

# The Kitsap Yurt Story

By Gala Lindvall, project manager

Our story started in April 2011 when The Players/Kitsap Cabin committee received word that The Mountaineers wanted us to consider putting a 27' diameter yurt on the Kitsap property. The yurt (and accompanying grant) was originally designated for the Mountaineers Snoqualmie property near the Snoqualmie ski area but the yurt was no longer going to work in that location.

The challenge was to install the yurt on the Kitsap property using only the left-over grant money. One-third of the money had already been spent on engineering, site studies and yurt upgrades not needed at sea level. Our wish list for the final project included a shed near the yurt, tables, chairs and small portable heaters. We also wanted electricity and lights installed. We were excited about the additional programming opportunities having a yurt on the property would allow.



After looking at sites at the Kitsap property we found a perfect location for the Yurt – close to the restrooms and to the sleeping dorm (Cascade).

In July, Doug Frick and Gala Lindvall met with Michael Fuhrman from Rainier Yurt and with Steve Kicinski from Ellisport Engineering to finalize the acceptance and installation of the yurt. It was decided to use normal size rafters and support (rather than the oversize ones needed at Snoqualmie for “snow load”). Michael volunteered to give us a few days of his time to oversee construction of the yurt – which was so very helpful.

Doug helped with the preliminary work to get the permit from Kitsap County. Craig McCoy felled a bunch of trees where the yurt was going, and Mike Bonomo cut the logs into rounds for later splitting for firewood.

On July 26, 2011, Craig McCoy removed tree stumps from site that had previously been cut down and the logs cut into short sections by volunteer Mike Bonomo). Craig also used the tractor to level the site, and we determined where the center of the yurt should be, as well as where the doors should be, allowing for the ramp.

The transfer of the grant to Kitsap was approved at the end of July and Ellen Frick and Gala Lindvall put the Kitsap Building Permit application in on September 21, 2011.

Thanks to hard work by Ellen and Doug Frick, the Kitsap County permit for the yurt was approved on October 6, 2011. On October 12<sup>th</sup> the yurt platform lumber supplies were delivered, and our contractor, Mac Smith, started work on the foundation the next day. Volunteer Don Nolte spent a week helping out at the site.



October 17<sup>th</sup> the concrete was delivered and poured into holes. Even this caused an emergency call to Mike Bonomo to cut down a small evergreen in the way of the cement truck.



On October 21<sup>st</sup> the Yurt crates were delivered by Dan's Delivery to the Kitsap site (getting the truck unloaded was a huge undertaking – the yurt came in huge crates) and on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the platform was finished!

Mac did a great job. Thanks to Don Nolte for his help all week long. We now had a big, big circle in the middle of the forest.





## Yurt raising! – October 26 & 27, 2011



The Kitsap Yurt was installed during a wonderful two days of teamwork under the volunteer supervision of Michael Fuhrman from Rainier Yurts. Mac Smith, our contractor, along with Scott Eby, Josh Brown, Craig McCoy, Doug Frick, Chris Stanley and Gala Lindvall helped “raise” this very well constructed yurt kit.



The first day was spent installing the wood framework. After the walls were up, the center ring support had to be put up on a scaffold in the middle of the yurt to accept the rafters (easier said than done!)



After all 44 rafters were installed, wood braces were installed between each rafter pair (half high and half low). This was probably the most tedious part of the job. The happy crew poses after day one of work.



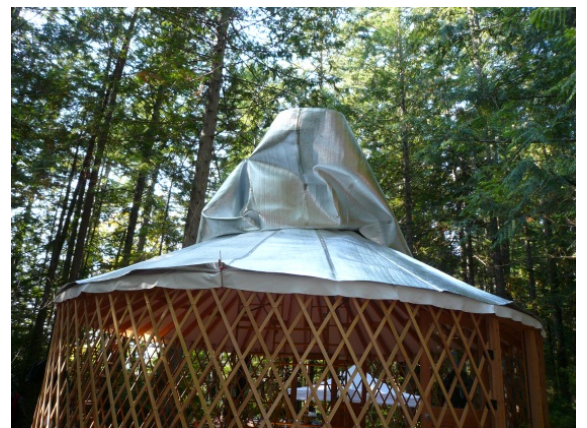
A delicious steak dinner cooked by Doug Frick was enjoyed by the crew who relaxed and talked around the fire after dinner. Doug cooked a wonderful breakfast the next morning. His cooking was appreciated by all!



The second day was the fabric installation. Every seam (front and back) of all three layers of roof insulation had to be taped with a special silver tape – a 3 to 4 hour job.

Michael explained how to “push” the insulation through the

top so that it would lay correctly. It looked like a silver monster coming alive from the inside of the yurt!







After three layers (plus the roof liner) were placed on the roof, it was time to attach the side liner and walls.

After the walls were attached, Chris and Scott raised the center dome (and called it the “cone of silence”).

Everyone appreciated the leadership of Michael from Rainier Yurts – it made it so much easier to have someone “in the know” telling us what to do. Thank you so much, Michael! We also

appreciated having our contractor, Mac, involved. His help was invaluable. The rest of the crew worked very hard and we thank them all for giving the Kitsap Forest Theater two days of their volunteer time.

It was a successful two days with perfect weather (cold but clear) and no wind during the second day when installing the fabric, which was important. Everyone involved enjoyed the chance to be part of a new adventure.

Now that the yurt was up it was time to think about electricity, splitting all of the wood from the site, and getting a shed.

On Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, Craig McCoy dug a 100’ electrical ditch from the main electrical box to the yurt site and prepared



the site for the 8’ x 10’ shed that we purchased off of craigslist. He also started spreading gravel around the site while Mac Smith worked on the ramp to the yurt.



On Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, we had three different projects going on simultaneously at the Yurt site. Kalen Spees, Brian Lindvall, Jimmy Paulsen and Gary Spees split all of the



wood at the yurt site (2 cords worth) and stacked the wood in the wood shed. This was an all-day project, using a nifty electric splitter that Jimmy borrowed for us. Thanks, Guys.

Scott Eby laid all of the pvc pipe and electrical wire from Toutle (the flush toilet building) to the yurt, and did all of the electrical connections at either box (a 10 hour job). Thanks, Scott!

Then three wonderful guys delivered a shed to us and spent 4 hours putting it together on site and putting on a new roof. We now have ready-made storage for the yurt. Thanks to Cody, Toby & Tighe.



All-in-all, a productive week at the Kitsap Forest Theater.





On November 30<sup>th</sup> Craig McCoy filled in the ditch and spread gravel around the yurt site. We now had electricity out to the site, and gravel walkways all around. The deck and ramp were almost finished, and Craig put gravel right up to the shed, so we don't need any stairs to access it.



On December 8<sup>th</sup> we passed the first phase electrical inspection and it was time to think about flooring and lighting.

In March we attached awnings over both doors of the yurt – thanks to Jamie and

Nancy Estill and Craig McCoy for help with this project.

## Yurt Flooring – April 2012



After a lot of research on what to put on the floor (over the plywood foundation) we decided to buy some oak hardwood flooring from craigslist that was being removed from a house slated for demolition. This was a huge undertaking, as the flooring had to be loaded onto a truck, transported to Kitsap, unloaded from the truck – and every piece had to have all of the nails grounded out.



Thanks to Craig McCoy for providing the truck and volunteer time to help load the flooring, transport it to Kitsap, and start the grinding off the nails. Josh Brown, Brian Lindvall, Trey Morgan, Gail Foster, Nancy Estill and Gala Lindvall all helped with the grinding, wiping and stacking of the wood. It took three days of work to go from the flooring at the original house to the flooring stacked in the shed ready for installation – and some very sore backs!



Special thanks to Chris Greyell from Millwork Installations for providing the expertise and spending an entire weekend from dawn to dusk laying the floor. He was helped by Trey Morgan, son of Angela Morgan, a cast member of our spring show, *Fiddler on the Roof*.

The final product is beautiful to behold. Chris actually cut each wall base so that the wood floor would fit under the wall and make a circle all the way around the yurt.





## Yurt Electricity and Lighting – May - July 2012



We had electricity to the yurt – but needed to get the electricity to outlets inside the yurt, and to figure out what would be the best kind of lighting. The initial work was handled by volunteers Scott & Martha Eby, Brian Lindvall and Jimmy & Bill Paulsen.



When the job became too big for amateurs, we were blessed to find Greg Fairley of Spectrum Electric. He is a local electrician who knew about our theater, and wanted to give back to the community. Little did he know that the day or two he was planning to donate turned into many more hours by the time the job was finished. He did a fabulous job, and suggested a perfect solution to lighting the yurt – tract lighting attached to the rafters. He spent lots of time under the yurt – at least Marcus and Trenton Hickerson had laid plastic down before hand.



He had to redo some of the work that the volunteers had done and completed the wiring in the yurt and to the shed. He also added outdoor light fixtures around the yurt.



He was helped by

Steve Hamilton who works with Greg. When we were in need of a new caretaker for the property, Greg recommended Steve, and Steve is now the Kitsap property caretaker. We thank both Greg and Steve for their work on behalf of the Kitsap Forest Theater – and for giving us light!

The final project was buying some tables and chairs for use in the yurt that can be stored in the shed when not needed.

This has been a fun and exciting project, and the Players/Kitsap Forest Theater/Kitsap Cabin are enjoying this wonderful addition to our property. The yurt has already been used for rehearsals, summer camps and rentals.

We thank the many volunteers who gave their time and talents to make this yurt a reality. We thank Martinique, the executive director of The Mountaineers for entrusting us with this project. Thanks to The Mountaineers Foundation and to Brunhilde Wislicenus for her generous donation that made this yurt possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Gala Lindvall  
Kitsap Yurt Project Manager (and Kitsap Cabin co-chair)  
November 12, 2012

