



THE OSPREY

Newsletter of the West Kootenay Naturalists' Association

415 Olivia Crescent, Trail BC V1R 1A6

Vol 45, #2

July thru October 2018



Snowshoe Hare © Alistair Fraser

GENERAL MEETINGS

The new schedule is as follows: Five meetings per year and the Annual Picnic in June as before. September meeting in Nelson, November potluck in Genelle, January meeting in Castlegar, March meeting in Trail, and the AGM and potluck in **MAY** in Genelle. Meetings are held on the last Monday of each month, 7:00 pm, *except as noted*. Potlucks start at 4:45 pm when the doors open for setup. Meal begins at 5:30 pm. Changes may be mentioned at meetings, via Google group and/or in your local newspaper. Beverages will *not* be available beginning next season until someone steps forward to handle this task. THE FOREGOING ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. For June annual picnic venue, see appropriate Field Trip Schedule. No meetings in October, December, February, April, July, August, or December. "The Osprey" in hard copy is distributed at September and January meetings, and the week after the May meeting to show the current year's Officers. If we have your email address, you will be receiving it in that format. It's in colour, and the Club saves a great deal on postage.

WKNA OFFICERS 2018-19

ELECTED:

PRESIDENT	Peter Wood	250-359-7107 annpeterwood@gmail.com
VICE-PRESIDENT	vacant	
PAST PRESIDENT	Brent Hancock	250-304-6840
RECORDING SECRETARY	vacant	
TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP	Esther Brown	250-368-3663 estherbrown@shaw.ca

APPOINTED:

ARCHIVIST	Beth Truant	250-368-6325
BC NATURE DIRECTOR (WKNA)	Joan Snyder	250-365-7633
FIELD TRIP DIRECTORS	Pat West, Castlegar	250-304-2656 pwest27@telus.net
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Margo Saunders	250-693-2229 penandpaddle@gmail.com
PRESENTATION COORDINATOR	vacant	
SUNSHINE COMMITTEE	Margo Saunders	250-693-2229 penandpaddle@gmail.com

SECTION CONTACTS AND COMMITTEE HEADS:

BIRDING	Ed Beynon	250-365-7806
ENERGY & CONSERVATION	Joan Snyder	250-365-7633 snowdance@shaw.ca
BIRD COUNTS: Bird Studies Canada, WKNA, Christmas and Summer	Craig Sandvig	contact info n/a
INVASIVE PLANTS	vacant	
RIVERS DAY (Provincial)	vacant	
VIOLIN LAKE STAKEHOLDERS	Margo Saunders	250-693-2229 penandpaddle@gmail.com
GOOGLE GROUP ADMINISTRATOR	Arnold By	250-368-3068 awby@shaw.ca

TRIP REPORTS

Saturday, January 20, 2018:

LEMON CREEK TO THE WALTER CLOUGH BIRD SANCTUARY -- Eight participants started from the Lemon Creek parking lot along the old Slocan Rail Trail. Four participants skied and left the group early to have lunch at other locations. It was a beautiful day for a snowshoe with a short period of precipitation on the way back. The trail had been compacted and a ski track laid by a snowmobile tracker, which made a good base for snowshoeing and for cross country skiers enroute. We saw quite a few Trumpeter Swans with their derrieres sticking up, as we headed toward the north section of the Walter Clough Bird Sanctuary. When we got closer to the waterfront, we saw a cluster of swans swimming north along the Slocan River. One family of Trumpeter Swans was in a cluster; the female and her life long mate swam side by side, with the grey-whitish siblings staying near their parents. After lunch, we got a glimpse of a Bald Eagle above its nest in a Cottonwood tree. The 8 km trek was picturesque until the grey clouds and mist started settling in just as we reached our cars.

Report & Photos by Pat West



Sunday, March 25, 2018:

Snowshoe to Gordon Keir Cabin -- Eight WKNats and two guests left from behind CIBC in Castlegar at 9:30 am and drove to the Bonanza parking lot. The highway was still a bit slushy from yesterday's heavy snowfall, but the day was sunny and we had an enjoyable snowshoe to the Gordon Keir cabin. Thanks to KMC for packing the trail the day before. The cabin was relatively free of packrat odour so we had a pleasant lunch inside around the warm stove. Animal tracks that we saw were from numerous snowshoe hares [see cover photo], lynx, squirrels, pine martin and ermine. One of the group had problems with a snowshoe and thanks to the well packed trail was able to walk out without wearing snowshoes. After a great day, we were all back at the parking lot by 1:15 pm. Photos by Diane White, Manda McIntyre, Hazel Beynon, and Kathie Robertson. Leaders were Ed and Hazel Beynon.

Ed and Hazel Beynon





Wednesday, March 28, 2018:

Hike up Talus Hill -- Ten people originally signed on for the trip and two later, wisely, decided not to go. It was a wet day. We made good time ascending the hill, took a few group photos, and then quickly headed back down. No photos were taken of the views due to the drab, overcast conditions. Part way back down the hill we ate lunch under the shelter of the welcoming branches of a white pine. This tree was growing on the outer side of the trail and hikers must squeeze between it and the cliff. One photo shows the group at this particular spot. It was good to get home and warm up.

Hazel and Ed Beynon



FIELD TRIPS

**This schedule has been suspended indefinitely.
Contact a FIELD TRIP DIRECTOR (see Page 2)
for information on trips and meetings.**

Deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is September 13, 2018

Material accepted by the Publisher any time up to this date.

We reserve the right to edit for space, clarity, spelling and syntax.

Major changes will be discussed with the contributor.

Rossland rec site project on a roll after three years

After three years of hard work, the Rossland Recreation Site project is nearly complete.

After three years of hard work, the Rossland Recreation Site project is nearly complete. The Friends of the Rossland Range (FORR) have been working on building new infrastructure, restoring the Old Glory fire lookout, improving trails, putting up signage and whatever else it takes to make the Rossland Recreation Site a fun place for both Rosslanders and tourists to bike, hike, ski and snowshoe.

FORR chair Kim Deane and board director Les Carter provided an update to the organizations' members at FORR's annual general meeting last Wednesday, outlining what was done in 2017 and what still needs to be completed in 2018. This year saw the completion of Booty's Cabin, located a short trek down the Seven Summits Trail. The cabin's larger size and full-width stairs were designed to accommodate school and community groups.

The 39th Field Engineer Squadron also upgraded Chimo Cabin. "Just wrapping up the completion of Chimo: insulation, stairs, what not," explained Deane. Red Dog Cabin had a new entrance ramp and window installed and restoration of the Old Glory fire lookout continued.

FORR also built a new parking lot on the south side of the highway beside the Seven Summits trailhead. "Now we're working on keeping it plowed, which is an interesting challenge day by day," said Deane.

Looking ahead to next year, two of the cabins included in the original project still need to be finished. The old fibreglass igloo at Igloo Cabin was torn down this year, but there's still much to be done. "For this year there's just the A-frame and next year there should be a brand new cabin and no a-frame," said Carter.

Not So Secret also still needs to be completed. "Not So Secret is waiting for ATCO's logging road to go to the top of the Elgood Valley," said Carter.

Carter also mentioned that he had received a lot of feedback regarding two other cabins that people would like kept, so FORR has requested permission from the province to rebuild or restore Eagle's Nest and Crowe's Nest. In response, FORR was asked to present a next phase for the rec site. But overall, Deane indicated that the three-year "development mode" FORR has been in is coming to an end and the organization is now looking forward to "operational mode," which has also raised the question of how FORR will continue to raise funding in the future — especially since ***FORR memberships are \$5 lifetime memberships.***

Asked about ongoing income for the organization by a member, Deane replied, "Rec Sites and Trails, the province, they've funded us to about \$60,000. So they've been giving us \$20,000 to \$30,000 [a year] so far, that's going to drop down probably to \$3,000 to \$5,000 as an ongoing amount."

Kelvin Saldern, community liaison for the Columbia Basin Trust, southwest, attended the meeting and spoke on behalf of the CBT. "This project, which we helped fund over the last couple of years, has completely amazed us. At the speed and the volunteer effort and everything that's happened here in such a short time. And people who I've talked to who come and visit from elsewhere in the Basin, they can't believe what happened and the fact that it happened in this self-organizing way," he said.

Deane was modest about the efforts made by FORR's board of directors and pointed to the community for supporting the project. Approximately 10,000 volunteer labour hours have gone into the project so far. "Everybody sees the infrastructure — the cabins, the trails, all that — but I see something else: We built an army," said Carter. Now that winter is here, it's time for skiers, snowshoers and fat bikers to head out onto the trails and into the cabins.

Rec site users are reminded that the cabins are intended for day use only, and snowshoers are reminded to lay their own track instead of walking over sky tracks.

FORR will also once again be running a snow host program this year. Anyone interested in being a host or arranging a tour of the north or south side of the Rossland Range Recreation Site should contact Rob Richardson at rob@rosslandrange.org.

For more information about Friends of the Rossland Range, you can visit rosslandrange.org.

JOIN/RENEW MEMBERSHIP IN WEST KOOTENAY NATURALISTS' ASSOCIATION

Circle one and enclose cheque for this amount: Single \$30 Family \$46 Local \$16 *(ask FMI)
Membership covers 2019 calendar year

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone (10 digits) _____ email _____

Contact the Membership chair Esther Brown (see Page 2 for info) to receive the waiver you must sign

Suggestions for outings, speakers, projects, improvements to the Club: _____

Please send this in NOW while it is fresh in your mind!
Mail to: 415 Olivia Crescent, Trail BC V1R 1A6
To be eligible to win a 2019 single membership (prize value \$30)
your membership must be paid BY January 15 each year.

**** JUST A REMINDER ****

1. **Do you have any suggestions for new areas to visit?** Would you be willing to lead a hike? Please contact a Program Director with your great ideas. Thank you to all the contacts/leaders in all seasons. We learn so much from each of you.
2. **Common courtesy and common sense** dictates that you call the contact person to confirm your attendance at an event on the program, AND THAT YOU CALL TO CANCEL if you later find that you cannot attend. Lead time for the newsletter is as much as nine months between planning and execution. Nothing is written in stone and changes may have to be made from time to time, due to weather conditions or personal reasons. We would not want you to miss out on a single chance to enjoy our environment! **Don't wait until the last minute** to phone if you are interested in any of our events.....leader may have already left, especially if camping or long distances are involved.
3. **The leader of an outing is responsible for:**
 - ✓ Finding a replacement contact/leader if you cannot be available for your planned outing. A replacement *leader* may choose to do the same outing, or they may suggest another.
 - ✓ Getting the appropriate waiver form signed by every person attending. *There are TWO waivers – one for all attendees and one for guests (one-day membership + \$1.00). Print/photocopy the guest waiver beforehand and keep extra copies just in case.* Forward these forms to Esther Brown, immediately.
 - ✓ Making sure that no one is left behind with car trouble at the parking area, especially in winter.
 - ✓ Arranging to have the trip report forwarded to the Editor. The leader may delegate this, of course. The writer also has the obligation to get the report submitted in time.
 - ✓ Make it a policy with the entire group to keep the person behind you in sight. If your follower on the trail is lagging, slow your pace to keep that person in sight. If everyone in the group continually checks to make sure they can see the person behind them, it is impossible for anyone to get into serious trouble. If you split into groups, do not allow any one person to 'take off' by him/herself.
4. **NO PETS** are allowed on any of our outings.