

# *The Moose Call*

*The Newsletter of the Friends of  
Mt. Spokane State Park*

*February 2007*

---

---

## **President's Message**

by Cris M. Currie

It was a very busy year for the Friends Group/Advisory Committee. After 11 meetings in 2006, substantial progress was made toward completion of a master development and facilities plan for the Park. Meetings included discussions around new trail locations for hiking, downhill mountain biking, snowshoeing, nordic skiing, and snowmobiling, primarily to better separate conflicting user groups. The draft was finished in June, posted on the Friends' website, and an overview was presented at a meeting of mountain bikers, and at the Parks Commission meeting that month in Spokane. Daniel Farber, a parks planner from Olympia, was then assigned the task of gathering public input and pulling together the proposal for an expanded alpine ski area,

the draft trail plan, and ideas for expanded overnight accommodations within the Park, into a master facilities and development plan. Three very different thematic alternative park visions have gradually taken shape, from which staff will eventually recommend a more specific proposal for Commission adoption. Daniel met with the Advisory Committee numerous times and conducted three public meetings. The most controversial and difficult part of the planning involves whether to expand the alpine ski area to the west and north with a new chairlift and runs. Despite several months of study and intense discussions, neither the Parks Commission staff nor the Advisory Committee were able to reach consensus on whether to encourage the Commission to support the Concessionaire's expansion plan. At their March meeting, Commissioners will hear arguments both for

---

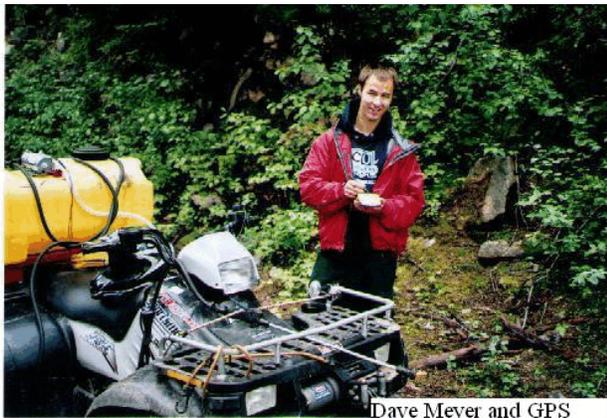
---

The Friends of Mt. Spokane State Park  
621 W. Mallon, Suite 607  
Spokane, WA 99201  
(509) 467-9343

and against expansion. They are expected to make a decision regarding whether to enter Phase 2 of the proposal process at their April meeting. Most of this work, including the public comments, is posted at [www.parks.wa.gov/plans/mtspokane](http://www.parks.wa.gov/plans/mtspokane). No final decisions are expected for another year or more, however several high priority trail improvement projects will be approved for this summer.

### Park Mapping Progress

Last summer, **Dave Meyer**, a senior at Central Washington University, spent 12 weeks as an intern traveling through the Park with an agency GPS unit.



Dave Meyer and GPS

Under the guidance of **Cris Currie**, he was able to determine precise locations for all Park trails. The data were then downloaded into a computer. **Ed Falconer**, a mapping professional at Fairchild Air Force Base, then volunteered his substantial expertise to produce a multi-layered GIS map of both the Park and the surrounding area. Layers include USGS topographic maps, DNR and USGS air photo maps, Spokane County and Census Bureau road data sets, official and unofficial Park trails, Park features, alpine ski runs, proposed trails, and land classification. The map is also integrated with the trails information spreadsheet that

Friends created last year, so complete descriptions of each trail are readily available. It is by far the most detailed and accurate map of the Park ever produced, and it will be utilized in a wide variety of ways, including various products available to the public.

### New Snowshoe Brochure

The first product created from the GIS project was an area map highlighting the snowshoe trails. The map was included as part of a new Friends Group brochure for this rapidly increasing user group. Now, instead of trying to get trail information from the rangers, web-footed hikers can simply pick up a brochure at the trail heads. The brochure describes five trails, plus the route to the summit that was worked out between the alpine ski concessionaire and the Advisory Committee as part of the draft trail plan. Snowshoers and backcountry skiers are now permitted to take a direct line



Bald Knob to Summit Route

from the Bald Knob campground to the KXLY towers on the summit without interfering with alpine ski operations. The

brochure is also available at the Friends' website ([www.mountspokane.org](http://www.mountspokane.org)).

### **New Snowmobile Brochure**

For the 2006-07 winter season, the Friends Group got actively involved in addressing the need for improved regulation of snowmobiling within the Park. In the spring, the group submitted a grant to the State Parks Snowmobile Advisory Committee to fund a snowmobiling brochure, additional signs, and paid snow hosts to help ensure that every rider in the Park understands the Park's rules for snowmobiling. The grant was not funded, but money was contributed by the Inland Empire Paper Company and the Winter Knights Snowmobile Club, and a brochure was produced and widely distributed both within and outside the Park. The brochure contains a custom made trail map by volunteer **Tom Frost**, and it represents the first time a complete set of snowmobiling rules have been presented to Park visitors.

### **Vault Toilet Now On Summit**

Thanks to the energy of **Michael Knopp**, a 15 year old eagle scout candidate, relief is just a stone's throw away on the summit of Mt. Spokane. Michael raised \$10,000 so the Park could install a CXT vault toilet near the top of Chair 1. After the alpine concessionaire began serving food at the Vista House during winter weekends, Michael got the idea of providing the public with "a place to go," since the closest restroom was a good mile away. State Parks matched his \$10,000 and the toilet was installed last fall, shortly after the Friends Group contributed \$200. Thank you Michael!

### **Lookout Booked in Three Days**

The second season for the Quartz Mountain Fire Lookout was another huge success. This 14' X 14' room with a view was completely booked through September within 3 days of the opening for reservations on March 1. Most reservations were for a single night and many had stayed the year before as well. The lookout rents for \$50/night.



Shuttered for Winter

### **Thank You Donors and Volunteers!**

Many thanks to our recent financial donors including **Marilyn Lloyd, Robin DeRuwe, Robin and Scott Redman, Allison Cowles, Patty Houff, Darlene Currie, George Momany, Bill and Debbie Pierce, Lou and Frank Slak, Debra and Bruce Howard, Mike Brixey, Jeff Lambert, Spokane Winter Knights Snowmobile Club**, and the **Inland Empire Paper Company**.

Also thanks to **Craig Bierly, Karen Kovali, Tom Frost, Michael Knopp, Dave Meyer**, and especially **Ed Falconer**. And thanks to our energetic Friends Board/Advisory Committee including the following new members: **George Momany** as the Non-motorized Winter Recreation Representative, **Marilyn Brennan** as the Passive Summer Recreation Representative, **Robin DeRuwe** as the Business Community

Representative, **Holly Weiler** as the Environmental Community Representative, and **Lew Persons** as an At-large member. **Ken Carmichael, Barbee Scheibner, Rob Lindsay, Cris Currie, Aaron Spurway,** and **Anita Boyden** were re-elected, and the same officers were all re-elected.

### **Park Commission Openings**

By December of 2008, three openings will occur on the Washington State Parks Commission board. The Commission consists of 7 citizens of the state, who are appointed by the governor for terms of 6 years, and who make policy decisions involving Washington State Parks. Candidates may not hold an elected or full-time appointed office and must understand park and recreation needs and interests. **Clyde Anderson** had been a commissioner

from Spokane who just completed two terms. His successor is Fred Olson, from Olympia, and Governor Gregoire's former Deputy Chief of Staff. Currently, no commissioners live in Eastern Washington. Interested persons may apply on line at the governor's website ([www.governor.wa.gov](http://www.governor.wa.gov)) and click on Inside the Governor's Office). Also contact Sheila Collins, Gov. Gregoire's assistant in Spokane, for assistance in applying.



### **Joining the Friends of Mt. Spokane State Park**

Individual Membership: \$25 or 5 hours of volunteer service per year.  
Family Membership: \$40 or 10 hours of volunteer service per year.  
Corporate Membership: \$100 per year or more! All contributions are tax deductible.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to volunteer \_\_\_\_\_ hours.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ I have enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: The Friends of Mt. Spokane State Park

621 W. Mallon, Suite 607, Spokane, WA 99201      Thank you!  
Message phone: (509) 467-9343      Web site: [www.mountspokane.org](http://www.mountspokane.org)