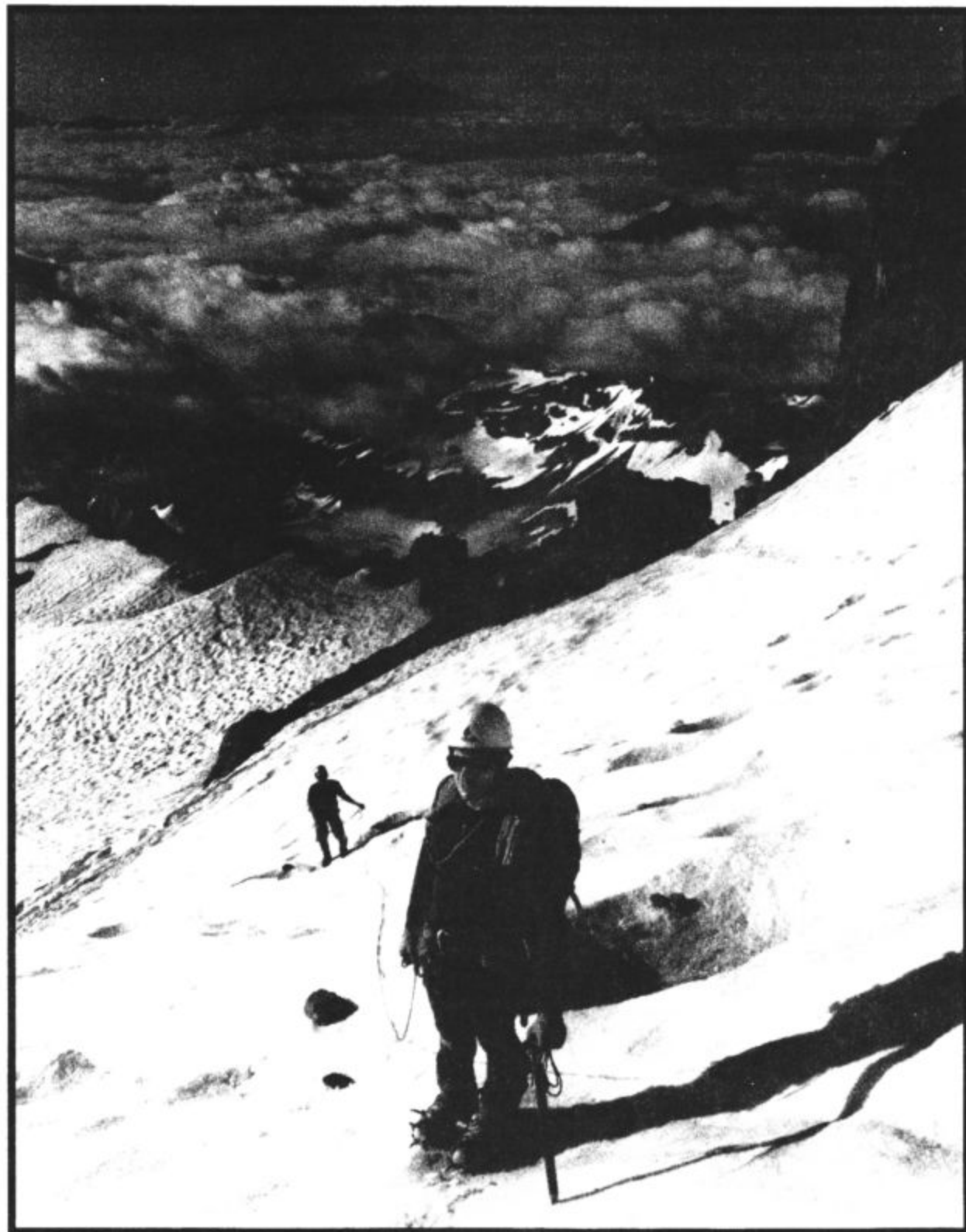


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Washington and the Pacific Northwest*

JUNE 1995
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VOLUME 4, NUMBER 6

RANDOM VIEW—



Jane Habegger

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COVER PHOTO:

A Mountaineer group ascending Little Tahoma, 11,138 feet. Mount Rainier National Park, Washington. Photo by Royce Conrad.

HOW TO BE A PACK & PADDLE CONTRIBUTOR:

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LETTERS to the EDITOR

This is an open forum and does not necessarily express the opinions of the publishers

ANTI-TECHNOLOGY DIATRIBES

Come off the anti-technology diatribes that have been appearing in *P&P* the last couple of months. How can we crab about 1990s technology and not earlier technological advances?

Maybe we should go back to the technology available when Washington became a state. A few of the things we could leave home are all synthetic fibers, modern packs, snowshoes, skis, and lug-soled boots.

Also sunscreen, insect repellent, freeze-dried foods, camp stoves, ice axes, accurate topo maps, and I don't know what else. Or maybe we should go back before Europeans arrived. Ever try camping stone-age-style?

I neither have nor want a cellular phone, but I'm no hypocrite either.

TG
Skyway, Washington

SKADULGWAS HISTORY

Here's some trivia relating to John Roper's fine report on Skadulgwas Peak (*May, page 18*):

He may be interested in trying to find the site of Frank Lawrence's old mine which was near where Dick Kegel is shown on the cover photo. The ground wire for the Higgins lookout ended in a small tarn north of the lookout, and Frank Lawrence planned to pipe that water down to wash his galena ore. That never happened.

The old trail crossed the west meadows of Mount Higgins, led down to a Deer Creek crossing and on north to Finney. Just where that trail began to drop toward Deer Creek, Frank Lawrence's mine trail branched off to the right and pretty much held its elevation eastward to the mine north of the lookout. Good luck.

Three quarters of a century ago we

unwashed ruffians called Skadulgwas "The Flatiron" because of its shape. Round Mountain was "Baldy" and Mount Bullon was "Sheepshank."

Harry Major's information on the naming of Myrtle Lake is wrong. The lake was named for Myrtle Pierson, daughter of James and Linnie (Higgins) Pierson whose property was bounded on the south by what's now Highway 530, on the north by the North Fork Stilly and on the west by the road leading to the river bridge. Frank Lawrence lived slightly west and on the south side of 530.

The original phone line up Higgins was simply an insulated bell wire laid on the ground and it followed closely the old Indian trail up the east end of the mountain from Swede Heaven. One of the men who laid that line was Leland Batdorf, DDS. And yes, that line was frequently broken by animals.

I know these things because I was born at Hazel (named for Pete McMartin's daughter) in 1919 and I came to know all of these people and places.

km
Marysville, Washington

LOST DOGS

I am one of the founders of "Friends of Mount Si." It is an organization formed by the Department of Natural Resources to protect and enhance the New Mount Si Natural Resource Conservation Area (MSNRCA pronounced "mis-nerca"). I am also doing a book on the history and trails in the area.

In mapping the 50-plus miles of trail and roads on MSNRCA, we have come upon a disturbing fact. Numbers of dogs are taken into the wilderness and become separated from their "families" and are lost.

May 6, we were mapping the trail to

Kamakaze Falls, when in a remote part of the trail, a male golden lab and a female brown bird dog started following us. They were lost, tired and hungry. We called Animal Control, who with the police and others tried to locate someone who could care for the animals. We left the dogs at the Mount Teneriffe gate with as many sandwiches as we had. We asked a neighbor to look after them if possible.

What was really sad was that with every car that passed, the dogs would jump up and look hopefully to see if it was their master's car. ...

We have learned that many dogs become separated from their people. We have also seen remains of dogs that have been dismantled by coyotes, cougars and bears. Many wander into someone's place and are shot, given away (the lucky ones), or turned over to Animal Control and put to sleep. ...

So please, if you are taking your dog into the wilderness ... put your beloved pet on a leash. Even the most well-behaved pet with good obedience training can flee under frightening circumstances. We hope that when we are hiking we will never again see any other abandoned dogs like these.

Robert DeGraw and Diana Carmack
Kirkland, Washington

GOATS MUST GO

I think the goats need to vacate Olympic Park, but make the rangers get out of their helicopters and hike in, instead. They need the exercise!

Eric Burr
Mazama, Washington

More **LETTERS** about llamas ...
see page 16!

TRAILHEAD ALERT

LISTING OF TRAILHEADS WHERE VANDALISM HAS BEEN A REPORTED PROBLEM

Don't leave anything valuable in your car: no purse or wallet shoved under the front seat; no Gore-tex rain coat stashed in the trunk.

To help establish patterns for law enforcement personnel, report any break-in or vandalism, no matter how small.

It's pretty early in the season, but here are the few reports we've received so far:

HOOD CANAL DISTRICT—The little Jefferson Lake campground has had several break-ins recently. This is probably an indicator of vandalism-to-come on Duckabush and Hamma Hamma trailheads and campgrounds this summer.

OLYMPIC BEACHES—Third Beach had a break-in on a recent weekend. The Shi Shi trailhead continues to have break-ins even though the trail is officially closed.

MT BAKER DISTRICT—Cars left at the hot springs trailhead have been vandalized.

FOSS RIVER ROAD—This year a Campground Host is stationed at the West Fork trailhead. Thank these good people when you go up the Foss!

WIND RIVER DISTRICT—Old Man Pass Sno-Park and Trapper Creek trailhead facilities have been vandalized.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS





REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

INTRODUCTION

See "How to be a *Pack & Paddle* contributor" on page 3. All readers are encouraged to contribute to *Backcountry News*. Information that is particularly helpful includes: distance & elevation gain, condition of trail or route, hazards such as tidal currents, rockfall, avalanche danger, washouts, bees' nests, etc., and pleasant or fun things you encountered.

Space is limited; we may have to cut your report to fit available space. Typing is not necessary; we can read just about anyone's handwriting. We're interested in ALL trips, easy and hard, ordinary and exotic.

We use the following symbols to help you plan your trips.

-  —Climbing, scrambling, mountaineering, off-trail and cross-country travel.
-  —Hiking, backpacking on trails.
-  —Canoeing, kayaking and water trips.
-  —Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.



PENINSULA



GENERAL CONDITIONS—Snow melting fast, but still deep above 3000 feet, depending on exposure.

 **NORTH FORK SKOKOMISH TRAIL** (*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Mt Skokomish*)—Excited about trying out my new sleeping bag, (Annie Oakley 0° Thinsulate Lite Loft Sierra Designs, REI) Don and I picked the Staircase area.

We knew it was going to be a good weekend when our first sight was two bull elk crossing the river while ducks swam around their feet.

Just as we entered the Beaver Fire area (1985) we heard a loud popping, smacking noise high up and knew immediately it was a small rock avalanche. Down the trail a ways we then stopped to watch a blue grouse sitting on a tree limb calling out to its mate.

The trail has been cleared of blow-downs to Camp Pleasant. We made camp at Big Log, a site down from the main trail. The big hollowed out cedar tree that you can stand up in gives this campsite its own personality. People have hacked away on it to get dry fire-

wood.

After crossing the ice-cube Seven Stream in mid-calf water, we hiked up the Six Ridge trail until we reached a plateau. There are numerous trees down and 4 feet of snow where we turned around (3500 feet)


Saturday we saw not a soul. Saturday night not a creature stirred.

Sunday (after a cold night in the new warm bag) we walked up to Camp Pleasant.

On our return trip a lady tending her blistered feet said there was 4 feet of snow at Nine Stream. We made a half attempt at finding Darky Mine. A waterfall instead got our attention. After climbing to the second tier we knew we would have to find another way down.

Back at camp a butterfly (maybe a mourning cloak) landed on me. It must have thought I was a flower as no matter how many times I shooed it away it came back.

We took the Staircase Rapid trail back so we could cross the new bridge that they put in.—Kerry Gilles, Westport and Don Abbott, Aberdeen, 4/15-16.


 **TUBAL CAIN LOOP** (*Buckhorn Wilderness; USGS Tyler Pk, Mt Deception*)—Lew met me at the Diamond Point Airport west of Sequim at 8am. We drove 101 to the cut-off to the Palo Alto Road and up it to the Gold Creek trailhead. At 8:45 we started the loop there and progressed from 1230 feet up to 3100 feet on excellent trail (gradual, soft, one blow-down, little mud and almost no snow) about 7 miles to the Tubal Cain Mine

trailhead. Several good view spots and one stream crossing, mostly on rocks. We passed an unmarked junction about one-quarter of the way up which switched back temptingly, probably to a logging road.

The loop continues about 3.5 miles on the road then just past the Dungeness River bridge re-enters the forest to roughly parallel the river downstream. Again the trail was excellent with one climb to 2640 feet and an end at the road about a mile upstream from the car.

There is one spectacular viewpoint shortly after the 2640 trail high point. We reached the car at 3:15 for a total of 16 miles; it would have been 17 but we cross-countried near the Tubal Cain trailhead.

We met one courteous biker and tried to tread so as to squish back down the soil raised at the sides of previous bike tracks. This trail is not in most of the books but makes a good early season hike. We further lucked out with mostly sunshine!—Tom Karasek, Stanwood, 4/20.

 **ANNAPOLIS TO BLAKE ISLAND** (*NOAA 18449*)—We thought we had all our bases covered for this trip through Rich Passage. The current would be at slack to avoid ed-

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS DEADLINE: JUNE 20

Submit your trail reports by this date for the next issue. (Deadline for other departments is earlier, check with us for details.)

dies or tide rips; the Bremerton-Seattle ferry schedule informed us we wouldn't meet any ferries in the passage and have their wake to negotiate; and the weather was sunny with no wind.

So what base wasn't covered? When Ann, Bert and I arrived at the Annapolis boat launch shortly after 9am we noted two Navy helicopters flying an oval route over the water. That meant the *USS Nimitz* would be leaving Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and going to sea at the same time we would be paddling!

We loaded up and were on the water when we heard the horn sound from the *Nimitz* indicating it was underway. We had just under 3 miles to paddle before reaching the passage so we knew the ship would pass us before then. As we paddled we periodically glanced over our shoulders to see how soon we would be overtaken. And the watchful helicopters continued their oval pattern, several times flying directly overhead. We made sure we kept to the edge of the channel.


It was exciting to watch the super carrier approach. An arriving ferry was dwarfed next to the carrier. Just before Waterman we were overtaken, and we turned to watch it pass and to take photos. It was then that we noticed . . . *the wake!* It was *big*. The swells were curling over and breaking as they approached us. We were hit with two big waves—what an experience!

Bert was a little behind us in his single. We were able to turn our heads and watch him as he took the waves. His bow was out of the water by several feet when he took the first wave.

The rest of the trip was anticlimactic. We did encounter some wake from other passing boats, but they were just ripples compared to what we had faced from the *Nimitz*.

After a short stop at the northwest corner of Blake to check out the Marine Trail campsite, we were back in the boats and heading to the south end of the island. Bert was planning to camp there for the night before heading over to Vashon to meet other kayakers on Saturday morning.

After a short stop, Ann and I bid farewell to Bert and headed across to our takeout at Harper County Park. The tide was low enough at the takeout to make it too muddy. We had to beach to the north and wheel the kayak down the solid beach to avoid the mud.—LGM, Port Orchard, 4/21.

 **LILLIAN RIVER TRAIL**
(Olympic Natl Park; USGS Mt Angeles, Hurricane Hill)—Don and I chose this trail because neither of us



had yet been there and it was time to mark a new line on the map.

Starting up the Elwha, we detoured at the Elk Overlook to see if any elk were grazing in Anderson Field. A little farther along the trail we stashed our packs and hiked down the Krause Bottom trail (.3-mile) to where it intersects with the Geyser Valley trail.

Stopping next at Michael's cabin, we sat on the porch and discussed what it must have been like to live there. Four miles in from Whiskey Bend the sign says LILLIAN RIVER TRAIL END 3 1/4 MILES—but the last mile is kind of hard to follow. We wondered what the real purpose of this trail was and who it was named after.

The Lillian River Trail is like riding a roller coaster which made it fun and interesting to hike. The trail is well used in the first section, overgrown with salal in the next, but the last of it is a thick carpet of moss and is the cushiest to walk on. There are also some madronas (my favorite tree) that I had to stop and pet.

The camp spot is a beautiful and perfect place with the sun giving its attention all day long. The river has rapids, then curves in toward shore. You can sit on the bank and dangle your feet in the glacial meltwater for only seconds at a time, and you feel so alive while your feet are telling you to knock it off. There is room for 4 dome tents but everyone could use the same fire ring.


After we established camp, we ventured up the river by way of elk trails. We found two different campsites that hadn't been used in so long that moss covered the rocks around the fire rings.

After an hour of going over logs, through brush, stepping through rotten logs and crossing streams, we turned back. Don wanted to keep going but I was too tired.

That evening we were rewarded with watching three harlequin ducks, two male and one female, as they sat on the river bank cleaning themselves.

Don and I felt lucky to have this area all to ourselves and the flat log made an excellent sit-upon next to our fire. This one gets put on my Top 10 Favorite Campsites list.

We did note that the squirrels and chipmunks were still not out of hibernation yet. And we did see some elk down in Anderson Field on our way out.—Kerry Gilles & Don Abbott, Grays Harbor, 4/22-23.

 **LAKE OZETTE** (Olympic Natl Park; USGS Ozette, Al lens Bay, Dickey Lk)—Our party of six (one canoe, two double kayaks) left Olympia on a dreary, drippy May morning headed for Lake Ozette.

Was this a good time for a paddle trip on the wet side of the Olympics? We found the "blue hole" passing through Sequim and it stayed with us to Ozette. We hit the parking lot at the ranger station along with a large group of Scouts, who were apparently intent on doing the Sand Point/Alava loop with wheelbarrows!

We thankfully packed our boats and paddled south down the lake. Ozette's dark waters reflected a clearing sky—no one else in sight on the big lake. We paddled down the west shore, encountering wind gusts first from the south that finally freshened into a brisk north wind blowing us toward our destination.

Our objective was Tivoli Island, guarding the southern quarter of the lake. The northeast spit has the best campsites, with good tentsites above even the wintertime high water marks. The island was apparently homesteaded in earlier times, and features a lovely row of mature beech trees above the campsites. Old cedar stumps with springboard notches dot the flat crown of the island, which now features impressive sitka spruce.

Next morning we paddled west to Allen's Bay and located the unmaintained trail to the Pacific coast. This trail is not for the unwary! The tread consists of degraded puncheon with numerous gaps and traps, well obscured by the encroaching brush—not a tennis shoe boardwalk! We were fortunate to hike this in dry weather.

An hour and a half of thrills and

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

spills brought us to the beach. The Norwegian Memorial here recalls a shipwreck in past days; we concentrated on beachcombing at low tide.


A dead seal on the beach had attracted all the bald eagles for miles around. About a dozen birds were present for their share of the spoils, while the local ravens and raccoons waited for their opportunity.

A replay of the trailsiding derby put us back at the lake by midafternoon. We paddled down to the south end to explore Baby Island and check out the creek mouth pictured on a recent *Pack & Paddle* cover. Clearcuts close to the lakeshore in this area have degraded the scene, but the lake itself is quiet, serene, and host to still more eagles.

We broke camp our last morning and paddled the east shore. We had a close encounter with a rather territorial beaver who repeatedly demonstrated his tail-slap warning dive for us. A slow turn around Garden Island at the entrance to Swan Bay failed to reveal any promising campsites. We began to see summer cabins along the lakeshore as we continued north to the launch point, keeping company with a few common mergansers.

Our group consensus on Lake Ozette? Lovely, serene, uncrowded, and well worth the long drive. But bring good boots if you hike that Allen's Bay trail!—Cleve & Marty Pinnix, Olympia.

Ed. Note: Our March cover photo should have had a better caption. Lake Ozette has many inlet streams, and the one pictured on the cover was Allen's Slough.

 **THIRD BEACH TO OIL CITY** (*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Hoh Head, Toleak Pt*)—Our one-week field studies group from Riverdale School in Portland set as its goal to hike the South Wilderness Coast from La Push to Oil City.

The group consisted of 7th and 8th grade boys and girls plus adults. Some of the students were experienced backpackers but most had no experience at all. We spent a lot of time preparing the students for the trip—inspecting gear, rejecting gear, reinspecting gear, weighing packs, removing gear, reweighing packs.

The hike started on May 1 in the rain but sunny weather followed on the last three days. We decided on short hikes increasing each day in difficulty as experience levels grew and pack weights decreased.

The trip was a total success with the students having seen a lot, learned a lot, and accomplished a lot. The ford of Goodman Creek was knee-high, but probably the highlight for most of the students were the numerous sand ladders and, interestingly, the 1 mile of rock-hopping near Oil City.

One unexpected event was coming across a beached 36-foot-long gray whale, which could not have been dead very long. The surprise finding of the whale coincided nicely with the local Quillayute legend of the thunderbird and the whale in which the thunderbird delivers a dead whale to the starving village during a storm.

Everyone wants to do a backpack again next year but they now all know in general to take less food, and specifically to take cooking oil for pancakes (or perhaps the whale blubber?).

We finished the trip with an overnight stay at Cape Flattery Resort run by the Makah Nation near Neah Bay (real beds, showers and toilets). The price was inexpensive. We arranged with the tribal management for an outdoor salmon bake, a craft project, guided tour of the Makah museum and french toast breakfast (cooked with cooking oil!).—Neale Creamer, Portland, 5/1-5.



MOUNT ZION TRAIL

(*Olympic Natl Forest; USGS Mt Zion*)—This is a wonderful easy hike, but getting to the trailhead is the important part.

We tried to get to the trailhead on the Penny Creek road just southwest of Quilcene on Highway 101 (the normal route to Mount Townsend trailhead). Road signs are few and it appears some have been vandalized.

My idea was to go over Bon Jon Pass and drop down to the Mount Zion trailhead. At about 3000 feet, snow covered the roadway so we put on chains. We gained the summit of the pass with no problem. However, just after starting to descend we were stopped by snow close to three feet deep. We turned around and headed back to Quilcene for an early lunch.

After lunch, we took the Lords Lake road directly to the Mount Zion trailhead. The signs are fairly well marked on this route but several are still missing. Found about a dozen cars at the trailhead. The trailhead at nearly 3000 feet was snowfree and we encountered no snow for nearly 500 feet in elevation gain. The last 500 feet of the total 1300-foot gain has 3 to 6 inches of



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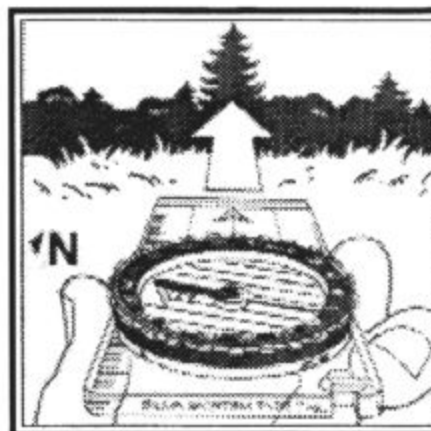
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BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

snow in places. The trail is in really good condition and has a very moderate slope, making for an easy hike for all.

This date (Earth Day) there were many families with children. The view from the summit was good. The floating Hood Canal bridge was visible as was Discovery Bay and Port Townsend. Mount Baker was visible behind clouds and Mount Rainier peeked out from time to time.

A faint trail leads from the summit to the north along a rock ridge. By following this trail, you can get a much clearer view of Mount Townsend to the west. Also, farther along this rock ridge, which turns into a bit of a rock ledge, you can get far enough north to get a good view of Sequim, Sequim Bay and Port Angeles.

A final note: this trail has many rhododendrons along the way, and only those at the trailhead were starting to bud. By the time this is published or by early June, this should be a most beautiful trail to hike.—James and Gail Latteri, Lakebay, 4/22.

BEACHES—All trails on the coast are clear and open. All sand ladders are in place and repaired.

The Makah Tribe is still working on the access problem; in the meantime, Shi Shi remains officially closed.—Mora Ranger, 5/18.

LAKE CONSTANCE—Snowed in. Use limits in effect with permit system from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. To reserve campsite call 360-877-5569. Unreserved permits are available first-come, first-served.—Ranger, 5/1.

DOSEWALLIPS—The road is in much better shape after the repair project. I just went up and opened the gate at the Park boundary this week.

ALWAYS CARRY THE TEN ESSENTIALS

1. extra food
2. extra clothing
3. map
4. compass
5. knife
6. matches
7. fire starter
8. first aid kit
9. sun protection
10. flashlight

Rhodies are just starting to bloom at lower elevations.

The High Dose bridge will remain closed to stock for another year; still open to hikers crossing one at a time. Maybe we'll get it replaced by next year. Footlog at Honeymoon Meadows is broken.

On the Main Fork, snow is continuous after Deception Creek (3100 feet). Big slide at Hayden Pass. Large wash-out at Burdick Creek.—Francis Kocis, Ranger, 5/19.

STAIRCASE—The Staircase Campground has been completely renovated; campground fee (\$10) will be charged this year for the first time.

Park entrance fee (\$5) will be charged starting Memorial Day weekend.

Staircase Rapids Loop is snowfree; new bridge in place. North Fork Skokomish has snow starting at Nine Stream; continuous snow cover at 3200 feet. Wagonwheel Lake has snow for ½-mile before lake.

Flapjack Lakes have lots of snow but trail is snowfree until just before lakes. No open fires; hang food. Reservations required starting Memorial Day weekend; call 360-877-5569.

Bears are out and greeting hikers. No problems so far. Keep a clean camp and hang your food.—Francis Kocis, Ranger, 5/19.

OZETTE RESERVATIONS—Between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends (5/26-9/3) a maximum of 300 visitors per night will be permitted to camp in the Ozette backcountry. This area includes coastal camping areas from Yellow Banks to the area immediately north of Ozette River and all areas along the Ozette Loop.

All backcountry camping during these dates will require advance reservations. These may be obtained by calling the Ozette Reservation Line at 360-452-0300, from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Reservations may be requested up to 30 days in advance.

Backpackers reserving a permit will be sent a written confirmation, which they should bring with them to Ozette. Visitors are strongly discouraged from arriving at Ozette without advance reservations, as no other backcountry camping alternatives exist if the quota is filled. Backpackers with reservations will be issued permits at the Ozette Ranger Station.—Ranger, 5/1.

MILDRED LAKES—Snow above 2500 feet, with 4 to 6 feet snow at Huckleberry Creek.—Ranger, 5/16.

SOUTHWEST

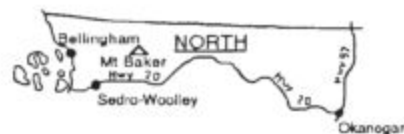


LONG ISLAND (National Wildlife Refuge; NOAA

18504)—Lee and I circumnavigated this island in Willapa Bay with one overnight stop at Sandspit Campground. The sign marking Smokey Hollow camp is missing; the ranger told us it is repeatedly vandalized. With no sign, the camp is nearly impossible to spot from the water.

The island is surrounded by endless mudflats so watch the tides carefully. Carry drinking water.—Ann Marshall, Port Orchard, 5/15-16.

NORTH



GENERAL CONDITIONS—Snow level is about 3000 feet. Low elevation roads are mostly open.

HIGHWAY 20—Open for the season. Approximately 8 feet of snow at Washington Pass. Several narrow pullouts at Rainy Pass, Easy Pass and Bridge Creek are plowed out. Watch for avalanches.—Ranger, 5/15.

NORTH CASCADES NATL PARK—Avalanche potential is high with warm days. Stream crossings may be dangerous due to run-off. Snow has melted on many low-elevation trails. Spring flowers are in bloom and bears are active.

Thornton Creek road is snowfree to 1 mile from the trailhead. Cascade River road is gated and closed 2 miles from the Cascade Pass trailhead. Beyond the gate, road is snowfree to Boston Basin trailhead.

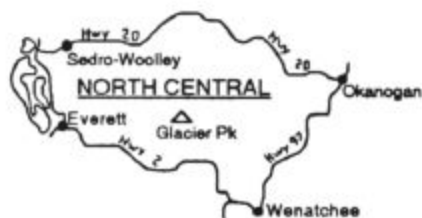
Road to Hozomeen gated and closed at international boundary; expected to open 5/26. Camping at Hozomeen closed for loon nesting through 5/31.

East Bank trail is maintained to Desolation junction. Bears have been sighted all along East Bank trail. Thunder Creek trail snowfree for 9.5 miles to Junction Camp.—Ranger, 5/15.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

NORTH CENTRAL



GENERAL CONDITIONS—Snow level about 3000 feet, depending on exposure. Highways open; back roads still soft with some snow.



MOUNT PILCHUCK

(*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Verlot*)—On 4/10 Mr. Maphead and I drove up the Mountain Loop Highway to check out the snow level, get in a short walk and see for ourselves that, yes, the road to Mount Pilchuck is closed. We understood it would stay that way.

Well, this week we went back to walk that closed road only to find it's definitely open and in fine shape! Only a small patch of snow very near the parking lot.

We walked around the area some but the trail to the summit is still snow covered and it was a wet, grey day up there.—Mystery Hiker and Mr. Maphead, Granite Falls, 4/30.



LAKE 22 (*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Verlot*)

Several cars were already in the parking lot when we arrived at the Lake 22 trailhead about 9am on a sunny Sunday morning.

Winter wrens (little *tiny* noisy birds with a great big voice whose song demands attention) serenaded us as we hiked through old growth forest on a wide easy trail. The forest floor was covered with moss and ferns, and the trail took us across several small cascading streams with occasional waterfalls nearby—one large one near the beginning.

A couple of newly downed trees were over the trail, but they were high enough to go underneath. Near the lake the trail became muddy with patches of snow here and there. Rasheed discovered a dark-colored salamander sitting on one patch.

We had lunch on snow at the edge of the lake while we watched and listened to avalanches falling from the heights on the far side of the lake.

I had heard that Lake 22 was a popular spot. Indeed, it is a great social hike if you like to meet and talk with other people on the trail. We counted 39

people and 5 dogs at the lake during lunch. And we passed 80 people and 7 dogs going up on the trail as we descended.

The parking lot was overfull when we got down, cars parked along the entrance and out into the highway. All this, and we didn't even think to count the people coming down as we had gone up in the morning.—A, L & R Bakkar, Lynnwood, 4/23.



PERRY CREEK TRAIL

(*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Bedal*)—Lindy and Nancy camped overnight at the trailhead; six more of us met them there in the morning.

Many early wildflowers were blooming and waterfalls cascaded down the opposite side of the valley as we hiked up the snowfree trail. We ran into a few minor snow patches, and at one point had to scramble over slide debris.

At the falls we left the trail and headed east on continuous snow into the basin below Twin Peaks. We heard from other hikers that the trail to Forgotten Meadows was still snowbound, which stopped several but didn't deter those who were prepared for the conditions. The weather was beautiful.

Dinner at the Mountain View and a speeding ticket finished the day for us. The patrolman explained that after two fatalities recently, they were putting pressure on drivers on the Mountain Loop Highway. Watch your speed!—Ann Marshall, Port Orchard, 5/13.

GREEN MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT—

This historic lookout east of Darrington will be closed this summer because it is

unsafe. Engineers have determined the foundation, catwalk and handrails have deteriorated under the stress of years of severe weather.

The building was built in 1933 and was staffed by Forest Service employees until 1979, and then by volunteers. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.

Signs alerting hikers of the closure will be posted at the trailhead and at the lookout as soon as they are snow-free. Repairs are not yet scheduled.—Ranger, 4/21.

NORTH FORK STILLAGUAMISH TRAIL

(*Robe area; USGS Verlot, Granite Falls*)—This trail, originally described in Harvey Manning's *Footsore 3* and most recently in his new book *Walks and Hikes in the Foothills and Lowlands Around Puget Sound*, is closed to public access.

The railroad right-of-way that constitutes this trail is now owned by Snohomish County Parks and is under consideration for conversion as a "rail-trail." However, the study, survey and planning processes are likely to take several years.

In the meantime, the Parks department has blocked entrance to the 26.5-mile route at each end and all access points, and has posted signs along the route showing it as closed to the public.—Donna DeShazo, Director, Mountaineers Books, 5/9.



BECKLER RIVER ROAD

(*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Evergreen Mtn*)—My friend Kelly and I met in Skykomish to spend the day together in the mountains.



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6/95

Kelly had stopped at the ranger station for an update on which trails were open ... unfortunately most everything is still snow covered; if not entirely, at least within a mile or two of the trailhead.

We wanted a good, long walk to get those legs and lungs working so we chose the Beckler River road. I'd done the loop of road 65 to Jack Pass and road 6550 back to the car; 6550 was closed due to blowdowns at the time.

Now it's not only closed, it's pretty much gone due to wash outs. We walked to its obvious end where we saw a bear! Then went back to road 65 to put in a few more miles. This is an okay walk—any walk is a good one in my book—but nothing spectacular. The best part of this day was definitely the company and conversation!—Mystery Hiker and Kelly, Granite Falls, 4/28.

IRON GOAT TRAIL—Three interpretive hikes are scheduled for June. Show up at the trailhead with your Ten Essentials at the designated time:

June 10, 8am: birds.

June 21, 10am: history.

June 25, 10am: wildflowers.

For more information, call 206-283-1440. To participate in a work party to construct new trail, call Mike Sharpe, 206-523-9520.

STEHEKIN—Stehekin Valley road is open to High Bridge. Road is scheduled to open to Bridge Creek on 6/9 and to Cottonwood on 7/1.

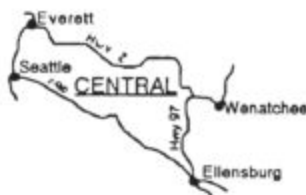
Shuttle bus service began 5/19. Two runs leave from the Landing to High Bridge at 8am and 2pm. Cost is \$5 per person each way, per zone. Reservations are required. Call 360-856-5703 x 14 (daily) to make reservations.

ENTIAT DIST—The Entiat road is snowfree to just past Fox Creek campground.—Ranger, 5/9.

LAKE WENATCHEE DIST—Seasonal road closures are in effect and apply to Chiwawa Loop road 6200, Fish Lake road 6202, White River road 6400, and Little Wenatchee road 6500.—Ranger, 5/9.



CENTRAL



GENERAL CONDITIONS—Snow between 3000 and 4000 feet.

LORD HILL REGIONAL PARK (Monroe area; USGS Maltby)—The access to this park as described in *Walks and Hikes in the Foothills and Lowlands Around Puget Sound* is not correct at this time. Snohomish County Parks is working now to oversee construction, by fall 1995, of a parking area, trailhead and entry trail to connect to the existing trail network.

Parks representatives note that in the meantime there is no official public entry point.

Walkers should call the Parks department for the latest information before any visit to the Park: 206-339-1208 (Everett).—Donna DeShazo, Director, Mountaineers Books.

LANHAM LAKE (Wenatchee Natl Forest; USGS Labyrinth Mtn)—The six of us parked at the Stevens Pass Cross-Country Center (closed for the season), a few miles east of the pass.

We postholed moderately going up to the lake. The small lake, still snow covered and frozen except for a spot at the outlet, is tucked under the cliffs of Jim Hill Mountain. We sat on a couple of feet of snow to have lunch.

We postholed severely going down in the afternoon and wished we had snowshoes.—Ann Marshall, Port Orchard, 4/22.

DINGFORD CREEK TRAIL (Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS Snoqualmie Lk)—I fouled up and set a late start (8am at Ken's Truck Town in North Bend). For this early spring hike, the Middle Fork Snoqualmie road is definitely rough. The potholes come big, deep, often, and densely packed. It took us 70 minutes to go 20 miles to the trailhead.

The road was snowfree, but we were on the stuff by 2400 feet. The farther we went, the deeper. By 2800 feet and the creek crossing, we were definitely making our own route in 3-plus feet of snow. The thunderstorms of Tuesday might had left 6 inches of fresh, perfect for tight snowballs.

With our late start, a very slow party member and soft snow (yes, we left snowshoes at the car!) we knew we'd never make Hester Lake. So we aborted at 1pm and called it a lovely spring day. We had broken clouds and patches of sun on lovely new snow. That and a good workout made it an enjoyable day. And we got back to the cars by 4pm.

Last year the trail to Hester was washed out. I don't know if it has been recut or not. However, the Dingford is a lovely wilderness valley and definitely worth the effort, once the snow is off.—Michael Leake, Issaquah, 4/19.

CROSBY MOUNTAIN (Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Grotto)—Eric and I used to work together, and we'd been talking for a while about doing a climb under winter conditions. Crosby Mountain (5520+ feet), 6 miles west of the town of Skykomish, looked like a good prospect. It turned out to be surprisingly wild and alpine, given its proximity to civilization.

Our route followed, more or less, the first "South Route" described in the *Cascade Alpine Guide*. We were able to drive 3½ miles on Money Creek Road before being stopped by snow.

We snowshoed another 2 miles to a point about ¼-mile beyond the second switchback, where the major drainage from the south side of the summit crosses the road (2600 feet elevation).

Note: the switchbacks are correctly located on the Skykomish Green Trails map (revised 1986), but are drawn *one drainage too far to the west* on the USGS Grotto quad (1982 photorevised).

The upper road had two large trees and several slides down across it, so it may be some time before it is open, even after the snow melts.

We left the road and started north along the east bank of the stream, per the guidebook, but quickly tired of the dense second-growth choking the slope. The adjacent streambed was open, bare rock, however, and provided a convenient path for about 400 yards, after which we were able to regain the stream bank in tractable old timber.

The next mile or so up the valley climbed steeply, and was more strenuous than usual because it was all slippery sidehill travel. The forest lower down had melted out earlier, but an inch of new snow over the rocks and forest litter made for lousy footing, to say the least.

Up higher were increasing amounts of new snow poorly bonded to old snowpack. Our snowshoes went on and off several times as we tried to adapt to the changing terrain. We alternated tenu-

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

ous crossings of steep snow slopes with bullheaded bashing up through short cliff bands and thick scrub hemlock.

This got discouraging because we knew we had to exit east out of the valley, but seemed to be trapped between endless cliffs on our right and invisible dropoffs to the stream on our left. After several false hopes, we finally entered the basin at the head of the drainage (4300 feet). (I have to stop putting off the purchase of that altimeter.)

This basin alone was worth the trip. The dazzling snowy bowl was surrounded on three sides by a palisade of huge, blocky crags. Somewhat revived by this sight, we decided to push for the summit, even though it was getting late. We spent the next hour in a mindless aerobic slog up 1200 feet of soft snow, first east, then north, to the final summit ridge.

The summit was a very gratifying culmination, both for the climbing challenge and the vistas attained. A couple of Class 3 moves on snowy rock to surmount a 10 foot step were followed by a 100-foot run along an airy snow ridge to the final summit block.

The skies over Crosby cleared as we approached the top, allowing us a full appreciation of the rugged mountains extending west past the basin (Red Mountain and its line of subsidiary summits, and the ridge leading to Mount Phelps).

Heavy, broken clouds boiled through the gap at the head of Money Creek and over the ridge connecting to Mount Index—it was Nature at her dramatic, humbling best.

Unfortunately, we didn't have time to linger, so we were shortly glissading down to the basin, where we had a quick lunch and then retraced our tedious route back to the road. We were grateful we didn't have to work out this route for the first time going down.

Finally, with only a bit of the daylight-savings-extended evening left, we reached the car, very tired but fulfilled. Eric had no doubt it was the hardest climb he'd done in Washington, and I had to admit it was a lot tougher than I'd bargained for.

Our final verdict: a great summit, but an ugly route. An approach from the northeast, by way of Lowe Creek and Cement Lake, would be longer but probably less aggravating. At least 7 miles round trip and 3800 vertical feet; 6 hours up, 4¾ hours down.—Jeff Howbert, Bellevue, 4/9.



MASON LAKE (*Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS Bandera*)

—We had a small turnout for this mid-

week Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club outing. Ralph, Peggy and I met in North Bend at 9:30 and were hiking by 10am. The weather was fine, the sun was warm and we were in shorts and T-shirts.

We went in by the new, lower trail. No snow til 3200 feet or so; but there are wet patches and down trees on this "unofficial" route. A couple of trees were best done without packs. We followed the path of a lone hiker and dog and were off trail, on snow, the last half-mile or so.

The lake was fully snow covered and the sheltered south shore had 3+ feet of snow. Meanwhile, we spent an hour at lunch on the sun-warmed rocks of the north shore.

We went out by the official route and found it clean and clear the whole way.

Surely, this is the best way to see popular Mason Lake. No crowds (indeed no one else at the lake), no noise, and only two other cars at the trailhead.—Michael Leake, Issaquah, 4/25.



MOUNT PERSIS (*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Index*)—This was a trip replete with navigational errors.

Several times Francine, Rog, and I were forced to turn around, retrace our steps, and try again. We used the Beckey guide and our own best judgement, and eventually found ourselves within striking distance of the 5400-foot summit. We needed snowshoes in the deep, soft snow.

From the top, we were treated to neighbors Index and Baring, and vast views from the Sound to the Central Cascades (similar to Pilchuck).

The route is a mix of streambed rock-hopping, alpine scramble, and snow slog. Because of our routefinding mistakes, it took us an inordinate 5 hours

to ascend, but only 2 hours on the return.

The elevation gain is 3000 feet. The weather smiled upon us this day—while we basked in the summit sun, we could see rain squalls in the distance. Usually the opposite is true!—Douglas Cuneo, Seattle, 4/30.



BURNT BOOT PEAK (*Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS*

Big Snow Mtn)—This seldom-visited 6520+ foot summit is one of the premier seats in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie showroom. It gives wrap-around, front-row views of Chimney Rock, Overcoat, Lemah, Chickamin, Thompson, Big Snow, Iron Cap, and a ton more.

Unnamed on the maps, but logically acknowledged in Beckey's guide, it achieves the significant prominence of 1000 feet on a ridge between Burntboot (*sic*) Creek and the Middle Fork.

Its lack of popularity has more to do with the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Road than the climb. Those who have driven this road lately, especially to the end, know the reasons: crushed lumbar discs, shot shocks, cervical whiplash, wheels out of line, shredded tires.

The North Bend mechanics and chiropractors love this road. It sucks cars into bottomless chuckholes that make spelunkers drool. The Sunday campers endure to Taylor River, about 12½ miles from I-90. The hardcore, in their testosteronemobiles, are able to grunt and ride their mechanical bulls another 13 miles, in a long hour, to road end, just shy of Hardscrabble Creek.

This said, we were dumbfounded to pass an old Datsun 280Z on the way out, that, except for overheating, had nearly made it all the way. (A year and a half ago, Karen, the imminent Aaron, and I drove part way up this road trying to induce labor.)



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BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

Snow, and a couple of guys from Ohio, camped in the middle of the road with three loud territorial dogs, stopped Bruce, Jeff, and me .2-mile from the 3000-foot trailhead. The steep northwest couloir route on Burnt Boot loomed over our heads as we packed up.

We opted to try a new route on this peak, one that made the most sense on the map—the north slope to northeast ridge. Hiking the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River trail about a mile, we dropped down to the river at the first real creek that crosses the trail past Hardscrabble Creek.

Frustrated at finding no reasonable crossing to the south side of the river after about 150 yards of slippery rock and brush, we finally decided to boulder-hop and wade the river as best we could.

Burnt Boot? You'd have needed an acetylene torch to ignite our soggy boots after this ford. We burnt up an hour just negotiating this crossing.

Immediately after the ford, we put on snowshoes at 3100 feet to deal with the late snowfall over slide alder. The route was essentially south up an unlikely looking slope of scrub trees and skinny gullies between the creeks on either side of "3" in Section 3, on the map. To go directly up either of these bordering creek courses would have put us in the firing line of potential avalanches waiting to be unleashed from the continuous overhang of cornices adorning the northeast ridge of Burnt Boot.

We crested out on the ridge at a break in the cornices above Iceberg Lake at 5600 feet, about .5-mile northeast of

the summit, and turned southwest for our objective.

When we arrived at the 6520+ foot high point shown on the 1965 USGS *Big Snow Mtn* quad, it was obvious that the 6480+ summit, a hundred yards to the west, was higher. We punched on to lunch on the true top, 5½ hours up from Jeff's Jeep.

Spring is great. The summit was buried in snow, but sunny and warm. We contemplated the loop, down the northwest couloir, which would involve a rappel into a notch, then a steep glissade down a possible self-created avalanche gully, into a brushy finish.

No thanks. We would break from tradition, and go back the way we came, more or less.

So we did, in slow sitting glissades down soft snow to a much easier crossing of the Middle Fork over a beaver dam, then a log jam, upstream from our earlier ford. We made it back to the Jeep in 2 hours, 25 minutes. The ride out the Middle Fork Road was no better than the one in. We gave Jeff gas money, and supplemental combat pay for the use of his vehicle.

PS: Harry Majors, in *Exploring Washington* (1975), retells John Guye's (son of the Guye Peak guy) story of the naming of Burnt Boot Creek: Revington, a prospector, was up in that country about 1888-89, trying to cross from the Middle Fork Snoqualmie to the South Fork road.

He camped near the mouth of a creek. It was a wet day, so he put up by a tree, built a fire, and went to sleep. The fire

spread into the surrounding fir needles and burned up his boots, and nearly consumed him before he woke up.

He wrapped his feet in blankets and gunny sacks and walked out to the South Fork.—John Roper, Bellevue, 4/23.



KEECHELUS RIDGE (*Wenatchee Natl Forest; USGS*

Stampede Pass)—There are several ways to skin this skinned cat. A mind-boggling array of logging roads approach, but do not attain, this 5151-foot summit between the lakes Keechelus and Kachess. The problem is deciding which road to take. Another problem is that these roads are "closed."

I took Exit 62 off I-90 (Stampede Pass/Kachess Lake) and turned north on road 49, anticipating a drive to snowline on road 4934 from the southeast. A "Road Closed" sign greeted me at its inception, however. Apparently the road is open to hikers and their close, low-impact friends, snowmobiles, but no other vehicles (e.g. mountain bikes and wheelchairs).

Wisely, the Forest Service has only posted this road such, and has not installed an expensive gate which would likely be vandalized at tax payers' expense.

A similar sign was posted on the next road up, just past the Sno-park at the Thetis Creek road 4936, east of the summit. But this was close enough to make a run at the top, 2700 feet and about 3 miles away. So I hoofed and huffed up this road in tennis shoes to a nice overlook above Kachess Lake, and on to the South Fork of Thetis Creek where there are views up to its 40-foot waterfall and the Keechelus summit.

Now in boots on snow at 3400 feet, I left the main road here and followed a rare timbered cone to just below Point 4618 above Baker Lake and contoured into a snow meadow (clearcut) which offered views of most all the upper Kachess River peaks: Rampart, Alta, Hibox, Chickamin Ridge, Three Queens, Thorp. The radio tower on the northwest summit poked into sight.

The true 5151-foot summit is treed, but on the southeast end of the summit plateau an opening gives a good look east down the Yakima River, and south to "Slade's Heaven," acres of clearcuts on nondescript bumpties, and the uncut Big Bump, Rainier.

Sitting glissades and calf-deep post-hole steps out the clearcut snow basin of the South Fork Thetis Creek brought me back to the main road. This basin sported the old scribbles of snowmobiles and one fresh set of cross-country ski tracks. 3 hours 20 minutes up; 1 hour



Summit collapse on Mount Rainier (that's Ken Hopping).

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS



Beargrass on the Bench Lake trail, Tatoosh Range.

Mystery Hiker

20 minutes down.—John Roper, Bellevue, 5/13.

LEAVENWORTH DIST—The Icicle road barrier has been moved back about a mile past Johnny Creek campground. Eightmile road 7601 is gated at the bridge until the road is graded, which should be done by Memorial Day weekend.

Construction of the new Snow Creek trail bridge over Icicle Creek (destroyed in last year's fire) is planned for completion by late July or early August.

Reservation days for the Enchantments are 95% full. August and September are 100% full and only a few days are available in July and October. June 15 through 28 are still open. Many dates are still available for the Colchuck and Stuart areas.—Ranger, 5/18.

CLE ELUM DIST—Due to heavy snowpack this year most trails and roads are still not accessible except in low elevations. Higher elevation routes most likely won't melt out until June.

Seasonal road closures are in effect. Check with the ranger station to see when they will be lifted: 509-674-4411.

SOUTH CENTRAL



GENERAL CONDITIONS—Snow level is about 3000 feet depending on

exposure. Roads and trails in upper elevations are still snowcovered.



GREEN LAKE (Mt Rainier Nail Park; USGS Mowich Lk)

—Just two cars were in the parking lot when we arrived at the trailhead (2100 feet). The trail moderately climbs through a fine example of a temperate rainforest.

Huge Douglas fir, hemlock and cedar trees are all around; several are nearly 8 feet in diameter. The ferns and mosses give the trail a mystic feeling. After 1 mile, we passed a side trail to Ranger Falls (2800 feet). Green Lake (3200 feet) is reached after 2 miles. A couple inches of snow were on the trail the last half mile.

The gray and Steller's jays are really aggressive at the lake. We had to keep our lunches protected and hidden at all times. The jays provided Richele, our 13-year-old daughter, quite a bit of entertainment as she tried to keep her lunch from being stolen.

Just as we were leaving, hordes of hikers started showing up at the lake. —Barbara Kirkevold, Richele Buoy, and Joe Buoy, Kent, 4/22.

YAKIMA RIM SKYLINE TRAIL (USGS *The Cottonwoods, Wymer, Pomona*)—We did a one-way trip, leaving the Explorer at the south trailhead and driving our Honda Civic to the north trailhead.

The road to the south trailhead is gated about 3/4-mile from the end. A dirt road bypass rejoins the road about a quarter mile later (see *Pack & Paddle*, June 1993, page 11). Both roads have deep ruts to maneuver around.

From the north trailhead (3400 feet), the trail follows an old jeep road that rambles up and down for the next 5 miles with a high point around 3600 feet. This section has great views of the Stuart Range.

The flowers were just starting to bloom above 3000 feet. After about 4 miles we started to find cacti that appeared to be a couple of weeks away from flowering.

The trail starts to descend steeply after the road dies out around 5 miles. There is another faint road to follow nearby for the next half mile, then the road turns sharply left (there are two sets of double posts here), and the trail goes straight ahead. A little poking around and you will find a faint trail nearby.

The trick to following the posts marking the trail is: a single post marks the trail, a double set of posts near a road signals the trail crosses the road; do not follow the road when you see double posts.

As the trail descended to Rosa Creek, we passed hillsides of yellow sunflowers, dotted with lupine, desert parsley, penstemon, and many more we couldn't identify. We camped near the remains of the Rosa school close to Rosa Creek which still had a pretty good flow; however, we carried several gallons of water from home to use.

The meadowlarks entertained us in daylight and at night we heard snorting, stomping elk and playful coyotes. Our water left outside froze overnight. The cold nighttime temperatures probably explain why we saw no rattlesnakes.

On Sunday we followed the trail, marked by posts, as it climbed out of the Rosa Creek valley to a high point of 3100 feet. The southern part of the trail is much more distinct and has great views of the Yakima river and distant snowy peaks. We observed many soaring hawks and golden eagles.

The trail descended to Twin Springs, where there was no drinkable water. The next couple of miles the trail wandered up and down along the canyon rim and finally reached the eastern edge overlooking the Yakima River and the town of Selah.

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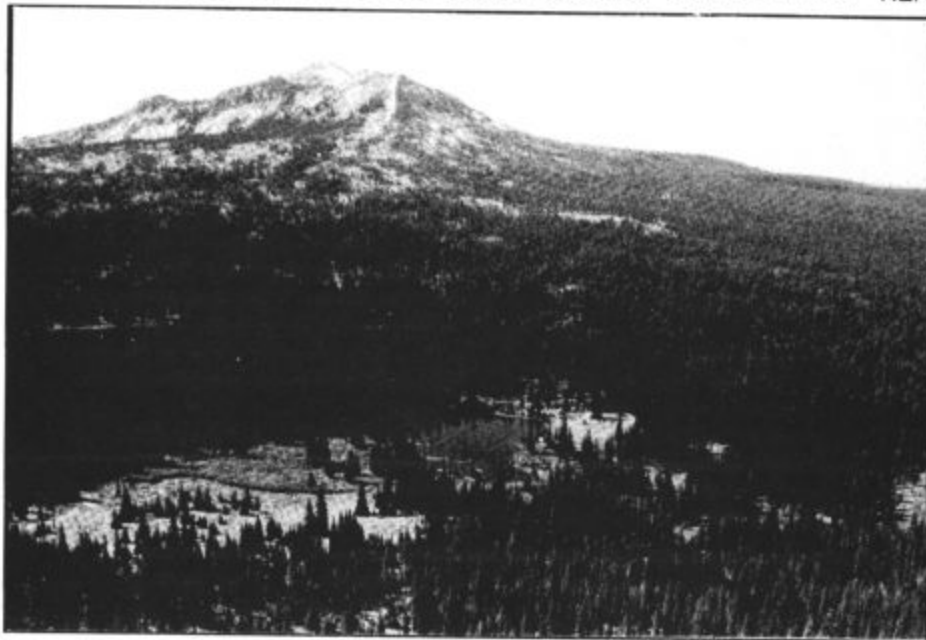
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BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS



Lakeview Mountain; Goat Rocks Wilderness.

Don't be fooled by old roads heading down above Twin Springs. If you scan the eastern ridges, you will observe posts marking the trail in the distance.

We passed several hikers as we descended to the south trailhead through fields of wildflowers. This trip doesn't have a wilderness feeling to it, since you are always in sight of roads (I-90, I-82, Canyon Road), homes and nearby towns.

Still the trip was enjoyable and the scenery was quite different to us—no trees, only sagebrush and low growing shrubs.—Barbara Kirkevold and Joe Buoy, Kent, 4/15-16.

MT RAINIER NATL PARK—Paradise Inn opened for the season 5/17. Sunrise Lodge opens 7/1.

Carbon River road is open as snow permits. Construction on the Carbon River bridge on Highway 165 will close the road to traffic from 7am to 5pm Monday through Friday.

Mowich Lake road is scheduled to open 6/30. Mowich Lake will also be affected by the bridge work.

The **Stevens Canyon road** should open 5/26. **Chinook Pass** should open 6/10. **Cayuse Pass** should open 5/24.

Sunrise road should open 6/30. **White River road** to the campground should open 5/26. **Westside road** to Dry Creek opened 5/15.

Parking at **Paradise** will be extremely limited this summer due to four renovation projects underway at the same time.

Repair work will continue on Highways 410 and 123, and on the Sunrise Road. Expect short delays.

Highway 706 between Ashford and

Skate Creek road will be widened this summer. Expect delays of up to 30 minutes at the construction site.—Ranger, 5/10.



GENERAL CONDITIONS—Snow level about 3500 feet.

MOUNT SAINT HELENS (Mt St Helens NVM; USGS Mt St Helens)—Spotty snow for first mile from the Marble Mountain Snowpark. Good skiing from there. Strong winds and snow flurries as we left the trees around the Swift Creek area. Making our way to establish a camp above several tents, that group requested the use of Tom's sled as they had a member who had dislocated and then relocated an ankle, I believe.

On a late evening ski Scott and I ran into two friends coming down from the rim. Strong winds and little visibility, they said. We hoped for better in the morn.

A very nice, promising dawn. Clear except for the rim. Hard snow, then wind-scoured about 5000 feet, the wind still scouring. Tom, Charlie, and I found the rim at about 9:30. How did

we get up here so fast?

A short food stop, pictures, and hellos to the next two to make the rim, then down—Charlie and Tom on foot, I on skis, and what a ski! 4000 feet of near perfect snow.

Even with stops to rest and catch breath I had several hours to lounge in the sun and read waiting for the rest of our group to descend.

Perfect corny snow on the trail out made for a wonderful, just-fast-enough, finale to another mountain adventure.—Dave N. and many other OSATers, 4/1-2.

Kim Hyatt

MOUNT SAINT HELENS—Climbing permits are required from 5/15 to 11/1. Permit applications are available by mail or in person from Monument Headquarters, 42218 NE Yale Bridge Road, Amboy, WA 98601 (360-750-3900).

COLDWATER RIDGE/LAKE (MSHNVN; USGS Mt St Helens)—After a Saturday trip to the Hulda Klager Lilac Garden we met my sister and her husband and drove up the new road to the Coldwater Visitor Center. A spectacular drive above the Toutle River. There were many views of the mud covered valley far below.

We enjoyed the center and then hiked down to Coldwater Lake and along its shore to the boat launch where our ride back awaited us.

Low clouds kept the mountain from view but that just helped to focus our view closer at hand.—David Nordstrom and family, Tacoma, 5/5-7.

GIFFORD PINCHOT NATL FOREST—Permits are required to enter the following Wildernesses: Indian Heaven, Mount Adams, Goat Rocks, Trapper Creek, Tatoosh and Glacier View.

The self-issuing permits are mandatory and are available at all trailheads. There is no charge.—Ranger, 5/3.

WIND RIVER DIST—Roads are muddy and soft. Wildflowers are everywhere. Watch for ticks.—Ranger, 5/1.

IDAHO

SAWTOOTH NRA—The Salmon River is now 4 feet and rising, reports outfitter/guide Randy Hess. The water is very cold. Look out for dead trees across the river and floating down the river at a high rate of speed.

Note new phone numbers: Visitor Center Information—208-727-5013; Stanley Ranger Station—208-774-3000.—Ranger, 5/16.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

OREGON

WYGANT-CHEWOOT LOOP—Located about 7 miles west of the town of Hood River, the old Wygant Trail and the newer, volunteer built Chetwoot Trail form a delightful loop hike, one of the best in the Gorge.

I led a group of seven Chemeketans over the loop in April. The trailhead is at Lausman State Park, exit 58 on the freeway. The only exit is east bound. If you are coming from Hood River you will have to turn around at Viento State Park (exit 56).

The trailhead is neither obvious nor marked. From the parking area go a little down and west, past a gate, onto the old Columbia Gorge Highway.

From here on the trail is well marked though you will have to look carefully for the small, hand-lettered signs. Stay right at the first junction (1 mile) and cross sizable Perham Creek on a log.

At about the 2½ mile point take a side trip to the right on the Wygant Trail. Climb ½-mile to the fourth switchback and a stunning view of the whole east end of the Gorge. This makes a superb lunch spot. Don't bother going any farther. The trail above here is poorly maintained and there is nothing to see.

Return to the junction and complete the loop. The second crossing of Perham Creek is exciting! There is much variety in flora, trail types, and stream crossings. The view points are breathtaking. The total distance (with the side trip to the upper viewpoint) is a little over 6 miles. The elevation gain is 1200 feet.—Kim Hyatt, Salem, 4/28.

NEW REGULATIONS—Here are some regulations that will be in effect for this hiking season on the Willamette and Deschutes National Forests. For more information on these restrictions, contact any ranger station in these National Forests, or call Steve Sorseth, 503-465-6494, or Don Doyle, 503-383-5602.

Limited Entry Permits. Use limits will be imposed in the Pamela Lake and Obsidian areas. Day and overnight visitors must obtain a permit from Memorial Day through 10/31.

Permits may be obtained by mail, phone or in person within 30 days of a planned visit.

Designated Campsites. Overnight visitors will be required to use designated campsites in several high-use areas in the Three Sisters, Mount Washington and Mount Jefferson Wildernesses.

Campfires. Campfires will be prohibited in several high-use, high-elevation areas where firewood gathering is resulting in loss of woody material on the forest floor.

Office and field personnel will be glad to answer your questions about why these actions are being taken.—Ranger, 3/24.

ELSEWHERE



BRIGHT ANGEL TRAIL

(Grand Canyon Natl Park)—

Bright Angel trail is open (as I believe is South Kaibab). I was on the trail on a bright, crisp (25 degrees) Arizona morning by 5:45. Took our new camcorder and made good time downhill to just shy of Indian Gardens. Deer were plentiful, including one I just about had to

shoulder off the trail to get by.

I had taken sunblock and a white shirt, but forgot my chapstick. Boy, even by 8:30, that desert sun makes itself felt!

I used to hike here all the time in the '70s; but over the past 20 years I've lost my chocolate tan. In and out of shade, in less than an hour I set a light burn.

The trail is in good shape this first 4 miles and the hiking is easy. Was able to do 8 miles and 3000 feet gain and meet Connie for a late breakfast.—Michael Leake, Issaquah, 4/10.

CLASSIFIED ADS

40 cents a word. Payment must accompany classified ads. Deadline first of month.

The Morning Hill Cookbook
a wholefoods vegetarian cookbook,
by Jennifer Stein Barker
Accessible food for healthy, active
people who like to eat! \$11.95
postpaid. Checks payable to:
Jennifer Stein Barker
Morning Hill
HC 84 Izee Route
Canyon City OR 97820.



Get into the
Swing of Things
with
Outdoor Singles Network
Free Information
OSN-PP, Box 2031
McCall ID 83638

BULLETIN BOARD

Notices on this Bulletin Board are free to subscribers and may be "posted" for up to three months. You may list your used equipment for sale, post lost-and-found announcements, locate partners for trips, or other non-commercial items. Commercial advertisers are welcome to contact the Pack & Paddle office for ad rates.

BACK ISSUES of *Signpost*, from 1991 back many years. Free to good home. Write for specifics: Dale Graves, 2216 S 250 St, Kent WA 98032.

BOOTS—Raichle Eigers. Size 6½M, worn twice. Daughter didn't like hiking. Cost \$210, will sell for \$100. 206-821-4250 (Kirkland).

SKIS—Telemark, waxless, size 195cm. Rottefella bindings, white. \$50. 206-821-4250 (Kirkland).

WANTED: WOMEN HIKERS to form a new midweek club in Chehalis-Centralia area—Hikes to Mt St Helens, Mt Adams, Goat Rocks, White Pass, Mt Rainier, etc. Contact: K. Lotto, 209 Romerman Rd, Chehalis WA 98532.

CABIN—Secluded seaside housekeeping cabin on Orcas Island available for weekly rental May-October. Hiking, fishing, beachcombing, wildlife viewing. Rustic, comfortable accommodations. Sleeps eight; reasonable rent.

Write 1819 Hickox Road, Mount Vernon WA 98273 for more data; SASE appreciated.

INTERESTED IN HIGH LAKE FISHING? Washington State Hi-Lakers meets third Wednesday of each month at Mercerview Community Center, 7:30pm. For information, call George Bucher, 206-821-5752 (Kirkland).

OSAT—A clean and sober climbing and mountaineering club. 206-236-9674.

BOOTS—For sale: women's Gore-tex Vasque hiking boot, size 9. Low mileage. \$55. 206-823-6565 (Kirkland).

more

LETTERS

Boy, did we get letters about llamas! Here's a whole page of them, edited to fit the space. Any additional letters will be shortened to *main points* only.

HOW ELSE TO TEACH?

This is to tell you why I have written in support of Kit's Llamas (*May, page 4*).

As a Scout hike leader for 18 years I frequently heard other backpackers criticize us when we would set up camp with a group of energetic, inquisitive youngsters. How else to teach young people the joys of hiking than by doing it?

Now many of my Scouts are adults and repeating the cycle. Kit's Llamas is another way of allowing people with young children or older people who cannot carry packs to enjoy the wilderness and then go home to be advocates for protecting wilderness. We wilderness people need as many friends as we can get.

My experience with Kit's was three summers ago when five of us did the Bailey Range traverse. The route we chose was a total of about 75 miles. It would have been almost impossible if Kit's had not helped us by carrying 100 pounds of food and climbing gear to the east end of the High Divide trail for us.

... Llamas, unlike horses, make virtually no impact on the wilderness. People do make an impact on the wilderness by just being there—but then, it is there for us all to share!

Joseph Schuster
Bellevue, Washington

DIFFERENT VIEW OF PACKERS

... For a number of years my friends and I backpacked into the high country. Are we to be kept out because we no longer can shoulder the heavy backpack? Our solution has been to go with a llama packer such as Kit Niemann.

If you had met us on the trail instead of the group of people you describe, perhaps you would have a different view of llama packers.

Two years ago, five of us planned to hike to Seven Lakes Basin with Kit and her llamas. We ended up spending only two of the four nights because of a torrential downpour. But in that time I was

impressed with the way Kit handled her llamas on the trail and in the campsite.

We certainly took only photographs and left only memories—our campsite was cleaner when we left than when we arrived. The campsites, by the way, were reserved group sites away from the backpacker campsite areas.

The kind of obnoxious group they encountered could have been anywhere in the backcountry. It just happened that this particular group had been accompanied by a llama packer.

And, yes, I have written a letter to the Forest Service in support of Kit's Llamas.

Anne Dowd
Mercer Island, Washington

LLAMA PACKER DISTRESSED

Because I pack with llamas and publish a newsletter for llama packers, *The Backcountry Llama*, I read [the] letter (*May, page 4*) with embarrassment.

I was distressed by the conduct and the llama packers, as it was reported. I agree with many of the writer's comments, and if I were to come upon a similar situation, I would have been as disgusted as he was. I may not have been as polite as he was.

I will not tolerate children or adults harassing the wildlife. I strongly object to romping across the meadows. I dislike camping anywhere near loud people. I have never had those experiences with llama packers. Llama packers I know of, and I know a few, would be equally disappointed.

I feel I need to apologize for the situation he encountered. Llama packers are generally among the most conscientious about backcountry etiquette. Most of us were backpackers before we got into llama packing. Some do not come from that background and have not had the "upbringing" that one needs to know how to behave in the wilderness.

This is a very important point to me. I harp about it in my newsletter. We stress blending in and leaving as little sign of our presence as possible. ... We even stress scattering llama dung. Even though it can look like an elk's dropping, we encourage scattering to help camouflage our passing.

I invite anyone who comes across llama packers who may not be following good wilderness ethics to politely remind and educate them. They should correct the situation and give you a po-

lite "thank you" for the information. ... If your words do not seem to have a proper impact, please send their name to me. I will follow up. We feel that each user group needs to accept a self-policing responsibility.

Although some points in the letter could be interpreted as elitist, they all probably stem from the irritation caused by the unfortunate and unnecessary experience that the writer and his wife endured.

Those who don't have strong backs and determination ... should be allowed some access to the backcountry, too. Frankly, my wife and I are of good health, but we enjoy the experience of llama packing. Please don't exclude us because we don't do it your way.

Protecting the wildlife and maintaining a natural quietness in the wilderness are goals I totally agree with. Group sizes need to be reasonable. A group leader, private or commercial, needs to take responsibility for the behavior of his or her group, whatever the size. Those concepts should be fair expectations of all wilderness travelers.

Please note that it was not the llamas that were in fault, but the users. The llamas seemed to be behaving quite well. Even the relatively environmentally-soft llama can be caused to be hard on the land if the handler does not consciously show care and concern. Every user group can cause damage through carelessness.

Noel McRae, *The Backcountry Llama*
2857 Rose Valley Road
Kelso, Washington 98626

SUPPORTS OUTFITTERS

After reading the anti-llama letter in your May issue, I thought it only fair to send in a pro-llama and -outfitter letter.

I also checked with my local outfitters, both llama and horse variety, to get their take on the issue before sending my support for Kit's cause to the Olympic National Forest. Letters do count!

Outfitters were much easier for me to keep track of as a backcountry and wilderness ranger over the last 30 years, including many years in Olympic National Park. They knew it too, so most of my problems were with non-outfitter parties.

Eric Burr
Mazama, Washington

PETER KRYSTAD

HEART OF THE ENTIAT

—THE KRYSTAD BROTHERS USE
THEIR MOST POWERFUL TOOL: WAVE OF HAND NAVIGATION—

The now hard-to-find 15-minute Holden and Lucerne quads have a fine selection of old and obscure trails that do not appear on more recent maps.

I have been picking my way through them for years now, and still have a few trips to go. With Sutliff's *Entiat Country* in hand we patched this loop together, combining the highlights of four nice weekend hikes into one aggressive five-day circuit.

Byron and I went to meet Eric at his house, while Eric came looking for us at mine. The trip had not yet begun and the Krystad Brothers' 1994 Labor Day Hike (code name: Certain Peril) was off to a classic start. We drove over fog-bound Stevens Pass with a rainy weather forecast in hand.

Near noon at the end of Phelps Creek



We had a stand-up lunch in the rain in Carne Basin.

Road we found at least thirty carloads of people like us had learned that the Chiwawa and Entiat fire closures had been lifted during the previous week.

We parked 200 yards down the road and shouldered our loads. As if on cue it began to rain. Since we did not want to begin the trek on such a wet note and technically we had not started walking, we decided it would be legit to wait in the car a bit.

An hour later it let up, and we set out. In fifteen minutes we turned up the Carne Mountain Trail and the rain resumed.

We plugged up Carne with rain falling the entire way. Our stand-up lunch in that beautiful basin was held with backs against a single huge larch. Amazing what poor rain protection those soft little needles provide.

There was no wind, however, so our parkas held off the rain well and we finished the climb to the border of the Glacier Peak Wilderness and the first of many high passes on this trip.

Fog and clouds cancelled any views, but our route would return to this point on the final day. Later I remembered it would have been nice to see the final leg of our loop, a crux section of cross-country we knew pitifully little about.

Instead we dipped down the Rock Creek trail a quarter mile and found the start of the Carne Mountain/Leroy Creek High Route. This old obscure trail plainly led up to pass number two and then on obvious track down into the Box Creek drainage.

After a half-mile we picked a campsite on the brink of a sloping rock basin, eager to establish camp during a pause in the rain. A small trickle provided water. Dinner occurred during another pause, then we hit the tents early as the temperature began to drop and the rain started to really cut loose. It pounded our tents for hours into the night, preventing any kind of worth-

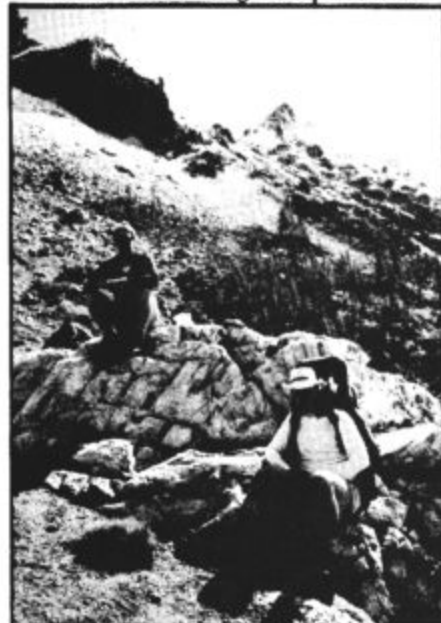
while sleep.

In the morning there was blue sky to the east and only the freshest of rain-washed scents in the air. Back toward the Cascade Crest shreds of clouds tore from the dissipating storm and stretched and vanished as they passed overhead. Five hundred feet above us the rocky slopes were white with fresh snow.

Pinned on a steep west slope there was no point in our waiting for the sun to reach camp, so we stuffed the soggy tents into bags and started off. Quickly we reached the northern branch of Box Creek and several very nice campsites amid larch and meadows. Here the High Route tread finally faded away completely.

We spotted a black bear high-tailing it straight up the ridge across from us. With a dozen deer seen fleeing through various meadows earlier in the morning, the Southern Californian among us commented on the pleasing wildness of the wildlife hereabouts.

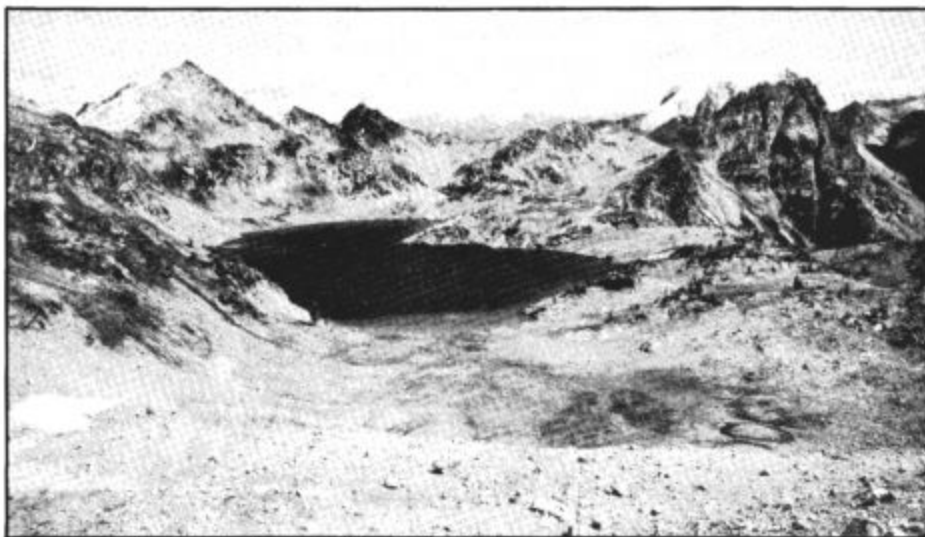
We climbed through steep meadows



Eric (left) and Byron take a break at the Box-Chipmunk divide.

Peter Krystad

Peter Krystad



Upper Ice Lake from the pass below Mount Maude.

to 7000 feet on a shoulder of the main ridge, easily crossed through the upper basin of Chipmunk Creek and puffed up to the 7400 foot spur crossing into the Leroy Creek drainage. The snow-line was now just above us.

I was able to pick out an indistinct path leading across the scree to a pass and the true crest of the Entiat Mountains. We hurried over, with only thirty feet of steep hard dirt to worry about. Having brought our full backpacks to 7700 feet we paused to enjoy the view.

Indigo-colored Upper Ice Lake rested on a barren rocky shelf, brilliant cumulus towering above in the transparent sky, with the ranges of the Chelan

Mountains lining up beyond.

Leaving the Chiwawa drainage we descended a few hundred feet and dropped our packs. The pre-trip plan was to climb the south side of Mount Maude, bagging the state's easiest 9000-footer.

Looking at the "path" ascending the late-season bare scree and talus with the summit looming 1500 feet higher I had second thoughts. But I kept them to myself as we loaded hip packs and took off.

By some strange feat of motivation we blasted the south slope in less than an hour, arriving on top in six inches of fresh snow with truly incredible

views all around.

We picked out the ridges that outlined previous treks, and planned a few more. A shoulder of Glacier Peak peaked out of the wall of clouds to the west. Giant Buck Mountain, its long high ridge guarding the Napeequa, filled the view to the south. We lunched and peered down at tomorrow night's camp far below in the upper Entiat.

We skated down the snow-slick, lichen-covered scree to our packs. Plodding across a flat plain of Glacier Peak pumice, scrambling around the lakeshore rocks, and rambling down benches and meadows to the fringes of treeline brought us to uninhabited Lower Ice Lake. It looked like no one had been there all summer, and I suppose that was nearly true. New grass was well-established in most of the tentsites and trails.

We picked a still-barren patch of pumice and settled into Byron's yaki soba dinner almost as deeply as our sleeping pads.

In the morning all was silent and still. We gathered up quietly, feeling obligated to not disturb the hush around us. We found the route of the Ice Lakes trail at the north end of the lake, and followed it steeply down for all of a hundred yards before setting off on our second day of cross-country travel.

Our route dropped southeast beneath cliffs before turning and climbing to the saddle between the Spectacle Buttes. Other than getting across one badly eroded gully, this stretch was just a few hours of tediously picking our way through talus. We lunched at the rocky isolated saddle, looking back at our route to the pass below Mount Maude.

From here we descended toward the Entiat River down more talus until we reached a most pleasant meadowy basin. Many avalanches' worth of silvered tree trunks covered the basin floor, gripped by the tall grass growing all around us.

This was quiet country, worthy of a long break before the day's final leg. Reluctantly we traversed north into deep timber, avoiding the steep gorge that drains this basin.

Eventually it looked feasible to descend and we dropped 500 feet through timber and brush to another meadow at 5800 feet. We wandered through it to find 1911 Camp and the Cool Creek trail. This old sheep drive led down to an easy wade of the Entiat and our next camp at the 13+ mile mark of the En-

Peter Krystad



tat River trail.

Late in the afternoon we took a long walk to the head of this valley, an awesome 4000-foot-deep cirque ringed by Maude, Seven-Fingered Jack, and Fernow. Relaxing on top of one of many giant erratics we took in the view—one of the most stunning holes in the Cascades. We found a clear stream for water, the silty waters of the Entiat having clogged our filter.

Our camp was set on the edge of a meadow, dwarfed by giant stands of firs. This "lowland" camp was a nice contrast to the high country we had been in. We exploited this variety by walking the meadows, finding old trails, old camps, and old forest. The meadows were riddled with gopher and mole holes, more than any I have ever seen. Certainly some new predators would have a fine life here.

The fourth day was our mileage day. We ambled down the Entiat for 8 miles, alternating through bands of meadows and forest for miles before passing into solid timber. We passed several intriguing side trails that we will have to come back and explore.

Five miles from the road we hung a right on the Larch Lakes trail, waded back across the Entiat, and returned to the high country. Upper Larch Lake was gorgeous, and again it appeared few people had been around during the summer. No footprints in the mud along the shore, not much sign of anything having gone on at all.



Eric contemplates our route through upper Rock Creek.

Peter Krystad

The pleasant flavor of this trip being a lucky visit to a remote and forgotten place continued to grow.

We fished through the late afternoon, each of us thinking about the nearing finish of the trip. We ate our last dinner without enthusiasm, it being the only freeze-dried meal we had brought.

In the morning we were in no hurry. Feasting on huckleberry pancakes gave us the energy to move out. The trail continued to Larch Lakes Pass and beyond. This lonesome track continues high on the south side of the main Entiat crest, not really going anywhere, but what views!

The valleys of Rock Creek, Phelps Creek, the Chiwawa River and Buck Creek, each separated by long ridges. Beyond that Clark Mountain and its kin, plus Glacier Peak still a shiny white. From the high point we surveyed the task at hand: connecting this trail with the Rock Creek trail and thus back to Carne Mountain.

Here we deployed our most-powerful route finding tool: Wave of Hand Navigation. We each absently (and nervously) gestured toward distant Carne Mountain saying: "We'll just swing around the head of the valley," or "No problem traversing straight through."

In reality, from Pomas Pass we followed Sutliff's directions, staying near 6200 feet the entire way around the head of Rock Creek. It took much longer than planned but was uneventful.

The steep sidehill was broken into small ledges and steps by the bunchgrass, making walking much easier than we anticipated. None of the handful of gullies we crossed were dangerous, and our only problem was that after five days of constant movement we were starting to drag a bit.

Pushing on through several more



Crossing talus on the way to Spectacle Butte saddle; Mount Maude is in the distance.

Peter Krystad

small hanging meadows we finally caught a switchback on the Rock Creek trail, and were soon back at the high saddle on Carne.

With the loop complete and nothing left to do but pound our knees down to the car we lunched long, photographing the panorama of our last day's traverse.

The scenery had certainly swept by us on this trip—our rain-soaked pictures at this spot five days before seemed a long time ago.

This was my longest pure backpack in the Cascades in years. It still impresses me that there are so many quiet places to roam in our mountains, that our wilderness has been saved, and that with a blunt pencil and a few old maps you can set yourself up for more fun than you can imagine.

△

Peter Krystad, of Seattle, works as a software engineer. He is a ski maniac who also climbs and hikes.

JIM MILLER

HIKING THAT GRAND OLD CANYON

—SAVOR THE MOOD—

What a grand old ditch is the Grand Canyon! Over a mile deep and 300 miles long, there is nothing on earth quite like it.

The geologists say that the Arizona area was once the site of prehistoric seas. Then the earth began thrusting up the Kaibab Plateau. An earthquake fault developed and the Colorado River cut its bed along the fault as the plateau rose.

The rising and the cutting continued until the Colorado had cut right down to the primordial bedrock of the earth! In so doing it left the history of ancient ages for all to read. This is one of many things that make the Grand Canyon such a special place to hike.

There are many trails in the Grand Canyon. Solitude is certainly available to those who hike the lesser-known paths. People who live far from Arizona, however, usually have time for only *one* hike or backpack in the Canyon. Given this option, most people elect the Bright Angel Trail.

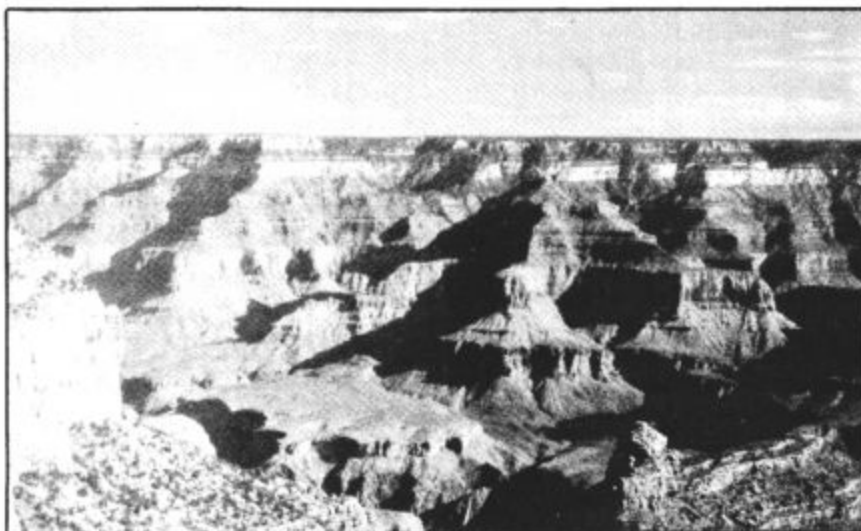
And given one backpack in the Canyon, the most representative trip would be to hike from the North Rim to South Rim (or vice versa).

WHAT'S THE NORTH-SOUTH RIM TRIP LIKE?

From 8340 feet the North Rim trail switchbacks down into the Canyon, gradually passing such interesting layers as the Coconino Sandstone, the Redwall, Muav Limestone and the Tonto Platform (to name a few) which represent millions of years of earth's history.

Reader-board signs are set up to explain the various layers. It's a vertical mile down to the canyon floor and a hot 12 miles of arid cactus country down the creek to Phantom Ranch.

I might add that this route along Bright Angel Creek is *not* the Bright Angel Trail—'tis the North Kaibab. Beyond Phantom Ranch the route crosses the Colorado on a suspension



Rita Maupin

The Grand Canyon from the South Rim.

bridge and ascends to the 7000 foot South Rim on the "real" Bright Angel Trail. Total distance: about 24 miles.

The hike divides beautifully into a four-day/three-night backpack: One night at Cottonwood Camp in the middle of the canyon floor; the next night at Bright Angel Campground (which is also the site of the Phantom Ranch and the Colorado River); and the third night at Indian Gardens Camp, halfway up from the Colorado to the South Rim. Lacking time, Indian Gardens could be skipped.

Some gallopers dash through the entire hike in a single day, *sans* permits and backpacks; but they must barely have any memory of it. Far better to savor the moods of this great Canyon, to reflect on the long story of its creation, to observe the flora and fauna, and to photograph the brilliant hues of the sunset walls.

A PLAN IS HATCHED

After various additions and deletions, four of us made firm plans to hike the canyon. We would drive my van 1200 miles to the North Rim in two hard-driving days (September 3 and 4, Sat-

urday and Sunday).

We would spend one night in the North Rim campground but because of no shuttle vehicle, would not hike from there. We would drive the 220 miles to the South Rim and spend Monday night in Mather Campground.

Next morning we would catch the bus to the South Kaibab trailhead. We would descend the waterless 7-mile trail down to the Colorado River, cross the black suspension bridge and camp at Bright Angel Campground near Phantom Ranch.

Wednesday we would dayhike halfway up the Bright Angel Creek to Ribbon Falls and return, covering a good bit of the route from North to South Rim.

Thursday we would cross the Colorado River on the silver bridge and hike up to Indian Gardens campground. Friday we would hike out to the South Rim and spend another night at Mather campground before hitting the road.

(I would have planned for a full North Rim-South Rim traverse had I known at the time that an independent party, Tom Jones, is now operating a van service to shuttle hikers from South to North Rims. He can be contacted

through the Park people).

Obtaining permits sounds easy but requires very nimble and timely work. A person *must* start planning a year ahead. Many other people worldwide plus adventure-travel groups furnish plenty of competition!

To be successful you must go to the main post office at midnight on the earliest permissible date and get that application off to the Grand Canyon back-country office.

The same goes for applying to MISTIX for carcamping reservations at North and South Rims: book as early as the rules allow. The National Park mailer bulletin contains all the info. Read it line-for-line. Forget ever getting to speak to a live person.

THE TRIP

Rita, Lori, Irwin and I left Portland at 7am and headed west on I-84. After 400 miles of Oregon and 200 miles of Idaho we paused at a motel in the little town of Burley, Idaho.

The next morning we rose early and pressed onward, switching drivers every two hours. We reached the North Rim before dark and drove into the campground despite the "FULL" signs. The camping booth was closed but a neat sign in the window listed possible late arrivals: It said "MILLER PARTY—SITE A-44". Sure pays to plan ahead!

Next morning we leisurely inspected the awesome views from the North Rim and bought breakfast from the Lodge, which was good and reasonable.

Soon we were underway again to cover the 220 miles that would take us to the South Rim; or Grand Canyon Village, as it calls itself. It is a fine example of commercialism gone berserk.

Big hotels line the edge of the Grand Canyon. There are countless yuppie trinket shops, deadly snares for any shoppers in the party. Traffic is incredible. With only a few deadends and U-turns we found Mather Campground.

And good old MISTIX had delivered again: Our campsite was waiting while a constant line of cars was being turned away.

Tuesday. Our big day. Eagerly we drove down to the railroad parking lot and hauled out our backpacks. We donned them and walked up to Bright Angel Lodge where many buses pulled in and out.

After a half hour one came along that said "Yavapai-S. Kaibab." That's us! We boarded and paid our \$3. After a

couple of more stops our driver took us eastward about 5 miles to the South Kaibab Trail. We disembarked among rocks and sparse pines.

The Kaibab Trail wastes no time but begins switching down the vertical walls of the Grand Canyon immediately. The track varies from deep dust to sloping rock with the background odor of mule urine and a foreground view of the awesome Canyon.

A couple of miles down was a level spot and a toilet. No water. It was about 100 in the shade and no shade! We rested and drank from our canteens. Then on . . .

Several mule parties were headed uphill. We got off the trail as instructed and spoke pleasantly to the mule-drivers.

Some of the mules were contentious and we always hoped they wouldn't throw a fit while we were right there on the edge of the abyss. So hoped their riders too, I'm sure!

We passed the Tonto Platform and came to Panorama Point. At last we could see the Colorado River and Phantom Ranch 2000 feet below us.

At this point Lori became faint with dehydration. Sweating is a cooling mechanism. If a person doesn't drink enough, he or she runs out of sweat and body temperature rises dangerously. We had Lori drink liquids and slobbered much of our precious drinking water on her clothing to cool her.

After a rest she felt better and we moved on. Fortunately we had shaded

trail much of the way on down to the black mule-bridge.

The Park Service is well aware that the hot and waterless South Kaibab Trail is deadly; and has signs near the black bridge cautioning hikers not to use it to get to South Rim.

Bright Angel Camp is set up all along the west side of the creek with the same name. Most of the campers were sitting in the water this hot day. It was 105!

We found a site and then hit the creek. Later we went to visit Phantom Ranch (a half-mile up the creek) hoping for a cold beer. Bummer! They had just closed the canteen.

That night I wakened to a scratching sound. I shined my flashlight on the metal pole the Park provided to hang food. In the light beam a pair of glittering eyes looked back at me. A ringtailed cat (lemur) had gone right up the pole and was raiding our food!

I came out of the tent. The cat snarled and held his ground. I fetched him a mighty wallop across the ribs with my hickory walking stick. He found it expedient to depart quickly.

Rita said, "Oh, I hope you didn't hurt him!"

We found that a good bit of Irwin's food was spoiled. Also I had stepped on a scorpion in the dark: a very painful encounter. In the battle of Man vs. Nature, I figure we were about even.

Next morning we donned our day-packs and set out up Bright Angel Creek. The canyon walls widened and



Irwin, Lori and Jim at the South Kaibab trailhead on the South Rim.

then closed in. We were in the "Box Canyon." The trail crossed the creek several times on metal bridges.

Guava (century plant) with their nine-foot plumes abounded. They bloom once in about 20 years and then die. Prickly pear and cacti thrived. Lizards scuttled about—interesting little guys, miniature dinosaurs, perfectly harmless. What fun to watch them doing pushups!

After 6 miles we came to Ribbon Falls in a little side canyon. This beautiful little waterfall has built up a dome of calcium carbonate which is about 100 feet high. You can climb up on the dome on a path and get behind the falls. And if you are brave and uninhibited you can stand atop the dome under the shower!

Although Ribbon Falls is very close to Cottonwood Camp, we did not go on to Cottonwood. Uppermost in my mind was an image of a cold can of Bud, obtainable at the canteen if we turned around *now!* Need I say we turned around?

With perfect timing Irwin and myself were back at Phantom canteen at 3pm, having left our teetotaler ladies behind in our dust. We were well able to wash our dusty throats before the cutoff time of 3:30. Never did cold beer taste better!

The evening entertainment was the Ranger talk on Search and Rescue. A young lady described how tourists get themselves in trouble; and how tough it is for four rangers to push a wheeled litter *up* the South Kaibab Trail. I can well believe it.

The Ranger used a parlor game to il-



Irwin descending the South Kaibab trail.

Rita Maupin



Rita Maupin

Meeting a mule party coming up out of the canyon.

lustrate Search and Rescue communication. She whispered something to one person in the audience and had that person whisper the same message to the next person, and so on down the line.

What the Ranger said was: "There's an older woman with a sprained ankle at Pipe Springs on the Bright Angel Trail." When this message had passed through ten people the Ranger said, "OK, stop. What's the message?"

The tenth person said, "There's an old lady with a sprain at the spring on the Bridle trail."

UP AND OUT OF THE CANYON

Two continuous nights is the Park-imposed limit for any Grand Canyon campsite; and we had been at Bright Angel two nights. We packed up on Thursday and crossed the silver suspension bridge where no mule ever sets foot. The brown flood of the Colorado raged beneath the grating at our feet. Irwin promptly renamed it the "Colorado Slurry," much more descriptive than its real name.

In a short mile we were at Pipe Creek where water is available. After that we were in sight of flowing water frequently all the way up to Indian Gardens on the Bright Angel Trail. What a contrast to the arid North Kaibab Trail!

By noon we were ensconced at the shaded Indian Gardens campground with a whole afternoon to burn. Our choice was mostly to rest and snooze.

I proposed that we take the little hike (2 miles) over to the Plateau Point Viewpoint for sunset. The response was unenthusiastic. So I took it by myself.

At the Viewpoint the setting sun turned the canyon walls an amazing red. Rita, who is an avid photographer, regretted that she had not gone.

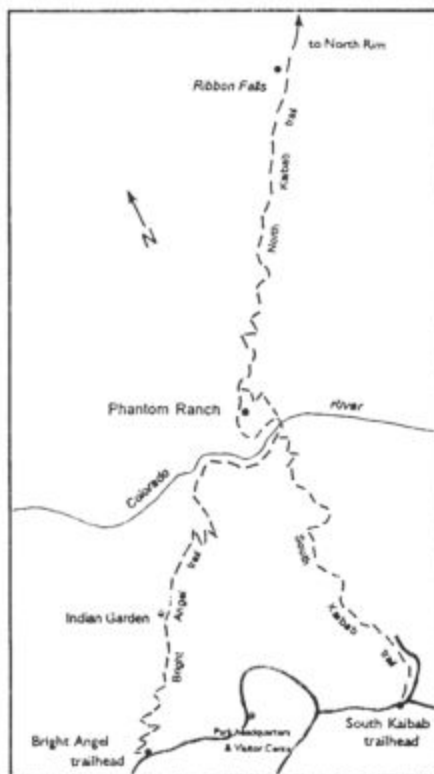
On Friday we applied our boots to the Bright Angel trail. When you look upward at the 7000-foot South Rim it looks absolutely impossible that any trail could get up there. Yet the route continued to hairpin right on up those mighty walls!

We encountered literally hundreds of people of many nationalities headed downward. Plus uncounted mule parties. I guess you could say this is a popular trail!

Two rest houses with drinking fountains are spaced along the way. We reached the South Rim with little trouble and reclaimed the van. It had been a highly successful little Grand Canyon outing.

△

Jim Miller, of Portland, works at spending as much time as he can in the backcountry.



LEE MCKEE

A Puget Sound Paddling Sampler

—GETTING STARTED TRAVELING ON PUGET SOUND BY CANOE OR KAYAK—

The call of a loon floats over the water; a seal pops up its head and looks inquisitively in our direction; a whale surfaces for a breath of air then dives. Where are we? Alaska? Canada? No! We're paddling on Puget Sound!

Although Puget Sound certainly is not as remote as waters in Alaska or Canada, it's still home to lots of animal life, and a vacation spot for others like whales who stop by for a visit on their yearly travels. Whales and loons are special and not something you'll see or hear too often, but there are lots of other smells, sounds, and sights to enjoy between those sightings.

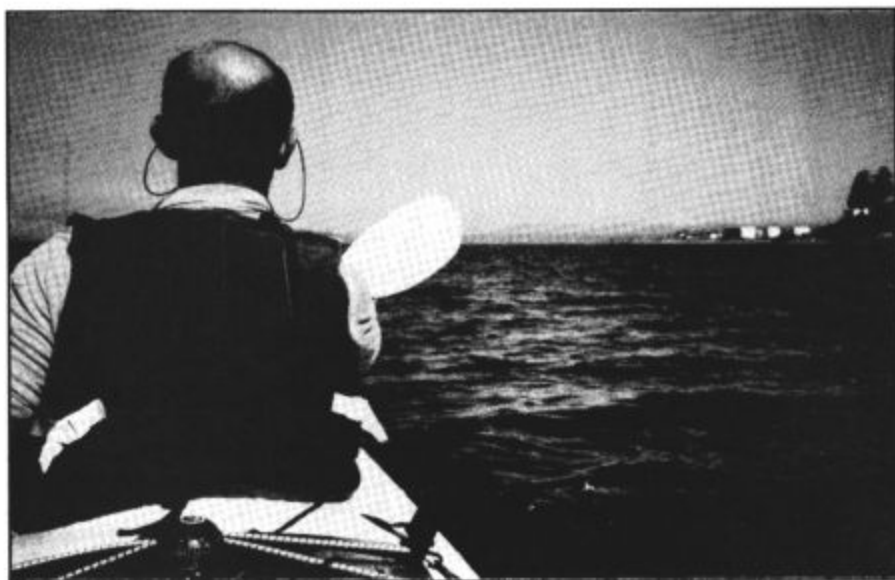
If you're interested, but not certain about paddling on salt water or where to go, read on and I'll give you some basic information to get you started. I'll also cover a dozen specific trips on the Sound

To begin with, you'll need a boat. For our purposes that would be a kayak or a canoe. Canoes were used on Puget Sound long before kayaks. Early settlers used them for transportation as did Ira Spring's parents (see *P&P*, May 1993). A number of people use them today, too, but kayaks seem to be the vessel of choice on the Sound. I've paddled both but prefer a kayak on salt water.

Whichever vessel you choose, there are several general considerations for saltwater paddling: tide, current, waves, cold water, marine traffic, launch etiquette and private property. I'll just cover some basic ideas on each to get you started.

To learn more pick up one of the books that cover saltwater paddling or take a course with one of the local paddle stores or clubs.

TIDES. Tides affect you in two ways. First they affect access to landing and launching spots. At high tide there may be no beach; at low tide there may be 100 feet of mud.



Paddling toward Mukilteo.

The tide also affects your exploring possibilities. A charming backwater inlet at high water can be a mud flat at low tide.

Tide tables available at outdoor stores give the highs and lows for each day as well as correction factors for specific locations around the Sound.

CURRENT. Current is a major aspect of Sound paddling. It's either flooding (flowing inland), ebbing (flowing out to sea) or slack (going nowhere). Depending on the direction you're traveling it will either help or hinder you. It will also cause things like eddies and rips to form at certain times.

Besides changing direction, current also changes speed. The speed is affected by the magnitude of the tidal change and the time during the tidal change.

The only way to tell what current is doing on a particular day is to consult a current table which can be found at local paddling stores.

WAVES. Waves can be generated from a number of sources such as boat wake, wind, and tide rips. You can mini-

mize your exposure to waves by paddling only on calm days, but remember changing conditions or a passing boat can generate unexpected waves even then.

Also an important thing to remember is that wind acting against current will cause higher waves. If you're paddling on a windy day consider the direction the current is flowing and when it will change direction. Little waves can turn into big waves when wind opposes current.

COLD WATER. The fourth consideration is cold water. Puget Sound can be cold year-round and capsizing can result in hypothermia in a frighteningly short time.

Be prepared. Practice reentry into your boat until it becomes a smooth and easy operation. You should also carry signaling devices like flares.

MARINE TRAFFIC. There's lots of commercial and private boat traffic on the Sound, particularly in the summer, but there aren't any yellow lines or traffic signals. Kayaks and canoes can be hard to spot so paddle defensively.

In the designated north-south shipping lanes, shipping traffic has the right-of-way.

LAUNCHING ETIQUETTE. If you launch at a public ramp remember you will be sharing it with other boaters.

A person launching or retrieving a boat from a trailer can do so relatively fast compared to someone who has lots of loose gear to contend with—which is usually the case with us folks who canoe or kayak.

So be courteous. Move your things to one side of the ramp so you're not blocking access to others while you fuss with your gear. Minimize the time you have the ramp blocked with your vehicle.

Also vehicles with trailers need lots of room to park, so try to locate your car in a spot that won't block a space for a car with trailer. Some launch ramps have specific areas where only vehicles with trailers are allowed to park.

PRIVATE LAND. It is always nice to get out and stretch your legs, have a snack, or use the bathroom on land. The problem is finding shore which is open to public access. There's lots of it—state and county parks, national wildlife refuges (access may be closed during certain times), and DNR land—you just have to do some research to find it.

As part of your trip planning you should determine where possible landing sites are. Several books mentioned below will help you with this.

TRIP PLANNING. Now let's talk about trip planning for just a minute. Choosing where to go can be as simple as locating a launch site, putting in your canoe or kayak, and paddling away. Once you're on the water you can paddle in whatever direction interests you.

Sources of information to help you are:

- Kayaking Puget Sound* by Randel Washburne. This lists a number of specific trips.

- Pack & Paddle* paddling index. This is an index of paddling trips that have appeared in back issues of *Pack & Paddle*.

- the *Afoot and Afloat* series covering Puget Sound by Marge and Ted Mueller. These books list public beaches, parks and launch areas around the Sound as well as a lot of good information about particular locations.

- Washington Public Shore Guide—Marine Waters* by James Scott and Melly Reuling. This can provide additional information on public access areas.

- Morgan's Guide—Boat Launches and Ramps on Puget Sound* by Bill Hanson. This provides information about boat launch sites on the Sound.

- A Guide to the Cascadia Marine Trail System* by the Washington Water Trails Association. It provides a listing of sites along the Cascadia Marine Trail and is available to members of the Association.

Also, before setting out you should determine what the current and tide conditions are and what the weather will be doing.

Currents and tides can be determined from charts and tables available in paddling stores.

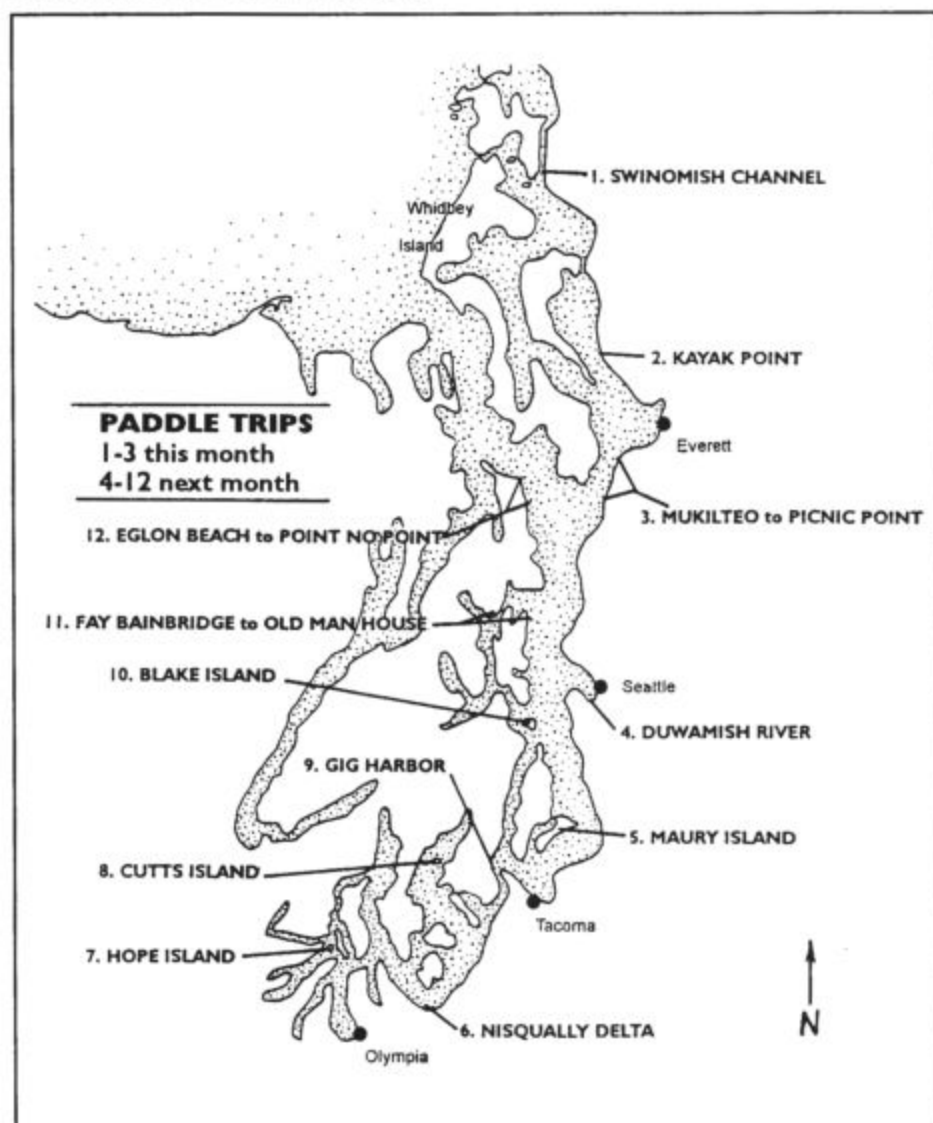
A good source for current weather conditions is the NOAA weather broad-

cast. (Weather radios are inexpensive and very useful.) Pay attention to the portion of the broadcast which gives marine conditions.

SAFETY. A word on safety before getting down to specific paddles. The Sound is large and conditions can change at any time because of weather, tides, currents and other influences.

You must know your own ability and limitations before venturing on any paddle described here, or one that you may choose on your own. And you must assess the conditions that exist the day you decide to paddle to ensure current, weather, and waves are within your skill level.

You need basic boat handling and seamanship skills before venturing on any paddle in Puget Sound. The decision on whether it's suitable for *you* is based on your experience level. What's suitable for one person or group may be entirely unsuitable for another.





Ann Marshall / Lee McKee

A passing boat sends waves rolling under the kayak near LaConner.

TRIPS. Now, down to specifics. Here are a dozen paddle trips—three in this issue; nine next month—scattered around the Sound to give you ideas to work from. Any trip can be expanded or modified to meet your own ideas. Distances are approximate and are in nautical miles (one nautical mile equals 1.15 statute miles).

*

LaConner to Goat Island and Skagit Delta

Access: Just north of the Rainbow Bridge at LaConner. There is a \$1 fee to put in and a \$1 fee to take out.

Trip: This route follows the Swinomish Channel south and then west, where it enters Skagit Bay.

The channel is narrow in places and is used a lot by commercial and private boats (and jet skis). You should stick to the sides of the channel to avoid an unpleasant encounter with a power boat. Also watch for boat wake.

On the north side of Goat Island is Fort Whitman—an old military installation. A trail from the beach climbs to the site. The best access for landing is to the east of the old dock, just past a rock cliff. The trail can be found by walking toward the dock and looking uphill.

Depending on the tide, you can round Goat Island and explore the Skagit River delta. A jetty joins Goat Island to the mainland, and a break in the jetty a short distance to the west of the mainland is a fishway. A boat can be paddled through this opening between about mid-tide and high tide. The fishway can be used to make a circular trip

if the tides are right.

The sounds of jets preparing to land at Whidbey Island mix with the songs of waterfowl as you paddle on this trip.

Distance: Round trip to Goat Island roughly 4 miles; rounding Goat Island and returning by way of the fishway will add at least an additional mile.

Cautions: There can be a strong current in Swinomish Channel depending on the stage of the tide. Since the channel joins Skagit and Padilla Bays, the current change in the channel lags the tide change by several hours.

Watch for boat traffic and wakes. Except when crossing stay to the edges of the channel. Be especially alert for tugs with log rafts.

*

Kayak Point

Access: Kayak Point County Park, just north of the Tulalip Indian Reservation. The park opens at 7am and closes at dusk. There is a sandy beach and a launch ramp.

Trip: The small bays directly to the north and south of the point provide somewhat sheltered paddling, making this a pleasant spot to just paddle around and enjoy the day. There are views of Camano Island and the Olympics rising above it.

The coastline to the north is mostly undeveloped since it is high bank. At points there are elaborate stairways, and even a small tram, to access the beach area from the houses built on top of the bank. Past the bay is the community of Warm Beach. Except for a street end here, there is no public access out-

side of Kayak Point. This small beach would be hard to spot if you are not familiar with what you are looking for. It is about 2 miles to Warm Beach.

Past Warm Beach you can explore the Stillaguamish River delta. This is basically an undeveloped area. The main channel is about 1½ miles farther. Just over a mile up the river on the north shore is a Department of Wildlife access ramp. There is an outhouse here. This is an area of mud flats so watch the tide if you explore it.

Distance: Paddling both shore lines of the bays to the north and south of the point is roughly 2 miles round trip. Round trip to the Stillaguamish River delta is about 7 miles.

Cautions: On a nice day expect lots of people. There are no major currents to deal with unless you explore the Stillaguamish. The tidal area of the Stillaguamish would best be explored on other than low tide.

*

Mukilteo to Picnic Point

Access: Mukilteo State Park beach, adjacent to the ferry terminal in Mukilteo. The park opens at 6:30am.

Trip: This route follows the shoreline of Possession Sound in Snohomish County. Picnic Point makes a good lunch stop and turn around point. It has a sandy public beach, picnic tables and fire stands. There is also a restroom in the parking lot east of the beach (about a 900 foot walk on a ramp over the railroad tracks).

Views to the west are of Whidbey Island and the Olympics. To the north is Mount Baker. Railroad tracks parallel the shoreline, which is rocky, with some beach at lower tides. About halfway there is a little point of beach/tide flats. Just before Picnic Point is a beached barge.

Distance: Roughly 8 miles round trip. **Cautions:** This would be best travelled in the morning to avoid wind waves. Also to avoid the large crowds at Mukilteo and Picnic Point that gather on warm days.

Next month—nine more trips on Puget Sound. △

Lee McKee, of Port Orchard, is Pack & Paddle's business manager.

LEE MCKEE

A Simple Plan

—HOW COULD IT GO WRONG?—

It seemed straight-forward enough. I would hike down the quarter-mile side trail to the beach, then hike a quarter mile north to the Smokey Hollow campsite, check it out, then return. I would travel at a quick pace since we were already at our turn-around time for the dayhike.

Ann would follow at a slower pace, and I would meet her either on the trail down to the beach or where the trail ended at the beach depending on our respective paces. If she reached the beach, she would go no further so I would not miss her on my way back. Like I said, pretty straight-forward.

The setting for this plan was the forested road/trail system of Long Island, in Willapa Bay. Ann and I were circumnavigating the island by sea kayak and had spent the night at Sandspit Camp. The next morning while waiting for the tide to come in, we hiked to the Cedar Grove Research Natural Area near the south end of the island. The road/trail system is simple, with well marked junctions. Nothing tricky.

We had made it to the cedar grove and were on our way back. The day was overcast with some drizzle. I was carrying a daypack with our usual extra clothes and Ten Essentials. Because we had not been able to find the Smokey Hollow site from the water, I wanted to reach it from the land trail.

Drizzle was turning to light rain when we reached the junction for the trail leading to it. We quickly made our plan, I got my raincoat from the daypack and gave the pack to Ann so I could travel lighter. I also took the map, compass and watch.

I took off at a fast clip since we were a little behind our schedule for the day and the tide doesn't wait. I figured I could easily reach the beach, head up it to the camp, check it out, and be back down the beach about the time Ann would reach the beach. My fast pace was slowed by several down trees, one of which required a short loop off-trail to get around. Nothing significant, maybe at its farthest 20 feet from the main trail, with an orange flag part way marking the path. From past expe-

rience I knew Ann would grumble when she reached the downed trees, especially the one that required venturing into the wet brush to get around.

Everything was going well. I had reached the beach, explored the camp, and was back on the trail in short order. I was somewhat surprised that I had not met Ann at the beach junction, but then I thought she was probably taking it very slow so she wouldn't have to backtrack too far. I fully expected to see her at each bend of the trail as I headed up.

I was really surprised that I had not met her by the time I reached the major blowdown. Then I realized that she had probably come that far, didn't want to mess with going around it, so had turned back and would be waiting at the main trail junction.

Hurrying on, I was soon at that junction, but no sign of Ann! I called out in case she was "behind a tree" but no response. Confused, I tried to reason it out. There was only one path; the only way we could have missed each other was if she had stepped off trail during the time I went by. So I quickly headed back down to the beach, figuring she would be getting a little tired of waiting for me.

Negotiating the trail and blowdowns at an even faster pace, I was soon at the beach. *But no Ann!* Something was definitely *wrong!* Checking the sand, I saw that the only boot tracks were mine. After calling out several times, I figured the only thing to do was go back up to the main junction again—she *had* to be there! Up I went quickly, but the results were the same—no Ann.

My concern was building. I went over our plan in my mind—what could have gone wrong? There were no cliffs, the route was straight-forward except for the one blowdown and that was really no big deal, and our plan had been very simple and familiar. The only thing to do was to head back down calling out and looking for clues.

I was soon at the beach again. This just wasn't possible. Ann had to be here!

With no better plan in mind, I started back up again, calling out and trying to reason what could have happened. Stepped off trail and got lost? Got con-

fused going around the blowdown? Foul play? Nothing seemed to fit the situation—except Ann wasn't here and she was supposed to be!

What to do? Ann and I have travelled many miles together; we've had to deal with confused situations before. What would she expect me to do? What would she do if she were hurt or lost?

She had all the equipment in the day pack—except map, compass and watch! Perhaps I should go the beach and wait since that was supposed to be the place she would not go beyond. But about 45 minutes had passed since we should have met and further waiting didn't seem prudent.

I thought about Deb Riehl and her "Rescue Epics" articles. If I went for help what would I tell Search-and-Rescue people; what would they expect me to do that I hadn't? So I forced myself to come up with a logical plan.

I would go back to the beach again, once more looking for clues on the trail. This time I would also backtrack up the beach to the campsite, looking for tracks in the sand. Returning, I would scratch a note in the sand that said I was heading back to camp if Ann should show up. I would then go back to camp, make sure that she wasn't there, then find help.

I quickly made my way back to the beach and up and back to the campsite without seeing any sign of Ann. Scratching my note in the sand, I headed back up to the main trail and camp, roughly 2 miles away. I stifled an urge to jog the distance, knowing I shouldn't use up all my energy, instead walking about a 4mph pace.

Rethinking our last conversation before splitting up I tried to come up with explanations. Perhaps she had decided to head back to camp slowly instead of waiting—that wasn't what I thought we had agreed to but I was grabbing at straws.

One thing I was positive of, though, was the agreement that she wouldn't go past any junctions. The first junction on the way back to camp was in about ¾-mile. I started to build up hope that she would be there, that we would

Stan Davis

Stan Davis succumbed Sunday evening, May 14th, to a combined viral and fungal lung infection, 87 days after his bone marrow transplant at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, in Seattle.

Stan was an active member in the Washington Ski Touring Club, the Trailblazers, and MENSA. He was a subscriber to *Pack & Paddle* and a founding member of the Mount Rainier National Park Volunteer Ski Patrol and of the Washington State Council on Problem Gambling. To aid Stan with his medical bills, his many friends sponsored fund raising benefits over the last few months.

Stan was born August 10, 1942 in Kansas City, Missouri. He grew up in San Francisco, and earned degrees in civil engineering at Stanford University. Stan worked in heavy construction contracting for many years, and then as a construction industry consultant, expert witness and arbitrator. He also served as a lecturer in the UW Department of Civil Engineering.

Should anyone want to make a donation in Stan's memory, Stan suggested that Northwest Harvest food bank in Seattle be the beneficiary.

A memorial service for Stan was held in Seattle on Wednesday, May 24th.

Eulogy to Stan Davis

To touch the rock where it meets the sky,
and feel the north wind cleanse your ache,
to watch as a trout rises to the fly,
while dawn birdsong echoes on an alpine lake,
to bathe in rain and breathe in mist,
and drink of snow in sunshine grail,
to hear the music in the stream's cascades,
and smell the warm forest 'round the trail,
to kiss the frost on a clear Fall morning,
and roll in blueberries with bears,
so did Stan Davis live with mountains coursing through his soul.
I will dearly miss his impish smile, but his love of the high
country will echo in my heart to the end of my days.

—Gerry Erickson



Stan Davis (right) skis with Lance Barker (middle) and Phil Ponder in Geary Meadow last winter.

Jennifer Stein Barker

laugh about the misunderstanding, then be off.

Before long I reached the junction and the hope I had been building was dashed—she wasn't there! Calling out several times as I passed the trail sign, I continued. The next junction was in about ½-mile. I had no reason to expect she would be waiting there, but I hoped nonetheless as I hurried on. It didn't take long to reach it, and again, no Ann.

The turnoff to our camp was about ½-mile farther. I started to plan how I would get help, what equipment I would take with me, how I would carry it. But the background thoughts kept popping out—how could this be happening; this was a simple trail system and terrain; we're experienced back-country travellers!

As I rounded the last bend there was Ann, slowly walking toward me. I im-

mediately had two conflicting feelings—anger, because she obviously hadn't followed what we had agreed to, and relief, because she was safe. I also realized that something had totally gone wrong, and she probably felt the same things.

Talking it over as we walked back to camp, Ann said *she* understood our agreement was that she might turn around before reaching the beach on the side trail and head slowly back to camp. She would leave markings at each trail junction indicating the way she had gone so I would know she was on the right path.

Since I was travelling faster, she expected me to catch up with her before too long. She was very concerned when I had not caught up to her by the last junction, and had finally started retracing the path to find me. She was also

thinking what could have happened and about getting help if she couldn't find me. She couldn't believe I had missed her carefully constructed arrows pointing out her route at each junction!

How could we have had two different views of the same conversation? We don't know. We were in a hurry, it was just starting to rain, it was a simple arrangement that we had done many times before.

Maybe all of those things combined to cause the problem. Whatever, it dramatically brought home the lesson that even "experienced backcountry travellers" can run into problems in the simplest of situations!

△

Lee McKee, of Port Orchard, is Pack & Paddle's business manager.

PANORAMA

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

MOUNTAIN LOOP GRAVEL PIT—Snohomish County has released its Final Environmental Impact Statement on Associated Sand & Gravel's controversial open-pit quarry on the Mountain Loop Highway near Granite Falls (see *Pack & Paddle*, July 1994, page 36).

The proposed project would level 825 acres of hilly forest and subsume 1380 acres. It would be the state's largest quarry (others in Washington average 20 acres), and would border the Stillaguamish River and Mountain Loop.

ASG hopes the mining operation would run for 70 years, with plant operations proposed Monday through Saturday from 7am to 10pm (50% longer than allowed by county code).

Ten acres of wetlands would be destroyed, weekly blasts would disrupt the peaceful valley, local well and groundwater may be contaminated, and nearly 600 truck trips per day on the busy and scenic Mountain Loop (one of only five roads in Washington designated a National Scenic Byway) will have a major impact on recreationists.

Yet the FEIS claims the project will not cause any significant unavoidable adverse impacts.

The Stillaguamish Citizen's Alliance plans to appeal the EIS. For more information, call them at 206-691-4105. —from *The Mountaineers' "Conservation News."*

MUSEUMS—To give your out-of-town visitors (or yourself) a better understanding of the Pacific Northwest, visit a museum this summer.

The **Makah Museum** in Neah Bay is located on the main street at the west end of town. It displays artifacts from the Makah village at Ozette, and has a life-size longhouse. Call 360-645-2711 for hours and admission.

The **Burke Museum** is in Seattle at the northwest corner of the UW. An ongoing exhibit of Northwest Native Art and Artifacts features totem poles, baskets, tools and the Sea Monster House. For 24-hour recording, call 206-543-5590.

PAULSON PHOTO EXHIBIT—The Olympic Park Visitor Center is displaying an exhibit of photographs by Don Paulson, a *Pack & Paddle* subscriber from Seabeck.

"Wild Places of the Olympics" will be on display through the end of Sep-



tember. Each photograph is accompanied by text written by Don, a 46-year-old Washington native who has backpacked in the Olympics for 30 years. Don's photos have appeared frequently in *Pack & Paddle*.

The Visitor Center is south of Port Angeles on the road to Hurricane Ridge; hours are 9am to 4pm daily.

TRAIL WORK—A work party on the all-volunteer Walt Bailey Trail is scheduled for June 24.

This route goes through beautiful forest and meadows with a high-country feel. Finished only a few years ago, the trail needs maintenance to stay usable. Contact Walt Bailey for information: 360-659-2788.

To find the unsigned and unmapped trail yourself, stop at the Verlot Ranger Station for directions and an information sheet.

MARYMOOR CLIMBING ROCK DEDICATION—Join local climbers on June 10 for the dedication of the Marymoor climbing rock.

The dedication starts at noon at Marymoor Park (between Redmond and Lake Sammamish), followed by the first official climbing of the Rock. King County Parks has spent over \$500,000 on this project! Come show your support of this major investment in Washington's climbing resources.

INDEX CLIMBING AREA MAINTENANCE PROJECT—The Access Fund, along with local climbers, is sponsoring a trash cleanup day at Index Town Wall climbing area on June 11.

This popular climbing spot was recently acquired by Washington State Parks. Join the growing ranks of "climbing stewards" who support climbing by helping public land managers with trail and other support projects.

Meet at the Lower Town Wall parking lot at 9am for approximately three hours of cleanup activity. For more information contact Elden Altizer at 206-643-5175.

TRAILS DAY—Want a Trails Day poster? They're available free from:

Vasque NTD Poster
314 Main Street
Red Wing MN 55066.

PASSPORT IN TIME—The Passport in Time program offers individuals and families the opportunity to work with professional archaeologists and historians on preservation projects in the state.

One of six projects scheduled for this summer is in the Indian Heaven Wilderness. Working at several remote sites in the Wilderness, volunteers will help examine prehistoric land use of the area, including mapping and documentation of berry processing camps, and limited excavations.

For more information about this or the other projects, contact:

Passport in Time
Box 18364
Washington DC 20036
phone: 202-293-1782.

EUGENE LINK TO PCT—Downtown Eugene is connected to the Pacific Crest Trail, 108 miles away, by a route that roughly parallels Highway 58. It joins the PCT near Waldo Lake.

According to an article by Dana Tims in *The Oregonian*, the Eugene to Pacific Crest Trail began as a dream 20 years ago. It is now a hikeable reality due to the efforts of volunteer labor.

Rights of way are still not complete—and may take years to acquire—so the route still requires walking on some roadways. The 10-mile portion along Lookout Point Reservoir makes a good low elevation, early-season hike.

A detailed map of the Eugene to Pacific Crest Trail is available by calling Willamette National Forest in Eugene, 503-465-6521, or the Lane County Visitors Center, 503-484-5307.

SOLOING THE PCT—*Pack & Paddle* subscriber Tod Bloxham, the youngest person to hike the PCT solo, will talk about PCT planning, training, and equipment at a clinic at the Seattle REI store.

The free clinic will be June 22 at 7pm. Call 206-323-8333 if you need directions to the store.

MARINE SANCTUARY—Marine Sanctuary status has been proposed for the northwest coastal waters of Wash-

PANORAMA

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

ington. Encompassing the Straits of Juan de Fuca, the San Juan Islands and northern Puget Sound, the proposed Sanctuary would help insure these waters remain relatively pristine.

Fourteen Sanctuaries exist around the country, including the Florida Keys and the Olympic Coast.

For more information and to be put on the monthly Sanctuary Update mailing list, contact:

NW Straits Sanctuary Coalition
c/o Cntr for Marine Conservation
1813 7 Ave SE
Olympia WA 98501
or call 360-943-9532.

TYEE FIRE RESTORATION—The Entiat District is looking for volunteers to assist in post-fire recovery projects this summer. They are asking for groups (families, school groups, Scouts, clubs) to help with habitat improvement, trail building, planting and seeding.

As a bonus, District staff will conduct tours of the fire area, including visits to fire lookout towers. To get your group involved, call Karl Rahder at the Entiat Ranger Station: 509-784-1511.

PACIFIC CREST LEADERSHIP SCHOOL—This new school will lead small groups of students on the PCT from the Columbia River to the Canadian border. The program includes three one-month sessions during three consecutive summers. Students begin the program during the summer before seventh grade. Each year, the same group of students will return to the trail to continue the walk from the place they left the previous year.

Incorporated into the walk are cultural and scientific studies, discussion, writing and art.

An introductory course will run this summer from 7/20 through 8/20. For more information, contact instructors Karl Ullman and Kate Macdonald at:
Pacific Crest Leadership School
PO Box 2106
White Salmon WA 98672
phone: 509-395-2358.

YOSEMITE BEARS—A total of 443 black bear incidents resulting in \$138,015 in damages occurred in Yosemite National Park in 1994, according to the 1994 Black Bear Management and Incident Report by Steven Thompson and Kathryn McCurdy.

These numbers were 13 and 11 percent lower respectively than in 1993. Damage to vehicles accounted for 37% of all incidents and 90% of all property damage.

Fifty-seven percent of all front-country incidents occurred in Yosemite Valley. Forty-two percent of all Park incidents occurred in the backcountry.

Park personnel captured 16 bears 26 different times for control actions. Four bears were euthanized after repeated translocations failed to eliminate destructive/aggressive behavior.



The authors noted a shift in bear incidents toward parking areas, as campgrounds are equipped with bear-proof lockers and garbage cans.—*excerpted from "International Bear News."*

HIKING GUIDE—*Hiking in Southwest Washington* is a 56-page booklet with beautiful photos, maps and descriptions of 21 hikes in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and Columbia Gorge. It is written by Allen Thomas, outdoor editor for *The Columbian* newspaper, and is essentially reprints of his outdoor columns.

The booklet is printed on newsprint and is designed to be carried with you in car or pack. Included is information on campgrounds, Forest Service offices, maps and equipment.

To order, send \$4.95 plus \$1 for shipping and handling to:
Columbian Printing Company
PO Box 180
Vancouver WA 98666.

DEER TARGETED—Blacktail deer behavior is being monitored at Hurricane Ridge. Park Biologists have marked a couple of dozen deer with paintballs and are observing them for unnatural behaviors such as aggressive begging, approaching vehicles, seeking out and consuming litter and drinking radiator coolant spills.

Deer are frequently—and illegally—fed by visitors, resulting in abnormally close and potentially dangerous encounters between the animals and people as the deer become increasingly aggressive. Traffic accidents have occurred as deer congregate and beg food along the road.

ISSUES

A LISTING OF CURRENT BACKCOUNTRY ISSUES OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

OVERSTAR BILL HR 1310—A group of state legislators in Minnesota is working to remove Voyageurs National Park from the Park system. In March, Congressman James Oberstar (D-MN) announced he would introduce new legislation that would open the park to motorized use, including snowmobiles, motorboats, houseboats and floatplanes.

Other legislation has been proposed to remove Wilderness designation from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Help is needed from outside Minnesota to protect these valuable areas. For a copy of the BWCAW / Voyageurs

Action Alert, contact **Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness**, 1313 Fifth St SE #329, Minneapolis MN 55414 (612-379-3835).

GIFFORD PINCHOT WILDERNESS RESTRICTIONS—The GP is proposing setting limits on overnight use in its Wilderness Areas. Two public meetings have already been held (Vancouver and Trout Lake). Two others are scheduled for 5/31, 6:30pm, at the Packwood Senior Center, and 6/1, 6:30pm at the Baker-Snoqualmie Headquarters building in Mountlake Terrace.

Public comment must be received by

7/31. Mail to: **GP National Forest, PO Box 8944, Vancouver WA 98668**. For more information on the restrictions, call Doris Tai, 360-750-5011 (Vancouver).

GOATS—The public comment period for the mountain goat management EIS in Olympic National Park has been extended to July 17.

Written comments should be sent to: Superintendent, **Olympic National Park, 600 E Park Ave, Port Angeles WA 98362**.

REST STOP

EQUIPMENT, RECIPES, TIPS

PUBLIC LANDS MAP—The newest edition of the "Washington State Major Public Lands Map" is available free from the Department of Natural Resources.

This map offers a comprehensive view of state, federal, municipal watershed lands and Indian reservations.

To request a copy, contact:

DNR Photo & Map Sales

PO Box 47031

Olympia WA 98504

360-902-1234.

SOURDOUGH BOOK—In the last issue Dale Graves recommended the book *Sourdough Cookery*. Unfortunately, the address we printed for its publisher is no longer in use, and we haven't been able to track them down. We assume the book is out of print. Look for it at your library or at garage sales.

BACKCOUNTRY EMERGENCIES

—Typical first aid courses may give you basic knowledge and confidence, but if you really want practical medical training for outdoor situations, consider the Wilderness First Responder course.

This course is taught by Wilderness Medical Associates and addresses the special concerns of guides and trip leaders.

There will be a class on the West Coast June 8 through 16 in Rose Valley, Los Padres National Forest, California. The cost is \$525 (\$200 deposit), which includes dorm space and all meals.

Call Judith Gustafson at 805-646-3692 for registration and information.

LEATHER-LINED BOOTS—The leather lined Raichle Spirit IIs (from REI) are in the catalog now, along with the heavier Vistas. Both models are great.—*Eric Burr, Mazama.*

TICKS—Remove ticks promptly to lessen your chances of being infected with tick-borne diseases. It's thought that a tick must be attached to the body for at least six hours to transmit, for ex-



ample, Lyme disease.

To remove a tick, grasp it close to your skin with tweezers and pull it out carefully.

NEW BOOTS—When shopping for new boots, bring along the socks you would normally wear while hiking. Although stores usually have a "sock basket," you'll have a better fit with your own socks.

SNOW GLASSES—Some glacier glasses are sold with side pieces which prevent the harsh glare of reflected light from stressing your eyes.

You can make your own side pieces from lightweight cardboard. Cut two slits in each piece of cardboard and fit over each ear piece. Experiment with size and shape of cardboard to get a comfortable shape for you. These protectors can be a big help when crossing snowfields or glaciers, or when spending the day on water.

CHICKEN DINNER—This recipe is kind of fussy to fix in camp, requiring a second pot to prepare the gravy. I mix and cook this at home beforehand, divide it into two sealable bags, and freeze. I carry this for a first-night's dinner and just drop the bags in boiling water to heat through.

How well this method would stand up for second or subsequent nights, I don't know, but it does make a nice meal no matter how you fix it.

- ½ package chicken-flavored Stove Top Stuffing mix
- ½ Stove Top seasoning mix
- ½ cup raisins
- ¼ cup margarine
- 1 small can chicken or equivalent amount of freeze-dried
- 1 packet chicken-flavored gravy mix

At home, pack up stuffing mix. Pack raisins and seasoning mix together. In camp, mix raisins and seasoning in 1 cup water. Put on the stove. Add chicken and margarine. Bring all to boil and simmer a couple of minutes. Stir in stuffing mix. Cover, remove from heat and let stand.

Prepare gravy according to instructions. Fluff stuffing with fork, pour gravy over stuffing and serve. Fresh or canned fruit makes a nice accompaniment.—*Dale Graves, Kent.*

FIRE STARTER—Most Scouts have learned how to make this fire starter.

Use the bottom of a paper-type egg carton. Fill each egg cup with sawdust from the workshop floor to within about an inch of the top.

In an old saucepan (maybe buy one at a second-hand store just for this purpose) melt some paraffin or candle ends. Put the egg carton on some newspaper on top of a cooky sheet and pour the melted wax into each cup. Let the whole thing cool and harden.

Cut each cup apart and carry as fire starter. To burn, light the edge of the egg carton. It should burn for ten minutes or so, even in the rain.

A variation of this is to use dryer lint in place of sawdust. Pack it in firmly.

CAMP SHOES—Inexpensive beach thongs make lightweight and comfortable camp shoes.

The only drawback is they don't protect your feet from mosquitoes!

ETERNITY BARS—These bars don't crumble or break and will keep up to two weeks (*almost* an eternity).

- 1½ cups flour
- ¾ cup sugar
- ½ cup margarine
- 2 eggs
- 1 tablespoon molasses or honey
- ¾ teaspoon baking soda
- ¾ teaspoon ground ginger
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- ½ cup rolled oats
- ½ cup raisins
- ½ cup chopped nuts
- ½ cup chopped dried fruit
- 2 tablespoons milk

Mix all ingredients into a well-blended dough. Spread evenly in 13" x 9" baking pan. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes at 350 degrees. Cut into bars when partially cool.

WIN FAME & ADMIRATION!

Send us your favorite recipes for hiking and paddling; a review of your newest (or oldest) piece of gear; a safety tip; or tell us about modifying or making your own gear.

PACK & PADDLE

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EDITOR'S JOURNAL



Breakfast with a view of Mount Olympus; north end of the Cat Basin waytrail.

FROM THE MAILBOX—"With an increasingly complicated family life (soccer, handball, swimming, etc) we get out less and less, so your rag provides lots of vicarious pleasure."—*Brier.*

"Really enjoy the rescue articles by Riehl."—*Seattle.*

"Sure do love the photos—sure wish I'd remember to take my camera, but since I don't, keep publishing the shots people send you who *do* remember! I read *P&P* from cover to cover."—*Puyallup.*

"Really enjoy John Roper's gorp of history, narrative and special humor."—*Tacoma.*

"I like to read about really tough people and tough trips in my armchair!"—*Portland.*

"I enjoy Dee Molenaar's art very much and always look forward to more."—*Seattle.*

PLEASE IDENTIFY YOURSELF—A number of contributors in this magazine use initials or pen names in print. We've never had a problem with that because in the office, we know who those people are.

Recently, however, we received an unsigned letter on a controversial topic. No name, no address, no phone number. We've decided not to print the letter, but we can't contact the writer to discuss it!

So, to our contributors, please let us know who you are or give us some way to contact you if we have questions

about what you submit. Thanks.

DEADLINES—The deadline for "Backcountry News" is just a day or two before this magazine actually runs on the press. We want to be able to give you the most up-to-date information we have so we leave that section open until the last minute.

The deadline for "Backcountry News" appears on page 5 of every issue. Mail or phone your report to us by that date and we'll squeeze it in.

PHOTOS—Thanks for sending us photos of your trips! We keep them on file to use in the magazine as needed.

Most of you send us color prints, which works just fine for us and is convenient for you. We can use color slides too—we copy them and return the slide to you.

TIMBERLINE—At the end of April Lee and I drove down to Timberline Lodge at Mount Hood for the Annual Meeting of the Pacific Crest Trail Association.

It was snowing and blowing most of the time we were there. We were glad we still had the chains and winter gear in the old Jeep!

Also spending the weekend at Timberline was the crew of the L.L.Bean Christmas catalog. They had the place decked out with trees and garlands, as well as lights, tripods, models, and miles of cables.

On the last morning, the sky finally cleared and we were able to watch climbers descending the mountain. The catalog crew moved outside to frolic for the cameras.



PCTA ANNUAL MEETING—There are big changes going on in the PCTA. Besides having a new address (see below), the organization is looking for a new executive director and is launching a major fund-raising campaign to continue its ambitious program to promote and preserve the PCT.

Several new board members were welcomed to the organization, including Rick Johnson from Washington.

Only three people from Washington are officially on the board—me, Rick and David Bartholomew (past board member Jim Doubleday of Issaquah continues to take an active part). If you are interested in being part of the PCTA board and have experience in law, accounting or other business skills, contact the main office.

The new address is:

PCT Association
5325 Elkhorn Blvd #256
Sacramento CA 95842.

The Association's acting executive secretary Valerie York, or its president Ben York, can be reached by phone at 619-445-5604 or 800-817-2243.

NOTE CARDS—After about two years of hearing people tell me I should sell those cute cards, I have finally had them printed up. The cards are now for sale. See ad on page 2.

I have been making the drawings and cards for years, giving them to friends and family. The scenes are all real places I have been in the mountains, and the people in them are the group of women I hike and climb with.

My "technique," such as it is, evolved from years of drawing sketch maps with ballpoint pens in the old Signpost barn, admiring the work of Molenaar, Hammerly and Pargeter, and making many small illustrations to use in these pages.

Each original illustration for a card takes hours to do. It's fun and rewarding, but I may only complete two or three in a year. (No, I don't do them on the computer!)

See you in the backcountry,

Ann Marshall

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