of the year and the compactor for the last half of the year, and our costs dropped to \$15,548.83, a savings of \$4,244.00.

- For 2016 and 2017, our cost has been almost equal at \$13,821.00 and \$13,947.00. That is a reduction of \$5,909.00 each year, or a savings of 29.85% annually. The compactor has nearly paid for itself in less than 3 years.
- Electricity costs have remained consistent for the last 3 years, so the added electrical usage has not been a factor. Fact: Our electrical costs were \$1,000.00 higher in 2013 before we got the compactor.

RECYCLING

Recycling is paid for by VOLUME, not weight. Without going and weighing each bin, it is not possible to answer this question. Does it cost more to recycle than to just throw it in the trash? My guess is that it **DOES** cost more to recycle than if it all just went into the trash, but that is not who we are, and paying for these items to be recycled is the right thing to do, even if it costs more. If we agree that it is the right thing to do, then please consider the right thing only costs each dues-paying lot less than \$1.00 per month. Compared to in-town pick up, that is again a bargain. Our costs would be even less if members would crush cans and plastic bottles, flatten all boxes, and most important **DO NOT** put trash bags stuffed with recycle in the bins (this takes up more volume than if they are put in separately). Our staff spends time and your money emptying these bags to maximize our capacity.

If we all can remember to follow the rules about what we dispose of, separate out our flattened corrugated cardboard and mixed paper, crush our cans and plastic bottles, and **NEVER** leave unwanted items in the compactor area for the staff to deal with, we could save even more money.

-Ed Keller, Board Treasurer

meet the MBRCC staff

Caretakers



Aaron

If there's one staff member to know, it's our head Caretaker Aaron Ebner. General Manager would be an equally fitting title. Aaron took the over the helm from Allison, former Caretaker of 12 years, with some mighty large shoes to fill. But with Allison's mentorship plus Aaron's natural leadership, like everything, he makes it look easy. Living in the gate house comes with the job, so Aaron is generally around should any after-hours emergency arise. That is, when he's not still helping out as a ski patrol on his days off and volunteering time for the Glacier fire department.

Kenny

When asked how long he has worked at the Rim, Assistant Caretaker Ken Sathers didn't hesitate to reply "forever," which isn't a bad guess considering the actual number is somewhere between 12-13 years. That's an impressive amount of time spent ensuring our grounds and equipment are in top form, the roads are plowed and sanded when needed, and an untold number of members and guests have assistance on the untold number of things that come up in the course of a day. Truth be told, all of our caretakers are so good at what they do, they probably don't receive half the credit they deserve. Kenny also happens to live here in the Rim, so the one easy part of his job is the commute.



Hank

Hank Kennedy joined the Rim staff as part-time Assistant Caretaker at the beginning of last summer, and we couldn't be more thrilled to have him continue to fit in a few hours of work here and there now that he has returned to his busy high-school schedule, all while continuing to build quite the reputation for himself as a competitive snowboarder. A local legend in the making, you'd never know it from Hank's humble personality and friendly smile.



Office & Accounting



Angela

If you haven't met Angela Urso, MBR Office Manager and resident Bookkeeper, you're either new to the Rim or intentionally avoiding our office. Angela can (and does) do and know it all when it comes not only to the MBR office, but also Board procedures, member communications, and the Glacier area in general. We quite honestly couldn't live without her--or at least not as well. With the addition of an Office Assistant, Angela has been able to focus more time and attention on the accounting aspects of the organization, which she enjoys most.



Christy

A Texas native, Christy Ables joined the Rim as Office Assistant at the beginning of 2017. Under Angela's mentorship, she is working on transitioning to the role of Office Manager and loves working with the awesome MBR team, Board, and being part of not only the Glacier community, but the Rim as well. With a background in technology and digital marketing, you might find her working on website updates or working on the occasional newsletter design layout.