

## Backpacking

Revised July 2014 by Rick Cooper

### Backpacking Chair

The current backpacking chair is Rick Cooper

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### November

- Plan beginner backpacking class and beginner backpack
  - Schedule events on dates that do not conflict with the climb school. The beginning backpacking class is usually held in late May at the Chemekeden from 7 to 9 pm. The beginner backpack is usually held on a weekend in late June.
  - Identify the instructors and leaders for these two events.
    - For the class, it is a good idea to have two or three presenters to split up the topics and give different perspectives on choice of gear.
    - For the backpack, give priority to beginners, though it is a good idea to have two or three experienced backpackers along as well.
  - Reserve the Den for the backpacking class.
- Backpacker potluck
  - Schedule in late January or early February
  - Reserve a venue. The Morningside Methodist Church hall has been used often. It is inexpensive and has complete kitchen equipment.
  - Arrange for a speaker. A slide show of an exotic adventure is good. There is a lot of travel and photographic talent in the club.
  - Submit a notice to the Bulletin.
- Have a planning meeting of past and potential backpack leaders. Work out a tentative list of backpack dates and destinations for the coming year.
- After the meeting, contact other possible leaders and ask for dates and destinations. Between this meeting and the first week of January, the backpack schedule needs to be finalized.
- Try to space out the backpacks more or less evenly during May, June, July, August and September. It is ideal to have a choice of trips, both in terms of length and difficulty.

### January

- Submit the “final” backpack schedule (dates, location, leader’s name) to the Council member in charge of the Prospectus. Keep in mind that trips can be changed, cancelled and added.

- Submit the final backpack schedule to the Chemeketan webmaster.
- Annual Backpackers Potluck
  - The club provides coffee, tea, juice, paper plates, etc.
  - Print copies of the backpack schedule to take to the potluck. It has been customary to keep the backpack schedule a surprise until this time. Following dinner it has been customary for the backpack leaders to give a short description of the upcoming trips. This gives people a chance to ask questions and also to sign-up.
  - Have a jar for donations at the door to defray the cost of hall rental and other costs (\$2 to \$3 per person).
- Make a report of the prior year's backpack activity at the Chemeketan annual meeting including the number of backpacks and the number of participants.
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### **March through October**

- Make sure that backpack leaders send in Bulletin notices both before the trip and a We Were There after the trip. Have them send you the sign-up sheets.
- Notify membership of changes or additions to backpack schedule or of trips that are not yet full. The backpacker e-mail list is a good way to do this. Send changes in the schedule to the webmaster.

### **Backpacking Trip Leader**

- **Submit the backpack to *The Chemeketan* bulletin**
  - Go to the Chemeketans.org website. Click on the Forms link, and then find the on-line version of the Activity Information form.
  - If you submit your announcement by the first of March, for example, it will appear in the April Bulletin. The April Bulletin might work for May backpacks, particularly later in the month, but it is better to give people more notice.
- **Before the trip**
  - Obtain any necessary permits (wilderness permit, trail pass). Call the local ranger and ask for maps, brochures, and pamphlets of interest. The ranger should also be aware of current trail conditions and unusual problems (bridges out, for example).
  - Screen people who sign up. Make sure everyone is aware of the level of difficulty and has the skills and experience to do the trip. If you don't know someone, ask if she/he has backpacked with other Chemeketans. As someone you know who is going on the trip to function as a co-leader.
  - Pre-trip meetings are often a good way to decide on drivers and meet everyone. Make sure all drivers have trailhead maps.
- **At the trailhead**
  - Have all participants sign the Release from Liability sheet. This form is available on the website at the Forms link.

- Make sure that more than one person has a trail map.
- The leader carries a first aid kit.
- Make sure everyone has adequate gear to suit the conditions.
- **After the trip**
  - Make sure drivers are reimbursed for mileage.
  - Send the signup sheets to the Backpack chair.
  - Submit an Activity Report (We-Were-There) to the Bulletin editor. This form is on-line also.
  - Start planning the your next backpack.