



# FRIENDS OF MOUNT SPOKANE

## The Moose Call

The Newsletter of the Friends of Mt. Spokane State Park

January 2023

[www.mountspokane.org](http://www.mountspokane.org)

[friends@mountspokane.org](mailto:friends@mountspokane.org)

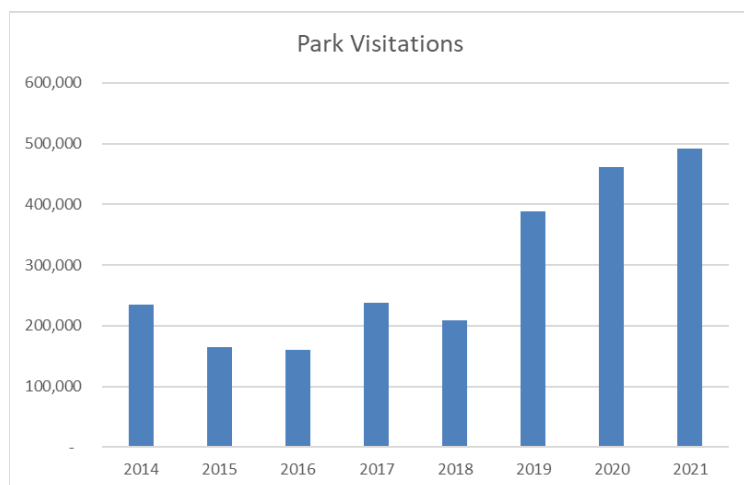
---

### 2021-2022 Years in Review

The year 2021 would be best described as the year of change at Mt. Spokane, in many respects. For the Friends group, 2021 brought a new board and slate of officers as the founder of the original Friends group, Cris Currie, retired after almost 26 years of faithful service. At the same time new park rangers were hired and the new General Manager at Mt. Spokane Ski concession was kicking off many new initiatives for uphill skiing, Vista House hospitality services, etc. So it was an interesting new set of faces around the mountain in general.

### Covid: Make the outdoors popular again

First and foremost, regional popularity combined with Covid brought huge increases in park usage over the last several years. This has impacted trail wear and tear, trail conflicts, not to mention significant parking congestion (especially in the winter). It has been said that more people are loving our mountain to death! This has been playing out across all State parks and is not isolated to Mt. Spokane alone. It makes the Friends group even more useful and important in terms of educating users through guided hikes, trail maps etc.



## Board Members: Effective February 2021

Officers	Re-elected members	New members
President: Jeff Gibson	Dean Meakin	Duane Crockett
Vice President: Darrell Soyars	George Momany	Don Story
Treasurer: Ken Carmichael	Holly Weiler	Mary Ann Sullivan
Secretary: Mike Henneberry	Anita Boyden	Carol Corbin
	Chris Conley	Sean Harrington
	John Nelson (retired from board in September 2021)	

### Introducing our community to the Park

The new Friends board has focused primarily on education through guided hikes and snowshoes in conjunction with State Parks and Spokane Parks and Recreation.

Most of our activities in 2021 consisted of monthly board meetings via Zoom in addition to the following activities:

**February 2021-** A City of Spokane Parks Snowshoe hike.

**March 2021-** A City of Spokane Parks Snowshoe hike.

**April 2021-** meeting at RSP with New State Parks Commissioner. New Friends Facebook page established.

**June 2021-** Interpretive Sign for CCC Woodshed installed by Cris, Don, and Duane. *(Pictured to the right.)*

Snowshoe cabin cleanup, trail maps updated.

Provided funds for the interpretive signage and trail maps.

Letter of support for Inland Empire Paper to purchase a large conservation easement surrounding Spirit and Twin Lakes.



**July 2021-** A State Parks Commission meeting at Bald Knob, City of Spokane Parks Summer hikes- A Huckleberry Hike and a CCC Cabin hike.



**September 2021-** A four-summits preview hike (*pictured to the left*) that included a close call with a romantic moose couple.

City of Spokane Parks Fall Hikes- The four summits & CCC Cabin.

Submitted 2022 Operating Plan to State Parks.

Trail 148 decommissioning completed.

Advocated for Bear Creek lodge purchase by the state.



**October 2021-** Snowshoe cabin clean up and woodshed restocking. (*Pictured above*)

**December 2021-** Major donation by STCU due to Sean's role on the board. (*Pictured to the right*)



**January 2022-** First Day snowshoe treks in partnership with State Parks.

Trail 130 cleanup and blue diamond replacement work party.

Board votes to underwrite a State Parks trail map project. (*Pictured to the left*)

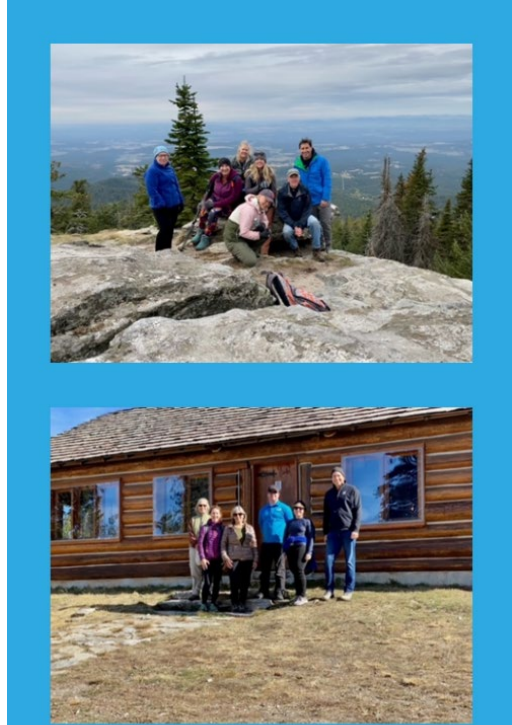
**February 2022-** Board votes to redesign the current Friends website.

Spokane Parks guided moonlight hike and Mt Kit Carson hikes.

**July 2022-** Map committee meets with State Parks to review progress on the map design and offer inputs on various trails and overall layout.

**August 2022-** Four Summits hike another big success! New website project launched in earnest. *(Pictured to the right)*

**September 2022-** Wood-splitting and restocking of the Snowshoe Hut firewood. Spokane Mountaineers graciously donated a few felled trees and Friends volunteers split the wood, transported it to the Hairpin Turn parking lot and after much wrangling, got the gate open to drive it to Smith Gap and refill the firewood shed. *(Pictured below)*



**December 2022-** Website redesign completed and launched [www.mountspokane.org](http://www.mountspokane.org). Map project nearing completion.

