



Loo Wit Rumblings



Environment, Education, Conservation & Events - Serving SW Washington

February 2015 Issue No. 113

February member program to focus on Hanford cleanup

The interminable cleanup of nuclear waste at the Hanford Reservation affects everyone who lives in the Pacific Northwest. Light-years behind schedule, it's now the subject of a suit brought by Washington state against the U.S. Dept. of Energy.

Join us at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 26 at the United Congregational Church in Hazel Dell to learn more about the cleanup process and how recent decisions may impact the health of the Columbia River and Washington communities. Leave knowing how you can make a difference in supporting a complete and effective cleanup of the Hanford site.



The program will be presented by Abigail Cermak, Hanford coordinator for Columbia Riverkeeper. Abigail holds a Masters degree in urban and regional planning from Portland State University and has worked in the City of Portland's Brownfield Program for the past four years, helping people redevelop neglected and often contaminated properties into neighborhood assets. She enjoys encouraging the public to speak out for a clean and safe Columbia River and works to provide transparency in the complex and contentious cleanup efforts at the Hanford site.

Date: Thursday February 26, 2015

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: United Congregational Church
1220 NE 68th St in Hazel Dell

Photo: The Hanford Reach of the Columbia River, where radioactivity was released from 1944 to 1971

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Announcements & Important Dates:

3 February **Conservation Committee meeting**
5:30 pm **United Congregational Church**
 1220 NE 68th St in Hazel Dell

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

26 February **Loo Wit Members Program**
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
www.facebook.com/loowit.group

Washington State Chapter & Loo Wit Group

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

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.

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 Mark at markleed02@gmail.com

Loo Wit Nominates, Selects Officers on Jan 6

On Jan 6, at the first ExCom meeting of 2015, ExCom, officers were nominated and selected from the committee. 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, Mark Leed via email: markleed02@gmail.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.

Like us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/loowit.group, or www.facebook.com/gorgegirl99

You can also visit the Loo Wit website:

www.washington.sierraclub.org/loowit/main/index.asp

To join the Sierra Club:

go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/>



Support Gov. Inslee's Climate Pollution Act

By Don Steinke
Loo Wit vice chair

Climate chaos is accelerating in Washington state and around the world. The U.S. Congress is packed with climate change deniers, putting all eyes on the states to take action on climate change and clean energy.

Big Coal and Big Oil will be pulling out all the stops to maintain the status quo. If the environmental community is going to make history this year, we must rise to meet them.

Sierra Club members are urged to e-mail or call their state legislators and ask them to support Gov. Inslee's climate legislation. Passing this legislation would result in significant and very positive change. If Washington joins California, British Columbia and Oregon (together the world's fifth largest economy) in climate action, we are a large-enough region to jumpstart action on a national scale.

Sierra Club and the Loo Wit Group stand together with Gov. Inslee to pass this bill.

Formation of Political Action Committee

From Don Steinke

A political action committee in Vancouver has been formed to gradually replace the Port Commissioners.

The committee is seeking a winning candidate who will represent the public, not just special interests.

To build momentum and to show the opposition that this committee is serious, it needs many "Likes" on its Facebook Page.

Today all you need to do is click this link, and then click "Like", and then on the left side of that page will be an opportunity for you to ask your friends to like this also. This needs to mushroom fast.

https://www.facebook.com/TaxpayersforResponsiblePublicPort?ref=br_tf

Later on you can think about sending a donation to show that the incumbent can be defeated.

The address for sending donations can be found here: <http://www.responsibleport.com/>

Oil Campaign Newsletter mid-January 2015

From Don Steinke

The Governor can stop some oil trains more easily than others. He has the sole authority to deny the permits for the Tesoro Savage Oil Terminal in Vancouver. He can order the Department of Ecology to deny permits in Grays Harbor. But he doesn't believe he has the political capital or legal authority to halt refinery expansions in Puget Sound. Even our legislature has no authority to stop the oil trains headed through Vancouver to Clatskanie Oregon.

Therefore, our governor is asking the legislature to require tug escorts and full financial responsibility in the event of a worst case scenario. This proposal is embodied in Senate Bill 5087. This bill is co-sponsored by State Senator Annette Cleveland from Vancouver.

SB 5087 will require onshore and offshore facilities (including railroad companies) to demonstrate financial responsibility in an amount determined by the Department of Ecology for a worst case scenario. It will require all marine vessels, above a certain size, to employ tug escorts while navigating certain areas of the Columbia River, Grays Harbor, and the Puget Sound.

State Senator Doug Erickson is from the refinery town of Ferndale, and is chair of the Senate Energy, Environment, and Telecommunications Committee. Last year, even though The Oil Transportation Safety Act passed the House, he refused to place it on the agenda in his committee. Thus it was never heard or voted on in the Senate. He will not allow SB 5087 to be heard in his committee unless pressured by Senate Republicans.

I think the certain fight over this bill will allow us to shine more light on the impacts that are not covered by this bill, and make it easier for the governor to deny permits.

The legislature will probably be adjourned by June, but the Tesoro question is not likely reach the Governor's desk until December or later.

I think we should write letters to our representatives encouraging them to support SB 5087 and to oppose the industry-sponsored SB 5057. The industry sponsored bill does not require financial responsibility or tug escorts.

Tesoro is advertising how wonderful they are on KIRO radio in Seattle. We can write letters to the editor and use FaceBook to provide the rest of the story.

Write letters to the Columbian thanking Senator Annette Cleveland for supporting financial responsibility requirements for those who transport crude oil, and publically encourage other lawmakers to do the same.

In your letter, remind the reader that the bill doesn't go far enough. The bill doesn't require two man crews, it doesn't require speeds slow enough to prevent rupture, it doesn't require safer tank cars, and that there is no way to compensate for lost lives or ruined shorelines.

Help shine more light on the issue.

Enjoy skiing cross-country? Join a Loo Wit Nordic outing

As though we're still waiting for a little more snow around Mt. Hood as this is written, Loo Wit Nordic (cross-country) ski outings are scheduled in February and March.

On Feb. 21 (Saturday), the plan is to ski on trails near Mt. Adams. On March 7 (snowcover permitting), we'll go to Oldman Pass (Upper Wind River) and on March 15 (Sunday; rescheduled from March 21), an area near Mt. Hood will be the destination. These Nordic outings are suitable for "advanced" beginners -- participants must be able to move forward, turn and stop. If you participated in the instructional class on Feb. 5, you would likely qualify.

Ski rentals are available at outdoor stores in the Portland area. E-mail the leader, Lehman Holder, for information. Nordic outings typically are less than 6 miles at a very moderate pace with a break for lunch. We carpool to the extent that we can to and from the trailhead, and stop for breakfast en route. Fees are \$2 for Sierra Club members, \$4 for non-members. Outings are capped at 10 participants and advance signup is required -- e-mail Lehman at tripsguy@aol.com.



Southwest Washington
Sierra Club

Loo Wit Group

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.

**Spring is (slowly) coming,
with bike and sea kayak outings**

While it always seems spring is too far off at this time of year, it will be here before we know it -- along with another year of Loo Wit bicycle and sea kayak outings.

Sea kayak outings are offered at two levels, "A" and "B". Those who are brand-new to a sea kayak, or have been out once, are encouraged to try an A-level outing. These are 2-hour introductory outings including instruction, specifically oriented to new paddlers. Those who have been out 3-4 times or more and have developed a "comfort level" on the water qualify for a B-level outing. B-level outings are a little longer, usually 3-4 hours, with slightly longer distances (5-6 miles).

Kayak rentals, including paddle and pfd (life jacket), are available for A-level outings and are sometimes available for B-level trips. Participation is limited to 10 kayaks (any combination of singles and doubles). Outing locations are mostly on local-area waters. Advance signup is required. Outing dates will be scheduled in February, and run from about May 1 to mid-October. E-mail Laura Skehan, lauraskehan@comcast.net, or Lehman Holder, tripsguy@aol.com, if you have questions.

Bike outings will begin about mid-April, and are geared toward the recreational cyclist. We typically ride 20-30 miles at "social" pace (average of 10-12 mph), which almost anyone who exercises a few times a week can do. As with kayaking, outings are mostly in the Vancouver area, with occasional trips to locations a bit farther afield. If it's raining, bike outings are postponed and rescheduled, or cancelled. Helmets are required, but other than that, all you need is a bike in good condition. For more info, e-mail Lehman.

**Loo Wit Executive Committee (ExCom) Roster
& Contact Information for 2015**

Name	Position	email
Mark Leed	Chair	markleed02@gmail.com
Don Steinke	Vice Chair Oil & Coal	crvancouverusa@gmail.com
Steve Foster	Treasurer Sales	siberman88@aol.com
Brooks Berndt	Conservation Chair	brooks@vanucc.org
Mike Newsham	Outings Liaison	2newshams@comcast.net
Mary Lynch	Legislative Chair	mylynch030@gmail.com
Ben Dennis	Conversation Rivers. Fish	flyrodbranch@comcast.net
Alona Steinke	Conservation Oil/Coal	alonakotkasteinke@hotmail.com
Lehman Holder	At Large	tripsguy@aol.com
Key Advisory Council		
David Bybee	Secretary	DaveBybee@oregon.sierraclub.org
Tom Forest	Outings Chair	tforest@prometheal.com
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.

**www.washingtonsierraclub.org/loowit
www.facebook.com/loowit.group**

Thanks for the opportunity - from outgoing Chair Lehman Holder

Having served Loo Wit Group as chair from 2013-2014, I would like to say “thank you” to Loo Wit’s membership for the opportunity. I very much enjoyed it.

Although I had been a Sierra Club member for a long time (since 1973), and had served in other executive committee (excom) positions, I had never before served as chair. I found it to be both fulfilling and a lot of fun, and I would encourage Loo Wit members to get involved with our executive committee. For several years, Loo Wit has had an exceptional excom with terrific people, considered to be among the three most effective group excoms in the Washington Chapter.

So, don’t hesitate to jump in. The water’s fine, and you’ll find us to be very friendly and easy to work with. We look forward to meeting you, and we’ll be happy to have your help. Questions? E-mail our new chair, Mark Leed, markleed02@gmail.com, or Lehman Holder, tripsguy@aol.com.



Southwest Washington
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Loo Wit Group

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