



North Olympic Group Newsletter

Explore, Enjoy, Protect the Planet

Jan - Feb, 2015
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Meetings and Events



2015 is off to a busy start with many important events - too many to fit in this column. See the January/February calendar on Page 11

Save the Pages – You will want to download or print and save Pages 7 (action items), 11 (Calendar) and 12 & 13 (Outings Schedule)



The opposite of courage is not cowardice, it is conformity. Even a dead fish can go with the flow.

Jim Hightower



IT'S TIME TO START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT

And the first order of business is the election of candidates for the North Olympic Group Executive Committee (Excom). We have four candidates for the four open positions.

CANDIDATES

Norm Baker believes Sierra club is one of the best environmental grassroots organizations around and it has been a pleasure to serve on the Executive Committee for the North Olympic Group. He wishes to be reelected so he can continue work on marine reserves and fisheries restoration and on the issue of biochar. Norm serves on the Rockfish workgroup currently conducted at NOAA. Marine reserves have been shown to be instrumental in restoring groundfish populations. Norm is also in the process of doing some writing on biochar for a national magazine and continuing experiments with biochar and organic gardening.

Ken Bleyer is an attorney who works as a strategic adviser to parties involved in controversial land-use matters in the United States and Canada. Ken has been involved in litigation and compliance teams associated with environmental justice cases for twelve years. In addition, he has been retained to assist parties in presenting their cases for remediation of CERCLA sites and in local siting and regulatory review of brownfield projects. In 2004, Ken earned a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago after undertaking four years of research on effective public meeting dynamics. This research examined how opposition groups function in local due process hearings arising out of environmental controversies. The Navy's proposal to conduct training in the Olympic National Forest is the latest threat to the environment that Ken has gotten involved with since moving to Port Townsend in July 2013. Ken is a former member of several Sierra Club chapters and he is a current member of the NOG.

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EXCOM ELECTION CANDIDATES *(continued)*

Peter Guerrero has been a member of the North Olympic Group's Executive Committee for the past two years. During that time he organized and led the Group's first outings program that is now about to begin its third year of wilderness hikes on the Olympic Peninsula. He is also the Jefferson County political chair and has been responsible for identifying candidates at the local and County levels whose platforms and track records exemplify a strong commitment to environmental protection. He's been active in a number of environmental issues including the impact of Navy jet noise on the environment, local economy, and public health; identifying additional air monitoring locations in Port Townsend and working with the Olympic Regional Clean Air Authority to identify sources of hazardous air pollutants; and working to add additional wilderness and critical habitat protections under the Wild Olympics proposal. He's been a lifelong member of the Sierra Club and countless other environmental organizations.

Darlene Schanfald is a co-founder of the NOG and has served on its Executive Committee since the Group's inception. She serves as NOG's Clallam County Political Chair and Conservation Chair. She also leads the (Sewage) Sludge Free WA project under WA State Chapter's Water and Salmon Committee and has lead an environmental coalition for 20 years to see the Rayonier Mill and more recently the Port Angeles Harbor hazardous wastes are removed.

North Olympic Group Executive Committee Ballot – Cut out the ballot below and mail to our Carlsborg address on the ballot.



Deadline for mailing vote is January 10th

Vote for up to four candidates:

Norm Baker

Ken Bleyer

Peter Guerrero

Darlene Schanfald

Mail to NOG, PO Box 714, Carlsborg, WA 98324

Group Executive Committee

Check our webpage (see below) for Excom changes in January.

Meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of each month.

All Sierra Club members are welcome to attend.

Chair: Monica Fletcher

Vice Chair: Robert Sextro

Alternate Vice Chair: Darlene Schanfald

Secretary: Bill Volmut

Treasurer: Monica Fletcher

Executive Committee:

Norm Baker, Monica Fletcher,

Peter Guerrero, Darlene Schanfald,

Robert Sextro, Bill Volmut, John Woolley

Contact info:

Norman Baker:

ntbakerphd@gmail.com

Monica Fletcher:

monicaflet@gmail.com

Peter Guerrero:

exploreolympics@gmail.com

Darlene Schanfald:

darlenes@olympus.net

Robert Sextro:

robert.sextro@noblis.com

Bill Volmut:

bill.volmut@gmail.com

John Woolley:

woolley@tfon.com

Group Webpage:

<http://sierraclub.org/washington/north-olympic>

Newsletter Editor – Janet Marx

Janetmarx_76@msn.com



Planning for Climate Change on the North Olympic Peninsula Project

A project is currently underway to plan and prepare for climate change

on the North Olympic Peninsula. The project is funded by a grant from WA State Department of Ecology and Commerce, received by the

North Olympic Peninsula Resource Conservation and Development Organization

The project timeline is from June 2014 – November 2015. For more detail see:

[PlanningforClimateChangeontheNorthOlympicPeninsula Summary_10_02_14](#)

Two of the partners in this project are two local volunteer groups: the [Local 2020 Climate Action](#) Adaptation Group (for Jefferson County) and the [Olympic Climate Action](#) group (for Clallam County.) If you would like to get involved with the project as a volunteer, check with these organizations.



2015 Executive Committee (Excom) meeting schedule

Our Excom meetings are where Administrative and conservation Decisions are made. These

meetings are open to the membership and held the second Thursday of the month from 1:00 to 3:00 alternating between Sequim (library meeting room) and Port Townsend (uptown Community Center). Except the January meeting which will be held at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Sequim.

Sequim Meetings: Jan 8, Mar 12, May 14, July 9, Sept 10, Nov 12

Contact janetmarx_76@msn.com for additional information

Port Townsend Meetings: Feb 12, April 9, June 11, Aug 13, Oct 8, Dec 10

Contact exploreolympics@gmail.com for additional information



Explore the Wild Olympics with the Sierra Club



On the Trail – 2014

The North Olympic Group just concluded another successful season of outings on the Olympic Peninsula with a wonderful fall foliage hike along the scenic and historic Elwha River in early November.

In 2014 we planned a number of monthly outings, including one that was chosen for its accessibility so that everyone could enjoy the natural beauty of our area regardless of their physical limitations. We also continued to focus on outings to showcase proposed additions to the Olympic wilderness by leading outings along the Gray Wolf River and to Lena Lake. In all, 40 persons joined us on our outings from the heights of Hurricane Ridge to the lush river valleys of the Olympics.

Greetings from the Elwha!

The 2015 Season

The North Olympic Group is excited to announce its third season of wilderness outings. 2015 will see 8 monthly events; two focusing on Wild Olympics; a multi-day backpacking outing—a first for us; a National Park Service led event focusing on the Elwha restoration; a mix of easy, moderate and strenuous hikes with the majority in the moderate category; and a geographically wide range of outings including the wild Pacific coast, tranquil river valleys and the more rugged interior of the Olympics. RSVPs are required for all events by sending an e-mail to exploreolympics@gmail.com or by going to our Meet Up site <http://www.meetup.com/North-Olympic-Group/>



See Pages 12 & 13 for the 2015 hiking schedule

CONGRADULATIONS TO PETER AND CREW

At the Washington Chapter holiday party the NOG outings program was presented with a Certificate of Outstanding Achievement for exemplary coordination of the 2013 and 2014 outings with the conservation goals of the Group and Chapter. The outings program is led by Peter Guerrero with Bill Volmut, Lucas Hart, Jim Rosenthal and Ken Wilson as leaders. Thanks to all of you for your hard work and for earning us this recognition.



INDUSTRIAL LEVEL AQUACULTURE TO SPREAD OVER CLALLAM COUNTY TIDELANDS AND WATERS

Join us for an informational meeting on industrialized shellfish operation consequences

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2015, 2-4 PM
THE DUNGENESS SCHOOLHOUSE, 2ND FLOOR
2781 TOWNE ROAD, SEQUIM WA**

Guest presenters and panelists include:

LAURA HENDRICKS: Coalition To Protect Puget Sound

TRINA BAYARD PH.D, DIRECTOR: Bird Conservation For Washington Audubon

MARADEL GALE: Bainbridge Alliance For Puget Sound & Bainbridge Beach Naturalist - Retired U of Oregon Law Professor

JIM BRENNAN, MSc: Marine Habitat Specialist Consultant. Formerly with U of WA Sea Grant, past President of Pacific Estuarine Research Society, and formerly on the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation Governing Board

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT??

Large scale aquaculture plantations are proposed to be allowed throughout Clallam County. What does this mean for our natural resources? Our wildlife? Home values? public recreation? Who profits? Who loses?

TWO MAJOR ACTIONS ARE BEFORE THE PUBLIC

FIRST - Taylor Shellfish Farms, based in Shelton WA, signed a multi-year lease with Bellevue WA Dungeness Farms, owners of the gun club at the mouth of the Dungeness River. The operation is for 30 acres of the Club's tidelands. Taylor's plan is to raise thousands of geoducks for commercial export to Asia. Each acre of tidelands requires thousands of plastic tubes for seeding geoducks and acres of netting. This is in the immediate area of the WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife's 3 Crabs restoration project and US Fish and Wildlife Service graveyard spit protection for breeding birds.

SECOND - Clallam County's Shoreline Master Plan is ready for public review, and it will affect everyone in the County. Aquaculture — shellfish and fin fish lots proposed to be conditioned throughout Clallam County's beaches and waters. We urge you to familiarize yourself with the Plan. There is an online version at <http://www.clallam.net/LandUse/smp.html>.

Clallam County's public orientation meetings are scheduled in Sequim, Port Angeles, Sekiu and Forks in January. The Clallam County Planning Commission hearings, at which time citizens can testify, are scheduled in the same locations in February.

See the calendar on Page 11 for locations and times. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE ATTEND AND MAKE OUR CONCERNS HEARD.



US Navy Plans for Olympic National Forest

Pacific Northwest Electronic Warfare Range

Environmental Assessment (EA):

The Navy has proposed installing communications equipment on an existing tower in the Olympic Military Operations Area at Octopus Mountain and operating a Mobile Electronic Warfare Training System on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Department of Natural Resources lands on the Olympic Peninsula. This equipment will be used for training fighter jet pilots and it is expected to result in hundreds of annual overflights of Olympic Peninsula communities and wilderness areas, including Olympic National Park, a UNESCO designated World Heritage Site.

The Navy and Forest Service initially provided no notice to the larger affected communities and, in response to public protests, held additional public meetings and extended the comment period for the Special Use Permit that the USFS required for the Navy to proceed with its mobile electronic warfare training on public lands. The USFS comment period ended November 28th, 2014.

The North Olympic Group (NOG) of the Sierra Club has commented on the Navy's EA, finding it deficient, and has called for a full Environmental Impact Statement. In addition, we raised concerns about the impact these overflights would have on the wilderness experience and the adverse consequences for tourism and the economic well-being of communities that depend on Park and wilderness visitors. You can find the [final environmental assessment](#) and other documents related to the proposal on the [Olympic National Forest NEPA projects](#) website or click [here](#) to read our comments. Click [here](#) to read our addendum to those comments.

The NOG is continuing to follow developments on the Navy's plans to conduct electronic warfare testing on the Olympic Peninsula. Although the formal comment period has closed we urge our members to write to our elected officials urging them to stop this misguided project. See below and Page 7 for information on how you can help.

Navy Proposal to Add 36 Additional EA-18G Growlers:

The Navy is proposing to add 36 additional fighter aircraft, called Growlers, to the Whidbey Naval Air Station. These additional aircraft will be used both for dangerous touch and go training exercises at an antiquated landing strip in the middle of Coupeville and for electronic warfare training on the Olympic Peninsula. This proposal has the potential to significantly diminish the quality of wilderness and adversely affect our economy which is heavily dependent on tourism and outdoor recreation. The Navy's proposal can be found [here](#).



WHAT CAN I DO?



Besides submitting comments regarding the Scoping for the Growler EIS, you can contact Protect Olympic Peninsula, a Jefferson County Group <https://www.facebook.com/protectolympen>. Or the Clallam County Electronic Warfare Range opposition group currently being formed. If you are interested in this group you can contact Ron Richards at ronaldrichards@gmail.com.

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US NAVY PLANS - WHAT CAN I DO? (continued)

You can educate yourself on the issues by attending meetings or find sample statements at the above Facebook contact or visit *Quiet Skies Over San Juan County*. Then write your local newspaper a Letter to the Editor.

It is vitally important that we contact political representatives with the Message: *Please register my opposition to the Navy's proposed electromagnetic warfare training in the Olympic National Forest.*

Letters (with concerns) and phone calls are the most effective.

REPRESENTATIVE DEREK KILMER

1520 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

DC: 202-225-5916

Port Angeles: 360-797-3623

SENATOR JAMES HARGROVE

PO Box 40424

Olympia, WA 98504-0424

Hoquiam: 360-533-9477

Port Angeles: 360-457-2520

SENATOR MARIA CANTWELL

311 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

DC: 202-224-3441

Olympic Peninsula (Tacoma) 253-572-2281

SENATOR PATTY MURRAY

154 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

DC: 202-224-2621

Seattle: 866-481-9186 (toll free)

Secretary of Agriculture – TOM VILSACK

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Attention: Secretary Tom Vilsack

1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 200-A

Washington DC 20250

DC: 1-202-720-3631

US Forest Service Chief – THOMAS TIDWELL

U.S. Forest Service

Attention: Chief Thomas Tidwell

1400 Independence Ave., SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-1111

800-832-1355 (toll free)

ONP Superintendent – SARAH CREACHBAUM

Olympic National Park

Attention: Superintendent Sarah Creachbaum

600 East Park Avenue

Port Angeles, WA 98362-6798

360-565-3004

Living on the Edge

Landowner Update and Discussion

Tuesday January 27th, 2015

6:00-8:00 pm at Dungeness Schoolhouse
2781 Towne Road, Sequim



The Coastal Watershed Institute (CWI) and partners invite the community to a bluff management workshop the evening of 27 January 2015 at the historical Dungeness Schoolhouse from 6:00 - 8:00 pm.

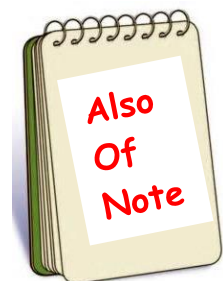
This workshop will provide an update to our ongoing work to understand and promote wise stewardship of this important region of the nearshore. CWI will provide an update on efforts including the development of a realtor funding pool for distressed landowners (see photo), and protection grants.

Clallam County will provide an update on the Shoreline Master Program (SMP), and Washington Department of Natural Resources will present findings long term bluff erosion study just published. Staff from the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge will provide details on their upcoming anniversary celebration in May.

CWI and collaborators, including Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resources and Ecology, North Olympic Land Trust, Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge, the Surfrider Foundation, and the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe are working together to define the best community stewardship and long term management actions to protect the Dungeness feeder bluffs.

The January 27th workshop will continue this dialogue between scientists, managers and bluff landowners on next steps for all of us to the benefit of our community and the environment. Join us!

Funding for this work is provided by Surfrider Foundation, Patagonia, Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, Rose Foundation and the Coastal Watershed Institute.



Bob Lynette is giving a Climate Change presentation to the Science Cafe folks (Sequim Education Foundation's educational series) February 10th 6:30-8 p.m. at the Paradise Cafe 703 N. Sequim Ave., Sequim. Admission is free with food and beverages available.

IT'S CALLED **BUYER BEWARE!**

Haven't had a chance to watch the documentary *Sludge Diet?* Now you can! It will be shown at Nash's Farm Store on Saturday, January 17 at 1:30 PM. Nash's Farm Store is located at 4681 Sequim-Dungeness Way in Sequim. The documentary uncovers the unknowns about commercial composts and fertilizers and where our municipal sewage sludges end up. Following the documentary, there will be time for questions and handouts and recommended readings on this subject will be available.



Recommended Reading: *Science for Sale*. Author: David L. Lewis, Ph.D. The inside story of government politics allowing toxic sewage sludge to be sold as compost and fertilizer as told by this whistleblower, a former top USEPA scientist. (Copy in the North Olympic Library System)



Recommended Watching: *Symphony of the Soil*. Documentary. Watch on line: <http://www.symphonyofthesoil.com> This beautiful documentary filmed on four continents featuring known soil scientists shows how different soils have been built over thousands of years and the elaborate relationships and mutuality between soil, water, the atmosphere, plant and animals. A gorgeous journey. Don't miss it.

Audubon's Birds and Climate Change Report



Audubon scientists have completed a seven-year investigation into the expected effects of climate change on North American bird populations. They have used hundreds of thousands of citizen-science observations and sophisticated climate models to predict how birds in the U.S. and Canada will react to climate change. And the news is grim indeed. By 2080, the climate model projects, dozens of avian species across the country could be hurtling toward extinction. For the full report visit Audubon's Birds and

Climate Change Report at

<http://climate.audubon.org/article/storm-gathers-north-american-birds>

IMPORTANT NEWS

Governor Jay Inslee announced recently a plan to cap carbon and take the first step toward leading the nation in climate action. It's been a long road, paved with uncertainty and hard work to get Washington to this place. This is an important first step to passing a climate bill. Thank you for clearing the way with your support.

Governor Inslee's plan will place a cap on carbon pollution and ask the state's largest polluters to pay for the pollution they cause. In 2008 our state, due in no small part to your efforts, put into law, carbon pollution limits and this plan ensures we meet those limits.

This is a historic step forward, but now the hard work to pass a bill through the legislature truly begins. Together we can let it be known in the halls of Olympia that we won't accept failure because passing a law that limits carbon pollution protects the public health and economic vitality of Washington. **This is not the time to stand on the sidelines** or passively watch this opportunity for climate progress pass us by. This is our time to act.



Travel Photography Series: Four Intermediate Workshops

Learn how to capture memorable travel experiences in beautiful images. Four outstanding professional photographers will give you expert guidance in the classroom and in the field. Series includes 3 classes at the Dungeness River Audubon Center in Sequim and a photo shoot in Port Townsend. Register now!

February 9, 10:00 am-3:30 pm *Ten Secrets of the Masters*

DJ Bassett

DJ has assisted at the Ansel Adams Photography Workshops in Yosemite NP; he was co-owner of Jackson Hole Custom Color Lab; and operated Firehole Photo Expeditions in Yellowstone.



February 16, 10:00 am-3:30 pm *Travel Photography*

John Greengo

John specializes in photo education with local and online classes for participants around the world. He traveled extensively while assisting in the production of Art Wolfe's "Travels to the Edge," and now leads his own photo tours.



February 23, 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Photography Field Trip to Port Townsend

Stephen Cunliffe

Stephen has received local & national acclaim, including Canon's 2009 Grand Prize in "Photography in the Parks" competition. He teaches photo classes and field trips.



March 2, 4:00 pm-8:00 pm *Photo Critique & Exhibit*

Ken Campbell

Ken is an award winning wildlife photographer and has traveled to all seven continents. He publishes photographs in magazines, brochures, and calendars. Ken teaches classes and has judged for camera club competitions.





DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / TIME
JANUARY		
8	Clallam County Shoreline Mgmt. Program Forum	Port Angeles - Senior Center / 6 PM
8	NOG Excom meeting	Sequim - United Methodist Church / 1 PM
9	Growler Airfield Ops. Comment period closes	
10	Industrial Aquaculture Presentation	Sequim - Dungeness School House / 2 PM
10	Deadline for mailing NOG Excom ballot	
12	Clallam County Shoreline Mgmt. Program Forum	Seki - Community Center / 6 PM
13	Clallam County Shoreline Mgmt. Program Forum	Forks - DNR Bldg. / 6 PM
14	Clallam County Shoreline Mgmt. Program Forum	Sequim - John Wayne Marina / 6 PM
17	"Sludge Diet" documentary film	Sequim - Nash's Farm Store / 1:30 PM
27	"Living on Edge" Update & Discussion	Sequim - Dungeness School House / 6 PM
FEBRUARY		
2	Navy NWTT DEIS Suppl. comment period closes	
4	Clallam Co. Shoreline Mgmt. Prog. Public Hearing	Sequim - John Wayne Marina / 6 PM
8	Olympic Climate Action Membership event	visit olyclimate.org for details
10	Science Café Climate Change Presentation	Sequim - Paradise Café / 2 PM
12	NOG Excom meeting	Port Townsend - Comm. Center / 1 PM
12	Clallam Co. Shoreline Mgmt. Prog. Public Hearing	Seki - Community Center / 1 PM
12	Clallam Co. Shoreline Mgmt. Prog. Public Hearing	Forks - DNR Bldg. / 6 PM
18	Clallam Co. Shoreline Mgmt. Prog. Public Hearing	PA - Clallam Co. Courthouse / 6:30 PM

North Olympic Group Sierra Club 2015 Outings

exploreolympics@gmail.com or <http://www.meetup.com/North-Olympic-Group/>

Page One

Date	Where	Description	Comments
Sat April 11	Lake Ozette Triangle	With America's wildest coastline south of Alaska, the Ozette Triangle is one of the finest hikes on the Olympic Peninsula. Be prepared for lingering winter weather.	Participants are encouraged to arrive Friday evening and to camp in the area allowing for an early start on Saturday. Distance is 9.5 miles; hike is rated 3 out of 5 for difficulty, with 5 being the most difficult.
Sat May 9	NPS Led Elwha River Restoration	This is a National Park Service led trip along the west bank of the Elwha on a trail that follows the former lakeshore above the bygone Glines Canyon Dam. Come see the restoration of the mighty Elwha in action.	This outing is tentative, pending the Park Service's completion of trail work following the recent dam removal. It is limited to 15 participants and is an easy, level hike lasting 2-4 hours.
Sun June 14	Gold Creek	Gold Creek is in an area that would be newly designated wilderness under the Wild Olympics proposal. Come see why this area is worth preserving for future generations.	Total distance is 8-9 miles. Difficulty is 3 out of 5 with 5 being the most difficult.
Sun July 12	Grand Valley Wildflowers	Sparkling alpine lakes, wildflowers, old growth, alpine tundra, and wildlife in this mile-high valley	This is a challenging 10-mile hike whose difficulty is 4 out of 5 with 5 being the most difficult.
Fri Aug 7- Sun Aug 9 (3 days, 2 nights)	Seven Lakes Basin	A great place to hang your pack for a few autumn nights. Includes the stunning Seven Lakes Basin and High Divide Trail. On one visit, we spotted 11 black bears in the basin meadows eating berries and foraging for bugs. Mountain goats grazed with their young, and small brook trout in the lakes nipped at mosquitoes in the heat of the day.	The Olympic National Park provides a limited number of permits for overnight campers. <u>Reservations are needed and April 1 is the cutoff date for sending us your RSVP so we can submit the permit application on time.</u> This is a 19-mile multi-day hike with a 4,000' elevation gain. It is a strenuous outing requiring fitness and experience with overnight camping. NPS bear-proof food canisters are required as is an understanding of backcountry etiquette.

(Continued)

North Olympic Group Sierra Club 2015 Outings

exploreolympics@gmail.com or <http://www.meetup.com/North-Olympic-Group/>

Page Two

Date	Where	Description	Comments
Sun Sept 13	Silver Lake	Nestled in a remote cirque just south of Mt. Townsend, this lake's scenery is as sublime and inspiring as that found at the nearby busy summit.	Total distance is 6-7 miles, difficulty rated 3-4 with 5 being the most difficult.
Sun Oct 10	Mt. Townsend	Farewell to summer as we scale Mt. Townsend before the snow arrives. We'll approach the summit from the road less traveled and explore another area that would become new wilderness under the Wild Olympics proposal.	Total distance is 8-9 miles, difficulty rated 4 (with 5 being the most difficult) because of the elevation gain of almost 3,000 feet. But the view is worth it!
Sun Nov 15	Fall Foliage in the Elwha Valley	What better way to end the season than to enjoy a leisurely stroll among the fall foliage in the historic Elwha Valley.	Up to 8 miles, this is a moderate hike rated 2 on a scale of 5, with 5 being the most challenging.