



# Loo Wit Rumblings



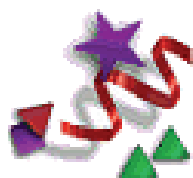
Environment, Education, Conservation & Events - Serving SW Washington

December 2014/January 2015 Issue No. 112

## Annual Loo Wit Party & Silent Auction set for Dec. 6



The “season” will very quickly be here, and once again, Loo Wit Group will be hosting its annual holiday party and silent auction. We cordially invite you to join us for an evening of fun, good conversation, seeing old friends, and an enjoyable program to celebrate the season.



This year’s event will be at the same location as years past:

**Location:** Unitarian Church of Vancouver  
4505 E. 18th St. Vancouver, WA  
**Time:** 5-9 p.m.



While we’ll have a program, there have been a few other changes, dictated by necessity. Instead of a full meal, Loo Wit’s ExCom has decided to simplify things and will offer light fare and desserts, along with wine, water, coffee and hot tea.

This year’s program will be presented by **Friends of the Columbia Gorge** and promises to be informational and inspiring.

The holiday party and silent auction is the culmination of an extremely active year for Loo Wit Group, as the Group has been actively opposing the proposed Tesoro/Savage oil terminal at the Port of Vancouver and also offering an extensive outings program.



In this issue of Rumblings:

Page

<b>Annual Loo Wit Party &amp; Silent Auction</b>	1
<b>Announcements &amp; Dates</b>	2
<b>Chapter retreat held on Nov 9 in Seattle</b>	2
<b>Loo Wit to nominate, select officers on Jan 6</b>	2
<b>Youth 19-30 needed to attend port meetings</b>	3
<b>Cooper Spur Outing</b>	4
<b>How to Use Meet Up to Join Scheduled Outings</b>	5
<b>Winter can be more than rainy weather</b>	5
<b>Loo Wit Excom 2014 Roster</b>	5
<b>Ballot and Candidates’ Statements for Loo Wit ExCom Elections</b>	6
<b>How to Vote for Loo Wit ExCom Members</b>	7

Due to technical issues, not all Loo Wit members may receive this e-newsletter and know of the upcoming party. Please share this newsletter with them, inform them of the party, and carpool if possible.

We look forward to seeing you on Dec. 6!



## Announcements & Important Dates:

**6 December**    **Loo Wit Holiday Party**  
**5 - 9 pm**        **Unitarian Church of Vancouver**  
                         **4505 E. 18th St. Vancouver, WA**



**9 December**    **Port of Vancouver Meeting**  
**9:30 am**

**6 January**        **Loo Wit ExCom meeting**  
**6:30 pm**          **United Congregational Church**  
                         **1220 NE 68th St in Hazel Dell**

The Southwest Washington Beyond Coal and Oil task force meets monthly on the second Wednesday of the month.

[www.washingtonsierraclub.org/loowit](http://www.washingtonsierraclub.org/loowit)  
[www.facebook.com/loowit.group](https://www.facebook.com/loowit.group)

### Chapter retreat held on Nov. 9 in Seattle

As you may know, Loo Wit Group is one of several groups within Sierra Club's Washington State Chapter in Seattle. Group chair Lehman Holder represents Loo Wit to the Chapter and has a vote at Chapter meetings.

At the Chapter ExCom retreat on Nov. 9, discussion focused on preparing for 2015, fundraising, the state of the groups, the 2015 Chapter budget, recognition events and the 2015 meeting schedule. Nine groups are included in the Chapter, and Loo Wit is considered among the three strongest. The fact that Loo Wit is a strong group doesn't happen by accident -- it takes effort and follow-through from all of our ExCom members to keep Loo Wit strong. Chapter has an incentive program to reward groups who are doing good work on Chapter's and Sierra Club's priorities, and in 2015, Chapter will dedicate additional money to groups that excel.

If you're reading this, there are many ways you can help. You're invited to attend any of our group ExCom meetings and learn more. ExCom meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month (except Aug and Dec), 6:30 p.m. at the United Congregational Church, 1220 NE 68th St in Hazel Dell. If you have questions, e-mail Lehman at [tripsguy@aol.com](mailto:tripsguy@aol.com).

## Loo Wit to nominate, select officers on Jan 6

In this issue of Rumbblings, you'll find a ballot for Loo Wit's annual ExCom election. We encourage you to vote. All ExCom members are elected at-large.

On Jan 6, at the first ExCom meeting of 2015, ExCom will nominate and select officers from those who've been elected and those who are continuing. All terms are for two years.

If you have an interest in Loo Wit's ExCom or its unelected advisory council, contact Loo Wit chair, Lehman Holder, [tripsguy@aol.com](mailto:tripsguy@aol.com). Your interest is extremely important -- an engaged membership makes Loo Wit much stronger.

Loo Wit's ExCom serves its membership across SW Washington, and offers opportunities for its members to become more involved in Sierra Club's grassroots efforts to protect our air, water and public lands.



**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

## **Youth 19-30 needed to attend port meetings**

Young people 19-30 are encouraged to attend commissioner meetings at the Port of Vancouver. If you know people in that age group who are concerned about pollution, please introduce them to Don Steinke, crvan-couverUSA@gmail.com . We'd like to invite them to attend a future meeting at the Port. Also, if you'd like more frequent updates from Don, let him know.

### Things everyone can do to oppose the oil terminal:

Write to the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) and urge council members to recommend the permits for the terminal be denied. There have been six oil trail explosions within the last 16 months, the latest in Wedena, Saskatchewan. Write to: EFSEC@UTC.WA.GOV .

Also: write to the Dept. of Ecology and urge them to recommend that speed limits for oil trains not exceed the speed at which the tank cars are crash worthy. Access DOE's website to contact them: [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills.oilmovement/index/html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills.oilmovement/index/html) .

Attend meetings at the Port of Vancouver. Commissioners meet at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Upcoming meetings are Nov. 18, Dec. 9 and Jan. 13. Google Port of Vancouver USA to confirm meeting times. You can also e-mail commissioners at: [povcommissioners@portvanusa.com](mailto:povcommissioners@portvanusa.com) .

If you live in the Camas, Washougal or Ridgefield areas, attend your city council meetings and urge the councils to pass a resolution against oil terminals similar to Vancouver's resolution. Emphasize that when many cities join with the tribes in opposing the oil terminals, fewer oil trains will be the result.

The National United Churches of Christ has decided to divest from fossil fuels and address climate change. As part of that vision, the Vancouver church performed a skit at Fruit Valley Park on Nov. 8. People from as far away as Medford and Seattle participated as well as an officer from ILWU Local 4 labor union. You can watch the video at: [www.youtu.be/EygU2WgMuFl](http://www.youtu.be/EygU2WgMuFl) . Feel free to share it. It was produced by Loo Wit conservation chair Brooks Berndt. (continued in next column)

According to the public health department of SW Washington, climate change is a public health emergency. We cannot be reducing carbon pollution while at the same time building more fossil fuel infrastructure.

The future is here. One Loo Wit member charges his all-electric car with solar panels -- no gasoline ever, no oil changes, no tuneups, no clutch repair. Ford, Chevrolet, Honda, Nissan and BMW produce all-electric cars, some available for at little as \$2,400 down and a lease of \$199 a month.

**Like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/loowit](http://www.facebook.com/loowit). group, or [www.facebook.com/gorgegirl99](http://www.facebook.com/gorgegirl99) .**

**You can also visit the Loo Wit website: [www.washington.sierraclub.org/loowit/main/index.asp](http://www.washington.sierraclub.org/loowit/main/index.asp) .**

## Cooper Spur Outing - September 28, 2014

Mike Newsham led a Sierra Club hike up Cooper Spur, on the NE ridge of Mt. Hood on September 28, 2014. It was a beautiful day with great scenery. The first picture below is a view up the moraine with the Eliot Glacier to the right of the moraine. The hiking route follows the top of the moraine and is visible in the foreground.

The second picture depicts some of our fellow ascenders at the top of the Cooper Spur hiking route. These lady bugs were swarming at one of the 4 wind break shelters on the crest of the ridge—nearby is a fairly famous rock with an inscription in English, commemorating an early 20th century Japanese climbing party.

I had no idea that lady bugs could fly to this altitude. They probably flew there to mate, in what would seem to be a rather inhospitable location. Also, that's a long flight for someone that small, no matter how you cut it. These little critters are at least 1,000' above the last bit of vegetation on this side of the mountain, and it is September 28th and the altitude at this spot is about 8,900 feet. Interestingly enough, this same phenomenon (lady bugs swarming) occurs at the top of Bear Mt., which is one of the summits of the Flat Irons just west of Boulder, CO. It seems that lady bugs have a taste for the high places.

The third picture is the view from Tie-In Rock at the start of the Cooper Spur technical climbing route on Mt. Hood, which begins at 9,000'. Notice the rocks on the snow field in the foreground. This area is subject to rock fall in the afternoon on warm days. Tie-In Rock is as high as you can go on Mt. Hood without roping up and using crampons and ice axe. A beautiful day and a great hike.



Southwest Washington  
Sierra Club  
**Loo Wit Group**



Photographed by Jerri Tasia, Courtesy Red iFrog Photography



Photographed by Jerri Tasia, Courtesy Red iFrog Photography



Photographed by Jerri Tasia, Courtesy Red iFrog Photography



## More on Outings: How to Use Meet Up to Join Scheduled Outings

To join the Portland/Vancouver Sierra Club Outings and Events Meet Up, you must first have a registered Meet Up account.

If you have not created a Meet Up account, click on the following link <http://help.meetup.com/customer/portal/articles/615400>.

At the Sign Up screen, fill in your name, your email account and pick a password.

After you've created your account, you will get a confirmation email verifying your account.

Then you can click on "Find a Meet Up" next to the Meet Up logo at the top of the page. This will take you to the page that has a gray box near the upper middle part of the page. Type in "Portland/Vancouver Sierra Club Outings and Events Meet Up" in the section of the gray box that has the words "All Meet Ups." This will take you to our Meet Up Group.

Joining our Meetup Group is pretty simple. Just click the "Join us!" button on the right side of the navigation bar.

You'll be taken to a page that will ask you to fill in your Group profile for our Meetup Group. You may need to add a photo or answer a few questions.

Our Meetup Group is open to anyone. You'll receive an automatic email when your membership in our Meetup Group has been approved.

Once you have reached this point, create a shortcut to our Meet Up group for your desktop so you can see all the latest postings quickly, or get the Meet Up app to get instantaneous notice of Meet Up outings.

## Outings: Winter can be more than rainy weather

If you're wondering how you're going to make it through the Northwest rainy season, perhaps you should look at it from a different perspective.

Loo Wit's outings program this winter will include hikes, Nordic (cross-country) skiing and maybe some snowshoeing. Outings Leader Mike Newsham is getting ready to lead every-other-weekend hikes and chair and outings leader Lehman Holder will be scheduling several ski tours at cross-country areas around Mt. Hood and other locations. This year, Lehman's plan is make a couple of the Nordic ski outings instructional -- so if you've never done any x-c skiing, you'll have an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of this terrific winter sport.

Outings are currently being planned, so check Loo Wit's website in a couple of weeks and join us for some winter fun!

### Loo Wit Executive Committee (ExCom) Roster & Contact Information for 2014

Name	Position	email
Lehman Holder	Chair	tripsguy@aol.com
Mark Leed	Vice Chair	markleed02@gmail.com
Brooks Berndt	Conservation Chair	brooks@vanucc.org
Mike Newsham	Outings Chair	2newshams@comcast.net
Mary Lynch	Legislative Chair	mylynch030@gmail.com
Ben Dennis	Conversation Rivers. Fish	flyrodranch@comcast.net
Steve Foster	Treasurer	siberman88@aol.com
Don Steinke	Conservation Oil/Coal	crvancouverusa@gmail.com
Alona Steinke	Comnservation Oil/Coal	alonakotkasteinke@hotmail.com
Key Advisory Council		
Dave Bybee	Secretary	DaveBybee@oregon.sierraclub.org
Cathy Morton	Political Chair	cmorton@pacfier.com
Lynn Stiglich	Newsletter	lstiglich@comcast.net

**If you have specific questions or input, feel free to contact the above ExCom and advisory members.**

## Ballot and Candidates' Statements for Loo Wit ExCom Elections - Page 6



### **Ben Dennis**

BEN DENNIS, a native Washingtonian. Born in Seattle, reared on Bainbridge Island.

Lived in Washington's Methow Valley with wife Leslea for 10 years, co-founder, Methow Valley Fly fishers.

Currently Westside Washington State, Board/Conservation Director , International Federation of Fly Fishers. Treasurer, Salmon Creek Fly Fishers, fly casting instructor, Clark College.



### **Alona Steinke**

A descendant of pioneers, I was born and raised in rural Portland Oregon. I grew up with a great love and respect for nature and the earth.

I worked for 41 years as an RN, most of that time as a pediatric nurse. Now that I am retired, I feel obligated to help preserve and protect this little piece of heaven on earth. I am proud to be a Sierra Club member.



### **Mary Lynch**

As a member of the Loo Wit Group the last few years, I have discovered I really enjoy being a part of not only the group but the Legislative Liaison to the Chapter Legislative committee. Learning how the committee sets and then executes the priorities of the Sierra Club is very enlightening. I hope to be re-elected to the position to carry out this assignment for the next two years.



### **Mark Leed**

I have been a Sierra Club member since 2001 and am running for a second term on ExCom. I have served on the statewide Clean Air & Healthy Communities for 2 years, and want to continue advocating for renewable energy and encouraging Governor Inslee and state agencies to reject toxic coal and oil terminals. I'm also passionate about making sure our state legislature acts in environmentally responsible ways. This includes passing an oil transportation safety act, rejecting proposals to weaken renewable energy legislation, and passing new clean fuels standards. My interests also include strengthening laws that protect waterways from household chemicals and agricultural waste. I want Sierra Club to be a welcoming place for people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds and income levels, and I believe that we need to work harder to forge alliances with other progressive organizations. The only way we can continue to be effective is to reach out to everybody who cares about conservation.



### **Mike Newsham**

I have been a member of the Loo Wit ExCom for two terms. I have held the following positions in the Loo Wit Group:

- Newsletter Editor 2007-2009.
- Outings Chair Columbia/Loo Wit Group 2009 - present
- Outings Leader 2007- Present

I enjoy taking people to places in the outdoors, that they would never go themselves, so they can gain an appreciation of what the Sierra Club is promoting and protecting. Please vote for me for another term on the Loo Wit ExCom.

## **How to Vote for Loo Wit ExCom Members**

**Voting is easy and simple. To vote by email, simply email your choices to Loo Wit's election chair Steve Foster at [siberman88@aol.com](mailto:siberman88@aol.com) .**

**If you do not have internet access, you can mail a note with your choices to Steve at the Loo Wit post office box address: P.O. Box 13, Vancouver, WA 98666**

**You may vote for all five, or fewer than that. The ballots must be e-mailed to no later than Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2014. ExCom will certify election results on Jan. 6.**

**Thank you for your participation.**



**SIERRA  
CLUB**

FOUNDED 1892

Southwest Washington  
Sierra Club

**Loo Wit Group**

PO Box 13

Vancouver, WA 98666-0013