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VOLUME 5, NUMBER 5

RANDOM VIEW—



Larry Smith

Larry Smith heads for the McCall Glacier for some summer skiing, Goat Rocks Wilderness.

Features

- 14 OREGON'S 100 HIGHEST PEAKS
Jeff Howbert
- 18 YUKON RIVER
Jack Kendrick
- 20 CLIMBING WITH SASHA
Warren Guntheroth
- 22 RETURN TO THE BEACH
Jim Miller
- 24 BALD EAGLE TO WHITE PASS
Wilma Peterson
- 26 THE PCT: Snoqualmie Pass to Naches Pass
Jack Hornung

Departments

- 4 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
- 5 BACKCOUNTRY NEWS
- 28 PANORAMA — News from All Over
- 30 REST STOP — Recipes, Equipment, Tips
- 31 EDITOR'S JOURNAL

COVER PHOTO:

On the Dosewallips River trail, with wild rhododendrons in full bloom. Olympic National Park, Washington. Photo by Ann Marshall.

HOW TO BE A PACK & PADDLE CONTRIBUTOR:

Send us your stories, reports, and photographs. *Pack & Paddle* is written by its readers and we welcome your ideas, input, and material. Submissions are considered contributions—if payment is requested it will be a modest amount. We take great care in handling your work, but we cannot guarantee against damage to or loss of materials. Please don't be offended if we can't use your stories or photos.

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BECKEY'S BIBLE, SECOND ED.

Comparing the first and second editions of Fred Beckey's *Cascade Alpine Guide, volume 3*, I found the following 33 peaks have been eliminated from the index, but can still be found on the listed pages:

Anderson Butte, page 303
 Big Goat, page 403
 Cheops, page 274 (under Martins Peak)
 Devils Dome, page 393
 Mount Elk, page 401
 Ferry Peak, page 403
 Finlayson Peak, page 142 (under Whitworth Peak)
 Flattop Mountain, page 402
 Mount Ford (4600 feet), page 401
 Mount Herman, page 408
 Horseshoe Mtn, page 399
 Horton Butte, page 399
 Mount Laughington, page 401
 Lincoln Butte, page 409
 Llama Peak, page 250
 Lone Goat Mountain, page 405,
 Mount Mercer, page 401
 Oakes Peak, page 402
 Point Defiance, page 403
 Point 6495, page 406
 Point 6728, page 406
 Skaist Mountain, page 405
 Snow Camp Mountain, page 405
 Sourdough Mountain, page 406
 Tamaracak Peak, page 392
 Tatie Peak, page 392
 Three AM Mountain, page 282 (under Midnight Mountain)
 Mount Thurston, page 401
 Uno Peak, page 403
 Vie Mountain, page 403
 Winchester Mountain, page 410
 Yellow Aster Butte, page 410
 Zupjok Ridge or Peak, page 250

The following eleven had name changes:

Crescent Creek Spires now Twin Needles
 Crescent Lake Peak now Mount Grant
 Granite Mountain now Mamie Peak
 Peak 5800+ now Twin Creek Peak
 Peak 7200+ now Mount Hatfield
 Peak 7680+ now Golish Peak
 Peak 7895 now Tombstone Peak, page 134 (not in index)
 Peak 8200+ now McNaught Peak, page 136 (not in index)
 Peak 8392 now Courtney Peak
 Point 8080+ now Point 8090, page 141 (not in index)

Rexford-Illusion Crags now Nesak-watch Spires

The following seventeen are new listings:

Bearpaw Mountain
 Bighorn Peak, page 250, 255
 Granite Mountain, only because maps changed its location
 Helen Buttes
 Mount Holden
 Last Sister Peak
 Nachaktsen Peak
 Mount Parks
 Peak 6157 "Damfino Peak"
 Peak 7514
 Squatter Peak
 Step Sister Peak
 Thar Peak
 Welker Peak
 Widget Peak
 Wobegone Peak
 Zoa Peak

Stoyoma's Widow is now only listed under Peak 7400 (Stoyoma's Widow).

Lone Mountain and Pick Peak are entirely gone from the new edition.

Though not new (meaning new info) the following ten have reached the stature of getting their own listing in the index:

East McMillan Spire
 East Peak of Mount Fury
 East Towers of Inspiration Peak
 Les Cornes
 Little Maca Spire
 Waiting Tower
 West Peak (of Terror, Fury, Challenger and Silver Star)

Unfortunately, the second edition eliminates the elevations from the index.

Fred Beavon
 Edmonds, Washington

TRAINED IN THE NORTHWEST

We enjoyed reading Ramona Hammerly's article in the April issue describing her travels in the southwest last April and May, particularly since we just returned from our own mini-trip to Texas the first week in April this year.

The terrain she describes was familiar; the weather was not. We didn't have to worry about starting our hike of Guadalupe Peak in the early morning while there was still some shade and the temperature was still mild. The overnight temperature was a low 35 degrees with a hearty wind-chill factor

making it even colder.

We went to bed with heavy rain falling, and the next morning woke to 2 to 4 inches of snow on the ground, snow still falling, no visibility and bitter winds—in short, a blizzard.

Guadalupe Peak is located in the Chihuahuan Desert which was (until then) experiencing a two-year drought. No measurable precipitation had been recorded since September.

Did we feel a little foolish carting along our raingear, not to mention winter pile jackets, gloves and hats? A little. Are we glad we did? YES. Experience in our own northwest mountains has trained us well. Mountains are mountains wherever they occur, and subject to the same unpredictable extremes of temperature and weather.

We spent the day of the blizzard in Carlsbad Caverns where the underground temperature is a constant 56 degrees. Then we packed up our tent and retreated to El Paso, only to find that the high temperature that day was a distinctly "un-balmy" 48 degrees.

I don't think we warmed up until we landed at Sea-Tac. We do regret missing the blooming of the desert which would have inevitably followed the snow.

Dennis and Pat
 Olympia, Washington

BACKCOUNTRY NOTES

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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.

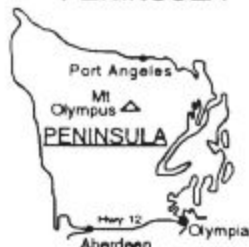
Space is limited; we may have to cut your report to fit available space. Typing is not necessary; we can read just about anyone's handwriting. We're interested in ALL trips, easy and hard, ordinary and exotic.

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 level is around 4000 to 5000 feet. Hurricane Ridge still has about 4 feet of snow.

 **WYNOOCHEE LAKE SHORE TRAIL** (*Olympic Natl Forest; USGS Wynoochee Lk*)—Fourteen Peninsula Wilderness Club members showed up on a cold, wet Sunday morning for this 12-mile hike.

We had the trail and lake to ourselves the entire day. In general, the trail is in better condition than I had anticipated. There is the usual accumulation of winter storm debris and logs over the trail, but most of it can be easily negotiated. Damage also includes washed out tread and footlogs at 2 or 3 stream crossings, as well as a collapsed bridge.

We parked at the picnic area next to Coho Campground (900 feet) and began the hike in a light drizzle. For the next 5½ hours, the precipitation ranged from light rain to deluge.


Our only reprieve was a brief cessation 6 miles (midway) into the hike. This was fortuitous since a ford of the Wynoochee River is obligatory at this point if one wants to complete the re-

maining 6 miles down the other side of the lake.

Some of our group had never forded a river before and appeared apprehensive. The water was over the knees but not moving very fast. As boots and pants were shed, and the more experienced led the way, fears faded and we made the crossing without incident.

As with the west side of the lake, the trail on the east side is generally level with some ups and downs as the trail crosses ravines and climbs over the spurs between them.

The group became quite spread out as we crossed the Wynoochee Dam. It was the first hike of the year for many. We were all tired, a little sore, and very wet but as we approached the cars it quit raining. A miserable day, but we had a good time.—Joe Weigel, Port Orchard, 3/31.

 **UPPER LENA LAKE** (*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Mt Washington, The Brothers*)—We left Friday after work and arrived at the trailhead about 7pm. We flashighted our way to Lower Lena Lake and were setting up camp by 8:30.

The next morning we packed up and hiked about 1½ miles up the trail to a camp spot next to a creek crossing. We hit snow about 200 yards before getting to the creek. Our camp spot was partly covered in snow but we made the best of it.

There were one or two blowdowns just before Lower Lena and several more on up to the creek. They were all easy

to get over or around. After setting up camp, we grabbed our daypacks loaded with food, warm clothes, and snowshoes, and headed for Upper Lena Lake.

There wasn't much snow on the trail until we broke out of the trees and then we started to posthole as the snow was quite soft. Putting on the snowshoes was like shifting into four wheel drive.

Upon arriving at the lake, I expected to see part of it thawed but it was all frozen over with two or three feet of snow on it. It was really beautiful. We couldn't see any tracks of anyone having been there before us.

After taking some pictures and eating a snack, we headed back down the hill. We found some nice spots for glissading but the snow was almost too soft. We had fun doing it anyway. About half-way down we met two men with their camp set up in the snow. They tried to go farther but without snowshoes they found it too exhausting.

We got back to our camp about 5pm.

Sunday morning we packed up and took our time hiking back out. There seemed to be a lot of people camped at Lower Lena and we met a number of day hikers on their way in.—Don Abbott & Kerry Gilles, Grays Harbor, 3/15-17.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS DEADLINE: May 18

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

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

NORTH FORK QUINAULT
(*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Bunch Lk, Mt Hoquiam*)—Five of us from the Olympians Hiking Club decided to donate some time to the National Park Service.

Our job was to help Ranger George survey three bridges on the trail to Low Divide. We met Ranger George at 7:30am on a drizzly Saturday morning. The footlog at Wild Rose Creek has been washed out and this necessitated a stream wading. Ranger George, being tall and strong, crossed first and assisted Rick with laying some small branches and logs against rocks and placing more rocks against the logs to form a partial bridge.

We were able to go from rock to rock and then use the "bridge" so we did not need to get wet boots except for Rick and George.

We crossed several small streams which posed no particular problem. Several large trees were over the trail which necessitated roll-overs for the "shorties." The trail has mud holes which threaten to take your boot.

We proceeded to Elip Creek which lost its footlog a year or two ago. There were two good trees to cross on if they were dry. They weren't dry but I was apparently the only one who hates logs.

Our first bridge to survey was the one over Three Prune Creek. Rick used a tool to take core samples while the rest of us helped George measure length, width, bow of the bridge. Rick measured the logs under the bridge and called out measurements to be recorded. The sills were rotted through and the stringers showed 3" of good wood and 7" of rotten wood in the samples.

We proceeded to Staulding Creek Bridge and Kimta Creek Bridge where we went through the same procedures. All these bridges were built in the early 50s to last about 50 years. It's time to build new bridges.

All the bridges showed the same rotted logs and we talked about which part of each bridge we thought would go first. We finished with our duties a little after 2pm and began the hike out.

The little drizzle, which had not let up all day, had raised streams and creeks by a foot in some places. Wild Rose Creek was roaring several inches above the rocks we had stepped on in the morning. We had no choice but to wade the stream. Two people who shall remain nameless fell in and were offered soap by some of the humorists in the group.

The remaining 5 miles out was a test of our dispositions but we maintained our senses of humor and all arrived

back at the trailhead at about 6pm. Dinner at J.J.'s was very good.

The North Shore road had water over it in one place on the way out.

We saw deer on the way out and two large herds of elk on the way in.—Edythe, Judy, Jennifer, Connie, Rick and Ranger George, Aberdeen, 4/6.

CAMP PLEASANT, BLACK and WHITE LAKES (*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Mt Steel*)—We arrived at the Staircase ranger station on Saturday about 4:30pm. The Ranger looked at us strangely when we said we were headed for Camp Pleasant. It was late in the day, but we knew we would reach the site, 7 miles away, before sundown.

The North Fork Skokomish trail had some snow after about 3.5 miles but was mostly muddy. We reached camp with about an hour of light left, and fired up the stove.

The weather was excellent all Saturday as well as Sunday morning when we woke up. After packing our gear we decided to hike the loop trail back to the ranger station. By ascending the primitive trail up to the Black and White Lakes we figured we could connect with the Flapjack Lakes and then back to the main trail.

The trail was very steep and we gained altitude quickly, rewarding us with sweet views of the surrounding peaks. The trail turned into a scramble on snow and loose rock. We eventually lost the trail in about 5 feet of snow and had to turn around. Big Log camp was a welcome site where we ate lunch, refueled, and hiked out.

Although there is a black bear warning for the area, we only heard pigmy owls, and near the ranger station we saw elk. An awesome early spring backpack outing!—Brooks A./Steve S., Seattle, 4/13-14.

MOUNT WASHINGTON
(*Olympic Natl Forest; USGS Mt Washington*)—The logging road past the main parking area and the intersection of the road to the upper trailhead is blocked by a rock the size of a small house. Hike the road, approximately .3-mile to the Mount Washington trailhead 800, at approximately 3000 feet.

We did Route 4 (East Ridge), a grade II, Class 4 climb as described in *Climber's Guide to the Olympic Mountains*. The trail gains approximately 700 feet in a mile plus at the end of the maintained trail. From the start of the climbers' waytrail, the route is well marked with ribbons. There appears to be two different sets of tape.

The waytrail climbs immediately up a wooded chute that eventually turns into a rock climb. Upon reaching the first narrow rock ridge, my climbing partner and I roped up and began to use protection. Snow was constantly sluffing off from above.

The book states to bypass some of the gendarmes to the right. We found ribbons on both sides. We stayed more to the left while descending and found it to be somewhat easier with the exception of the last roped pitch. This very steep pitch down a rock chute found me climbing down while on belay, followed by Dean doing a 50-foot rappel. A bit hairy for this early in the season with slippery rock and roots and lots of snow, but an excellent workout that gave us the opportunity for some good rope work.

Finally, a warm day with sun, the need for sun screen and great view of Hood Canal, Mount Rainier, Mount Adams and even Mount Saint Helens. Also had some good views of Lake Cushman, Jefferson Lake and Upper Jefferson Lake.—James Latteri & Dean Shriner, Lakebay, 4/14.

PUTVIN TRAIL (*Mt Skokomish Wilderness; USGS Mt Washington, Mt Skokomish*)—Either I need to update some books and maps or conditions have changed a great deal since their last printings. My intent here is to save the hiker/climber a great deal of grief, and to share some new and better trail data.

The *Olympic Mountains Trail Guide* talks about driving road 2466 just past the Putvin Historical Marker off road 25 to gain the upper trailhead. That was my plan based on the book, but this is no longer possible as this road has been closed off by a large gravel berm just past the historical marker.

[Ed. Note: A number of years ago, road 2466 was closed to travel. The second edition (1991) of *Olympic Mountains Trail Guide* no longer refers to the trailhead location on road 2466.]

After not finding road 2466, I started my day from the lower trailhead at approximately 1580 feet. After close to an hour of hiking and well over a mile of rocky terrain, I reached the old road. Not seeing another trailhead sign, my natural decision was to follow the road uphill. This was the wrong choice.

Not too far northeast from the intersection with the Putvin lower trailhead is a major washout of this old road. There is a sheer rock cliff to the north and the washout to the east is deep enough that in my opinion warrants the use of a belay. You can gain the

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

road again from the washout with just a rock scramble, but unless protection is set or a fixed rope left in place there would be real difficulties on the return trip.

Upon finding this washout and considering many options, I returned down the road (southwest) and just past the intersection with the lower trailhead was the marker for the upper trailhead.

This upper trailhead starts at approximately 2100 feet and climbs steeply at once. This is a rock and root trail. Once into the Skokomish Wilderness and above 3500 feet the trail levels out.

Snow was now abundant. After crossing a large basin the trail once again climbs very steeply up a headwall. This waytrail is not well marked and with the deep snow this time of the year, this portion of the trail is difficult.

While climbing the headwall, veer to the right and the north. My first attempt took me to the left and the southwest—a mistake. Upon cresting this first headwall, veer to the northwest and follow the rim of that headwall. Shortly thereafter is a small descent to a sidepath and a small campsite.

It had been my intention early that morning to reach the meadow called the "Valley of Heaven" and "Lake of the Angels" and then up to the summit of Mount Skokomish. With the trail problems, the depth of the snow and the overall conditions and time of day, good judgment told me to come back another day.

Coming back down, I decided to follow the old road out from the upper trailhead. This was a great trail as it was wide and offered better views. At several places a number of trees were down and there were also three different washouts, but all could be handled with no problem. When I return, my intention is to hike the road to the upper trailhead as it is easier, more scenic and I believe will be considerably faster.—James Latteri, Lakebay, 3/30.



OLALLA TO SOUTHWORTH (NOAA 18448)—

Colvos Passage is roughly 13 miles long with the current ebbing most of the time. If you use a car shuttle you can get a one way ride, and by launching at Olalla you can break the distance in half for a short day trip. This is what Lesley and I did on a fine, sunny afternoon.

The put-in is on Olalla Bay and is described in *South Puget Sound Afoot & Afloat*. It is only a few hundred feet from the launch to the main passage; however, on low water the bay turns into a mudflat and the run from the launch to the passage turns into a shal-

low flowing stream.

The tide was approaching minus values as we prepared to launch. Fortunately there was still enough water left for us to run the stream by the time we were ready, although it did add a few nicks to my kayak's bottom. Just before the stream enters the passage is a sharp right hand jog with accompanying rocks to dodge. Lesley, leading the way, negotiated the stretch easily, but I had less luck at making the quick turn, resulting in even more dings.

Once in the passage we turned north and settled into a relaxed pace for the 6-mile trip to our takeout at a road end just north of the Southworth ferry dock. Although we were starting at close to the maximum ebb of over a knot, we didn't get the full effect of it since we were traveling relatively close to the west shore of the passage. We noticed minor eddies around one or two of the points as we headed north.

There is no public access along this section of the Colvos Passage's west side. As we approached Point Southworth, we started feeling the effects of a north breeze causing some wind chop and little more paddling effort to maintain our pace. The only obstacle at this point was to avoid crossing paths with

the Southworth ferry. Our timing was perfect, with the ferry pulling out from the dock just a few minutes before our arrival.—LGM, Port Orchard, 4/7.

WEST FORK DOSEWALLIPS—

The trail will be **CLOSED** from Dose Forks to Honeymoon Meadows while the High Dose bridge is replaced. Closure will last from 4/19 through the hiking season.—Ranger, 4/19.

DOSEWALLIPS ROAD—Gate at Park boundary is now open.—Ranger, 4/15.

NORTH FORK SKOKOMISH—50 trees down between Rapids Loop bridge and Camp Pleasant.—Ranger, 3/27.

FLAPJACK LAKES—Reservations required from Memorial Day weekend through summer.—Ranger, 3/27.

LAKE CONSTANCE—Reservations required from Memorial Day weekend through summer.—Ranger 3/27.

HOH RIVER ROAD—Repair is progressing rapidly. MAY be open by Memorial Day weekend. Call 360-452-0330 to check.—Ranger, 4/24.

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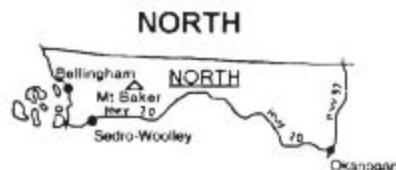
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BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

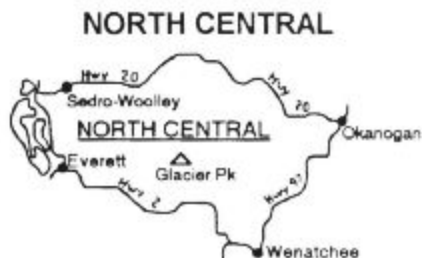


GLACIER CREEK ROAD—

Reconstruction on this road will cause delays to traffic Monday through Friday until 7/8. After this date, the road will be **CLOSED** to all traffic at 4 miles until 11/1. Parking will be available for hikers and climbers who want to walk the additional 4 miles to the trailhead.—Ranger, 4/10.

BAKER RIVER TRAIL—Has 100-foot washout.—Ranger, 4/10.

HIGHWAY 20—Open for season.



GENERAL CONDITIONS—Snow level about 4000 feet. Lots of winter damage; call before you go.

WHITEHORSE MOUNTAIN (*Boulder River Wilderness; USGS Whitehorse Mtn*)—The starting point for the Whitehorse Glacier is at the end of the road beyond the trailhead for the more standard route by way of Lone Tree Pass and the Northwest Shoulder.

The last part of the road is in poor shape and impassable to all but high clearance or four wheel drive vehicles. The route itself is best done early in the season to avoid brush and due to potential avalanche danger is well suited to small efficient parties who start early in the day.

Gordie and I were en route shortly after 7:30am, hopping across a stream and heading up toward a basin into which three waterfalls were cascading. Trying to follow instructions in Becky's book, we cut left from the basin and headed up through some steep brush in an attempt to find the old miner's trail. With good fortune we found it quite readily.

The old trail goes from faint to overgrown to nonexistent but the route goes far left of the main drainage up against the cliffs in what, at that point, is the most logical way to go.

Gordie and I made good time up to the snowline after scrambling up and over some wet steep rock. Along with our standard gear we carried shovels, avalanche transceivers and a short rope.

As we got up toward the glacier we could see a good amount of avalanche debris on just about every part of the mountain. It had snowed a few days earlier and most of the slide activity appeared to be recent. The steep slopes with varying degrees of soft snow necessitated our switching leads every so often to avoid burning either of us out.

Once on the glacier itself we were intrigued by all the towers on the buttresses on both sides of the glacier and we occasionally heard the unmistakable noise of ice crashing down over various cliffs. The route stays on the left side of the glacier and eventually slackens on the large summit neve area.

The final steep snowslope to the summit was hard ice, covered by about 6 inches of soft snow. About two-thirds of the way up this slope I broke through one of Gordie's footsteps and slid about 30 feet before getting my ice axe in position for a self arrest.

At the very top we used some exposed rock for hand and foot holds to help us top out. It was just about exactly 6 hours from the time we'd left the car. The light overcast had been enough to keep the surface of the snow and glacier from getting overly soft but not enough to obscure the tremendous views.

Gordie used his crampons for the descent down the steep summit area while I chose to simply use the good footsteps he'd kicked. Wanting to avoid the ever softening slopes we chose to descend by way of High Pass and Lone Tree Pass.—Don Beavon, Lynnwood, 4/14.

MOUNT PILCHUCK (*State Park; USGS Verlot*)—If you

want a short climb with an excellent panorama, Pilchuck is a good choice. There are some drawbacks, however.

The 6.8-mile road is open to the parking area (3100 feet) but the lower half is filled with numerous potholes. The upper half is paved and in good condition.

The trail through the timber is very muddy with slippery tree roots. The last drawback is the horde of people on a weekend trip. We got an early start which avoided most on the ascent. Descending we passed about 40 people, some clothed only in shorts or jeans, and a few wearing tennis shoes.

It was quite cold even in the lookout on top. The time up was a little less than 2 hours.—Dallas Kloke, Anacortes, 4/14.

TROUBLESOME MOUNTAIN (*Henry M Jackson Wilderness; USGS Blanca Lk*)—Following John Roper's route account in *Pack & Paddle* (January 1995, page 7), Cec Thomas and I hiked up the open forest slope on the southwest side of the 5433-foot mountain.

Higher up the route becomes steeper and follows a more prominent ridge to the upper half of the peak's west flank. At 3900 feet we encountered a rock rib; it is easy to traverse left and then up, crossing the rib at about 4200 feet.

At 4400 feet the route opens up and follows a broad ridge north. The ridge narrows just before the rocky false summit at 5000 feet. We made a descending traverse below the false summit on the east to a notch between the two summits. We ascended a steep slope just to the right of the south ridge for 300 feet to the final, easy east ridge. Our time up was 4½ hours.

We used crampons for the upper section of the route which had 2 to 3 inches of fresh snow over a very firm layer. On the descent, we ran into some trouble by wandering too far to the right (north), resulting in much steeper and rockier terrain. The descent also took 4½ hours.—Dallas Kloke, Anacortes, 3/25.

NATAPOC MOUNTAIN (*USGS Plain, Winton*)—The

only report of Natapoc Mountain I've seen is an April 4, year unknown, one by Ginny Evans. [*Ed. Note: I found it in the May 1992 P&P, page 8.*]

It's an excellent winter snowshoe, but now just a hike on crusty snow. This report has a different, easier, and better starting point. At Coles Corner on Highway 2, go north on 207 less than 2 miles, turn right on Conard which quickly turns into Nason, then State.

Hiking begins at end of State on about a foot of snow, following a narrow road which is soon gated with a "road closed to vehicles" sign.

Walk the gate following the road but leave it at the ridge by power lines and head south up the north ridge to its two summits. Northern summit is 4204, but an altimeter said the southern summit is the higher.

Between the two summits is a neat tree to climb only 20 some feet high, where you can get into the warm sun. It's sort of flat on top with room for 2 or 3 people. Just pull yourself up on the branches hanging down all around it. Easy to spot on the return to the northern high point.

Good views of Round Mountain and its fires of two summers ago. Started at 7am and was back down by 11am. About

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

6 miles round trip, 2000 feet elevation gain.—Fred Beavon, Edmonds, 3/28.

ROADS—The Cascade River road from Marblemount to the Cascade Pass trailhead will be repaired and drivable by late July. The Suiattle road is closed at 12.5 miles; maybe open by mid-summer. The Green Mountain road 2680 also has major flood damage.

The Mountain Loop road is closed at Barlow Pass on the Verlot side and Elliott Creek on the Darrington side. May be open by mid-July.

North Fork Skykomish road is closed at Troublesome. Rapid River road is washed out at 2.8 miles. Martin Creek road is washed out, but word is that you can still reach the Iron Goat trail.

On the east side, the Stehekin Valley road will be open only from the Landing to High Bridge this summer. On the Lake Wenatchee district, these roads are closed due to flood damage: Chiwawa road 62; White River road 64; Smithbrook/Rainy Creek road 67 at Rainy Pass.—Ranger, 4/2.

TRAILS—White Chuck Bench trail 731 has 1000-foot slide; difficult to cross. The West Fork Foss trail has two trail washouts and a bridge out. The East Fork Foss trail has a handy new log to replace the old one at the crossing.—Ranger, 4/2.



GENERAL CONDITIONS—Snow level 3000 to 4000 feet.

CORRECTION—The Thorp Mountain report in the last issue (*April, page 9*), should have been "Thomas Mountain." Sorry, says John Roper—he was distracted and they both start with T-H-O.

LAKE DOROTHY (*Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS Grotto, Snoqualmie Lk*)—Caroline, Steve and I drove up the East Fork Miller River road to the washout about 2 miles from the trailhead. It was a pleasant walk on the scenic road on a sunny, warm day.

Much of the road was still under about half a foot of snow. The trail had several downed trees to climb over, but was otherwise in good shape. The bridge was there to cross, much to our relief. We negotiated snow on the trail

with care so as not to fall through to the ground below.

We enjoyed lunch in the sun at the lake, which was surrounded by snow, frozen and snow-covered except at the outlet. It was wonderful to notice the sights and sounds of spring in the forest.—Linda Rostad, Redmond, 4/4.

TWIN PEAKS (*USGS Lake Phillipa, USGS Devils Slide, Mount Phelps*)—This summit gained some notoriety a few years ago when a weird TV series bearing this name was shot in part in Snoqualmie and North Bend. Even Mike admitted this was a "real hard trip"—4700 feet vertical with much brush and 12 miles, on our last climb of this winter.

The route annoyed us from the beginning, lying on the corners of three 7.5-minute USGS quads. Jeff was to blame for the short-cut to this "Home Court" peak of his by way of Loch Katrine, though really it was a good idea on paper.

We drove up the North Fork Snoqualmie River road from North Bend, crossing the river on the Wagner Bridge, about 10 miles after the pavement ends. In another 2 miles, the gated Philippa Creek road is on the right. We parked here and walked the road east across Philippa Creek to the nose of the ridge that headed south to Twin Peaks.

The USGS map made it look like we only had 300 vertical feet of gain from the base of the nose to a "4-WD" spur that would whisk us up to the main Loch Katrine Road.

This ain't so. In reality, that nose from 1600 to 2640 feet took us 2 hours, and is about as bad as it gets. Weyerhaeuser has selectively thinned this ridge, falling about 3/4 of the trees here, leaving them on the ground to let the light in to the rest. It was a 1000-foot struggle, worse than any natural blow-down, and kind words were not spoken, as we dubbed Jeff's route with the spoonerism, "Koch Latrine Ridge."

Finally arriving at the 2640+ foot switchback on the main (gated) Loch Katrine road, I for one was wiped and ready to call it a day and retreat down the road to Sunday Creek (the preferred ascent route), and loop back to the car. But the easy, perfectly maintained mile-long road segment straight into Loch Katrine (2900 feet) was so seductive and fast, we all suppressed the ordeal we'd just endured.

Pain was soon the watchword again though as we thrashed our way around the west side of Loch Katrine. Instead of the hoped-for fisherman's trail, we suffered a half-mile of devil's club and other sticker bushes.

We walked soft snow up the inlet stream of Loch Katrine, and after crossing the first south tributary creek, headed due south up a ridge toward Upper Loch Katrine. This proved to be another brushy mess until we finally reached more firm, continuous snow at 3400 feet. Finally able to zoom, we did, to a 5040+ foot northwest subsummit of Twin Peaks, where we continued a ridge-run south to the lower Twin Peak, 5245 feet.



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5/96

Persevering to the true southeast 5325-foot summit, nearly 7 hours from the car, we found the familiar helicopter-landed wire and plastic trash of the USGS surveyors, and a broken down cairn with no register.

This could have been a great viewpoint, the map said, but clouds, alas. We felt lucky to see briefly, bulky Goat, and not-so-hot Dog, and Upper Loch Katrine, our exit route.

Glissading on seats into Upper Loch Katrine, we turned immediately right, east, and followed down a gully, first on the right to 3300 feet, then on the left, working down to the not-so-recognizable Sunday Creek trail at 1900 feet.

Another 4 miles north on the trail took us by Sunday Lake, then through the old growth that Harvey drools over in *Footsore* and *Sound to Mountains* to the Sunday Creek ford, and out the Section 13 road over an impressive "down-to-bedrock" washout (thanks to clearcutting above) and the "Sunday Swamp" (thanks to a sinking road), finally to the North Fork Snoqualmie road, which we trudged in the dusk-dark back to the car by Braille. 6 hours 50 minutes up, 5 hours down.—John Roper, Bellevue, St. Patrick's Day.



EAST FORK FOSS RIVER

(Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS

Skykomish)—Four of us got an early start from Nancy's cabin in Baring. Assignment: to check flood damage at the stream crossing 5 miles in. The last issue of *P&P* (April, page 7) reported that the log had been washed out.

We found several trees down in the first 4 miles. Major flood damage included uprooted trees and washed out trail from the 5-mile campsite to the site of the former crossing. Rerouting of the trail around the washouts has begun.

A new downed tree has conveniently fallen across the river. Linda and Lindy used it to cross and reported it thoroughly satisfactory. Someone has even taken a few branches off to make it easier to negotiate.—Nancy, Manita, Linda and Lindy, 4/19.

ENCHANTMENT PERMITS—Make reservations through the new phone system: 800-452-5687.

The reservation fee is \$7 per party. Party limit is 8. Day-of-use permits (25% of daily quota) will be available on a lottery system at the Leavenworth Ranger Station.—Ranger, 4/1.

TRAILS—Deception Creek trail has four bridges washed out and many downed trees. Surprise Creek has many blowdowns.

In the Leavenworth district, salvage logging has closed the Icicle Ridge trailhead and trail. The Snow Lakes trailhead is closed until 6/15. Boulder-riding areas within the helicopter logging zone are closed, including part of Snow Creek Wall.

ROADS—Middle Fork Snoqualmie road 56 is closed beyond 9.3 miles; probably open sometime in May.

Salvage logging is causing delays and closures on the Icicle road from Snow Creek to Rat Creek and up to the Eightmile trailhead. Flaggers will stop traffic when helicopters are flying overhead.

NORTHEAST



ROCKY POINT (POINT 2261)

(*Quilomene Wildlife Recreation Area; USGS Ginkgo*)—In recent years I have been going to the sagebrush country for spring wildflowers. One of my favorite flowers is Simpson's hedgehog cactus, but there was a great frustration in viewing them—I could never predict when they would be in bloom.

Last spring CAT and I stumbled on the source of the frustration when one sunny day we found a beautiful patch of them, then took the Czech Czich to view them the next day. On the second morning none of the cacti were open.

We continued our hike, and later in the day we began to see cacti that were open. At the end of the hike we returned to the original cactus patch, and found most were open. It had rained the previous night, so assumed that these cacti close during bad weather.

SD and I seemed to confirm this on today's hike. The previous night had been cold, 32 degrees in Yakima, and the cacti were not open in the morning, but by noon the sun's warmth had persuaded them to open.

There are many places to view these cacti and Rocky Point is one of my favorites. Rocky Point is the name CAT and I have given to point 2261 on the

ridge north of Rocky Coulee. It is a rocky bump with a couple of large cairns which are visible from many places.

To find this route drive the Old Vantage Highway west from Vantage for about 4 miles. Park where the highway swings to the south side of Schenbly Coulee and a passing lane starts. There is plenty of room as the shoulders are wide and a side road heads to the south.

There is no trail or specific route to follow. Rocky Point is about 1.5 air miles north-northeast. The best cacti are on the south slope of the first ridge to be crossed. They tend to grow along the crests of the small ribs leading to the top of the ridge. I generally hike up the rib leading to point 2020+, which is northeast from the "trailhead."

I usually return by way of point 2080+ which is roughly north from the "trailhead." Because of my early confusion as to when the cacti bloomed I'm not certain when one can count on finding them, but April 18 through May 10 seems to be a good estimate. There are many other wildflowers blooming in the Quilomene-Ginkgo area from the end of March until at least early June, so it isn't a wipeout if you miss the cacti.

The length of the hike is arbitrary. It is about a 5 mile minimum round trip to Rocky Point but there is great roaming, particularly east or west from Rocky Point. If you only want to see the cacti there are many within half a mile—I occasionally stop by while returning from another hike.—TG, Skyway, 4/21.

SOUTH CENTRAL



GENERAL CONDITIONS—Fresh snow has re-covered areas that were melting out. Call before you go to check on road and trail damage.



PARADISE AREA (Mt Rainier Natl Park; USGS Mt Rainier East)

—Recent trip to Silicon Gulch CA. prompts need to re-establish contact with reality. Proceed up "Muir Route" (Deadhorse Creek) in intermittent whiteouts, flurries, squalls. Very good ski snow, about a foot new. Climbers postholing.

Lunch at Glacier Vista near noon. Periods of complete whiteout occur. Hav-

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

ing compass bearing down Deadhorse is a comfort. No sense of slope, pitch, drop offs, whatever. Fall down a lot.

Some clearing as I descend into Edith Basin. Remainder of trip delightful controlled (mostly) descent. End with memories of great experience and severe sunburn. Didn't seem possible that UV could penetrate the clouds and fog but it did!—Paul Schaufler, Olympia, 4/18.

PARADISE VALLEY (*Mt Rainier Natl Park; USGS Mt Rainier East*)—We met Jenni, Chuck and Sarah (9) and Cole (4) at Lou Whitaker's Bunkhouse in Ashford to plan our day of cross country skiing. After a stop at the Growley Bear Bakery, we decided to go to Paradise. That turned out to be a good decision. Cole has his own skis but decided he was not interested in skiing this day. He and Jenni went to the snow play area behind Paradise Lodge.

Sarah, Chuck and I headed down the Paradise Valley Road towards Reflections Lakes on skis and Bill joined us on snowshoes. Sarah was a real trooper. We reminded her that we were starting out going downhill so the hard part would be the uphill return.

She got to chose when we would turn around. We skied for about an hour or so when it began raining fairly hard. She decided it was time to return.

When we arrived back at the parking lot we found Jenni and Cole having a great time sledging with lots of energy for more sled runs. We all took turns with the kids on the sled until the adults were too tired to continue.

We were pretty wet so we enjoyed being able to eat our lunch in the Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center out of the elements. We also enjoyed the nature displays and views from the top of the center.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 3/9.

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

NARADA FALLS (*Mt Rainier Natl Park; USGS Mt Rainier East*)—Two weeks later we met Lori Patton at the Bunkhouse again in Ashford. After getting an espresso, we again consulted with the Mount Tahoma Trails staff and learned that there wasn't enough snow to ski to the Copper Creek Hut in the Central District.

Again we headed toward the Park. After consulting with a Ranger in the Longmire Museum we decided to ski up from Narada Falls to Reflection Lakes. We took the well-marked route behind the warming hut.

This trail climbs fairly steeply up for an estimated ¼-mile through the trees. It was beautiful with a few inches of new fallen snow on the trees and also paralleling a stream for a while. We then intersected the Paradise Valley road and headed down to Reflection Lakes.

It snowed intermittently during the day. We had about 3-4 inches of fairly light powder snow to ski on, making for some great ski conditions. It was cloudy most of the day but the Mountain peeked out for just a minute on our return to the falls.

We kept our skis on most of the way down the steep area through the trees. It is pretty exciting going through this area because of the steepness combined with the trees which form an obstacle course. Bill was in better control on snowshoes.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 3/23.

MOUNT ARARAT (*Mt Rainier Natl Park; USGS Mt Rainier West*)—Seven hardy Olympians started out on a cold Saturday morning from the Kautz Creek trailhead. There was compact snow/ice on the trail to the "bridge" crossing Kautz Creek.

A sign at the trailhead warned us that the bridge was out but we decided to see if we could cross the creek anyway. The end of the bridge nearest to the trailhead is missing but it is possible to hoist yourself up with the assistance of a large nail as a hand-hold. This may not be possible in high water when the river may cover the rocks on which we stood to get on the bridge.

The bridge is a very large log which has been flattened and is quite good going when it is not icy. It was icy but I seem to be the only one who hates logs.

I positioned myself out in front. I prefer to hike at a pace that permits conversation, whereas Rick sets a pace that barely allows for breathing.

After crossing the bridge, we did not encounter snow on the trail until getting to the "real bridge" about 1½ hours up the trail. Then we had snow the rest of the way.

One good thing about hiking in the snow is that you can go wherever you want instead of where the trail takes you. One bad thing is that you are never REALLY sure where you are.

It is pretty hard to go wrong on this hike as the terrain leads you where you want to go. The snow was firm and we had very little postholing. The ground was visible around and under some of the trees.

We reached the summit of Ararat in time for lunch. There was considerable discussion about where the highest point was so we kept going until the only place ahead was down.

The weather was mostly overcast with a few sun breaks allowing partial glimpses of Rainier, Pyramid and assorted other peaks. Rick programmed Ararat into his GPS and informed us how many miles it was (as the crow flies) to High Rock, Low Divide and all the other places he has been to since he got his GPS.

We arrived back at the cars with plenty of daylight to spare.—Edythe, Connie, Jennifer, Judy, Lynn, Luke and Rick, Aberdeen, 3/16.

ARARAT revisited—I led this same trip as a conditioner for The Mountaineers two weeks later.

We had snow from the car all the way. About a foot of new powder had fallen on the higher elevations. It was very easy going because the powder was so dry and we did not punch through anywhere. Our footprints from 2 weeks before were faint indentations in a few places but mostly you could not tell that anyone had ever been there. What a change in the landscape from the previous trip!

The group did very well and the hike was uneventful. Everyone got lots of practice in trail-breaking and step kicking and was too tired to stop for dinner so we all headed home.—Edythe, Brian, Angie, Kyle and Nate, Aberdeen, 3/30.

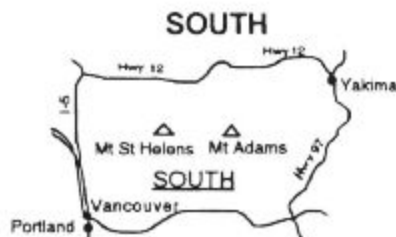
ROADS—Repairs completed at High Bridge outside Carbonado on Highway 165, but access only to Poch Creek. No access to Carbon River Entrance and Mowich Lake.

Greenwater road 70 is closed due to major washouts. West Fork White River road 74 closed due to major washouts. Corral Pass road 7174 closed.

Opening date for Cayuse Pass unknown due to large slide. Chinook Pass should be open by Memorial Day. Mather Memorial Parkway project is now underway. At least one lane will be open at all times for now. Crews will be working between Dalles Campground and Huckleberry Creek.—Ranger, 4/18.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS



ROADS—Skate Creek road 52 is open for travel between Packwood and Ashford; drive carefully.

Road 24 is closed by slides above Peterson Prairie. Randle-Trout Lake road 23 is closed by a washout south of the PCT crossing; scheduled to be open by early summer with detours and temporary repairs.

Road 25 south of Randle is closed at Huffaker Bridge; scheduled to be open summer of '97. Healey road 54 is closed 3.5 miles east of Chelatchie Prairie; scheduled to open late this summer.

Carson-Guler road 60 closed at 1 mile. Panther Creek road 65 closed at 1 mile. Lewis River road 90 closed from Marble Creek to Swift Forest Camp; also from Curley Creek road to Swift Forest Camp; also east of Curley Creek road at Big Creek Falls trailhead. Scheduled to reopen summer '97. Road 99 closed by multiple slides; will open summer of '97.—Ranger, 4/18.

MT ST HELENS—Permits required from 5/15 to 10/31. Call 360-750-3900.—Ranger, 4/5.

OREGON



CRATER LAKE (Crater Lk Natl Park; USGS Crater Lk)

Several members of the Strawberry Mountain Nordic Club skied around Crater Lake at the start of spring break. We took 2½ days to do the 30 miles. The weather was very pretty, but cold and windy.

The parking lot was full of buses and vans from Portland (sponsored by the Oregon Nordic Club and Portland Parks and Rec). We quickly outdistanced most of the hordes. We camped the first night north of Llao Rock, and the second

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night on the east slope of Dutton Ridge.

Clouds blew in and out every day, making the picture taking interesting. Those who arose in the middle of the night were rewarded by the sight of Comet Hyakutake near the Big Dipper, with its tail streaming halfway across the sky.—Jennifer Stein Barker, Canyon City, 3/23-25.



LARISON CREEK (Willamette Natl Forest; USGS Oakridge)—A light overnight snow fell off the trees and down our necks as we ascended the 5-mile (1-way), 700 foot elevation-gain trail. By the time we returned to the trailhead on an arm of Hills Creek Reservoir, the snow was nearly gone.

The first 1½ miles, which paralleled the reservoir, were comparably open and sunny, then we began climbing gradually along the creek under some old-growth Douglas-fir among emerging early spring wildflowers, including several calypso orchids.

The trail had few blowdowns for so early in the year, except below a mile-long, 20-year-old clearcut which had almost no tree regeneration on it. Also, there was some fairly serious trail rutting about 4 miles from the trailhead, also below the clearcut. See Sullivan's *100 Hikes in the Central Oregon Cascades*, pp. 188-189.—Bill and Nancy Meyer, Portland, 3/28.



LOWER DESCHUTES RIVER (USGS Wishram, Emerson)—The trailhead is off I-84 east of The Dalles Dam, starting from Deschutes State Park. The February flood had really rearranged the Deschutes River near the trailhead, wiping out islands and riffles while creating new channels. Debris hung from riverside tree branches some 7 to 8 feet off the ground.

The 4-mile, 800-foot gain, triangular loop trail we followed up to Ferry Springs, back down to the river, and then back along the river to the trailhead was in fairly good shape. Some of the upper elevation trail had started to erode from bike use; the riverside trail had flood damage, which was somewhat impervious to problems because of its rocky nature.

As we hiked uphill into the brisk wind, we startled two mule deer. After returning to the river, we shielded ourselves from the wind among rocks above Rattlesnake Rapids while enjoying a snack. The sun warmed us as we scanned the rimrocks on the far shoreline with binoculars. We spied two additional deer, also protecting them-

selves from the wind about a mile away and several hundred feet above where we sat.

We were serenaded by canyon wrens and meadowlarks, and also heard the occasional chukar. Back at the trailhead, the large "honker" Canada geese grazed on the park's lawn. See Sullivan's *100 Hikes in Northwest Oregon*, pages 120-121.—Bill and Nancy Meyer, Portland, 3/22.



MIDDLE FORK WILLAMETTE RIVER (Willamette Natl Forest, USGS Warner Mtn)—This trail between Sand Prairie campground and the bridge 5 miles upstream was extensively damaged by the February floods, with almost every section wholly or partially washed away if it were located on the outside of the river's arc.

The Forest Service has built more than half of the planned 40-mile Middle Fork Willamette Trail; it appears that much of what had been done will need repair. The day we hiked was overcast, gray, with intermittent rain—the type of scene that Elton Bennett captured so well in his silkscreens.

Elk, deer and rabbit sign was evident, although we saw none of them. No doubt our required cross-country forays, where the trail was gone, created enough noise to alert them to our approach. See Sullivan's *100 Hikes of the Central Oregon Cascades*, pages 190-191.—Bill and Nancy Meyer, Portland, 3/27.



LITTLE NORTH SANTIAM (Willamette Natl Forest; USGS Elkhorn)—In our opinion, this is one of the prettiest rivers that we have seen in Oregon. It features gin-clear water running over rock-based riffles, and broken by deep pools which must be very appealing on hot summer days. It is located about 40 miles east of Salem.

We had taken this 9-mile (round-trip), 900-foot gain hike 4 years ago, starting at the lower trailhead and going upriver to the Shady Cove campground.

Sullivan had indicated that the Forest Service intended to extend the trail upstream from the campground in 1994, so we started from this point. However, we found no signs of trail work having been done, or started for that matter. So we went downstream along the trail we'd previously hiked, to a viewpoint about 3 miles from the campground.

As we had our snack on the sun-warmed rocks, we scanned the far ridge line with the binoculars, particularly enjoying the view of Henline Mountain. See Sullivan's *100 Hikes of the Central Oregon Cascades*, pages 16-17.—Bill and Nancy Meyer, Portland, 4/4.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

SPENCER'S BUTTE (near Eugene)—This prominent knoll is visible from most vantage points in the Willamette Valley from Corvallis to Cottage Grove. Most of the land is managed as a city park by the city of Eugene.

A new route, the Ridge Trail, starts on the north side of the mountain, traverses the eastern slopes through old growth forest, then intersects the regular trail on the south slope. This provides a trip of perhaps 3 miles round trip to the summit.

Summit views include sweeping looks of the Willamette Valley and several Cascade volcanoes. This mountain is an asset to the Eugene/Springfield area, providing hiking opportunities a short distance from the urban scene.—Charlie Hickenbottom, Wenatchee, 4/3.

ELSEWHERE

MOUNT AJO, Arizona (Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument; Trails Illustrated Topo Map 224)—Mount Ajo, at 4808 feet, is the highest point within the monument. It is reached by way of the Estes Canyon-Bull Pasture loop trail then a cross-country route to the summit. Although a big sign at the trailhead, elevation 2200 feet, states that none of these trails are maintained, the route can be found with minimal difficulty by anyone with some routefinding experience.

My son Travis and I began hiking at

hiking at 7am, to get the worst of the climb out of the way by the hot part of the day. The hike up to Bull Pasture, 1.8 miles, a winter range for cattle in pre-monsoon days, was straightforward.

At this time of spring, most of the cactuses, including the large saguaro and organ pipe, have begun to bloom. Birds are abundant.

The route to Mount Ajo travels above Bull Pasture between some fins of volcanic rock complete with some small natural arches. The route is faint in places, but is generally marked by small cairns. On the way up, we surprised a band of about twelve javalinas who looked us over and disappeared into the scrub.

Once the ridgetop is attained, the route follows this north-south crest, passing two minor summits to the top of Mount Ajo. We found the summit register in a large rocket box and discovered we were only the sixth party to summit this year with the preceding party the day before from Woodland, Washington.

The views through the cloudless atmosphere were outstanding—south to the Gulf of California, west over the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation and east to the huge and seldom visited Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife refuge. We saw fresh desert bighorn sheep scat on the summit block but could not locate them.

Since it was now about noon, we took our time descending in the heat, stopping at any shady spots to check out unusual birds, insects and small mam-

mals. We took a siesta in a natural cave with a smoke-blackened ceiling and watched some very large paper wasps tending their larvae.

Once back to Bull Pasture, we exited on the Estes Canyon trail 2.3 miles, which was hard to follow but generally travels above or within a dry wash back to the trailhead. Total mileage, about 10 miles. Total time with lots of shade breaks and time for poking around, about 9 hours.—Dave Parent, Freeland, 4/18.

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Jim Parolini, 5613 Eugene Avenue, Las Vegas NV 89108-3188. Or call 702-648-5007.

JEFF HOWBERT

OREGON'S 100 HIGHEST PEAKS

Here's a bet almost any Washington climber should jump at. The conversation would go something like this ...

After some general climbing talk, you casually observe, "Boy, there's a lot of high mountains down in Oregon, too. In fact, I heard there's almost a hundred that are over 8000 feet high."

Your climbing buddy/victim will probably deny this without even thinking about it. "Nah, no way!"

Now it's time to set the hook. "Well, maybe there's only 80 that are over 8000 feet. But I think there's supposed to be more than 30 over 9000 feet. That's twice as many as in Washington."

This will seem so outrageous it will force his/her brain to engage. They'll drop into silence as you watch the wheels turn. "Let's see ... there's Hood, and the rest of the volcanoes, and maybe a couple of things over in the Wallowas, maybe ..."

But it won't compute. So they'll deny it again, more vehemently this time. "That's impossible! No way!"

What you do at this juncture is up to

you—set up the bet and reel them in, or let them go, and laugh about it together. (Be careful if this is someone you might share a rope with in the future.) But the fact is, you would win the bet, no contest. And this article would provide the necessary documentation, complete and irrefutable.

ONE LIST LEADS TO ANOTHER

At first I didn't believe it myself. I grew up in central Oregon, and knew the mountains in that part of the state well. In college, I hiked a bit in the Wallowas one summer, and worked one winter on a ranch near Steens Mountain, in the southeast.

I guess I assumed this had pretty well educated me on the high places across the state of Oregon. I was very mistaken.

My interest in compiling a list of the 100 highest peaks in Oregon grew out of a general fascination with maps, topography, and my own recent efforts in researching the highest mountains in the west central Washington Cascades (see "The Home Court 100," *Pack &*

Paddle, July 1995).

Oregon was a natural for several reasons. Besides my roots there, and an abiding love of the countryside, I still have a lot of family in the state; I thought having a good list of mountains to climb would give me something to do when we visit the in-laws. (Wait—or is it that I should be sure to visit the in-laws when I go climbing? No, that still sounds like I'm headed for trouble ...)

THE SEARCH

I used the same rules for defining a mountain as with the Home Court list, that is, the peak must have a minimum of 500 feet of "clean" prominence (see that article for details).

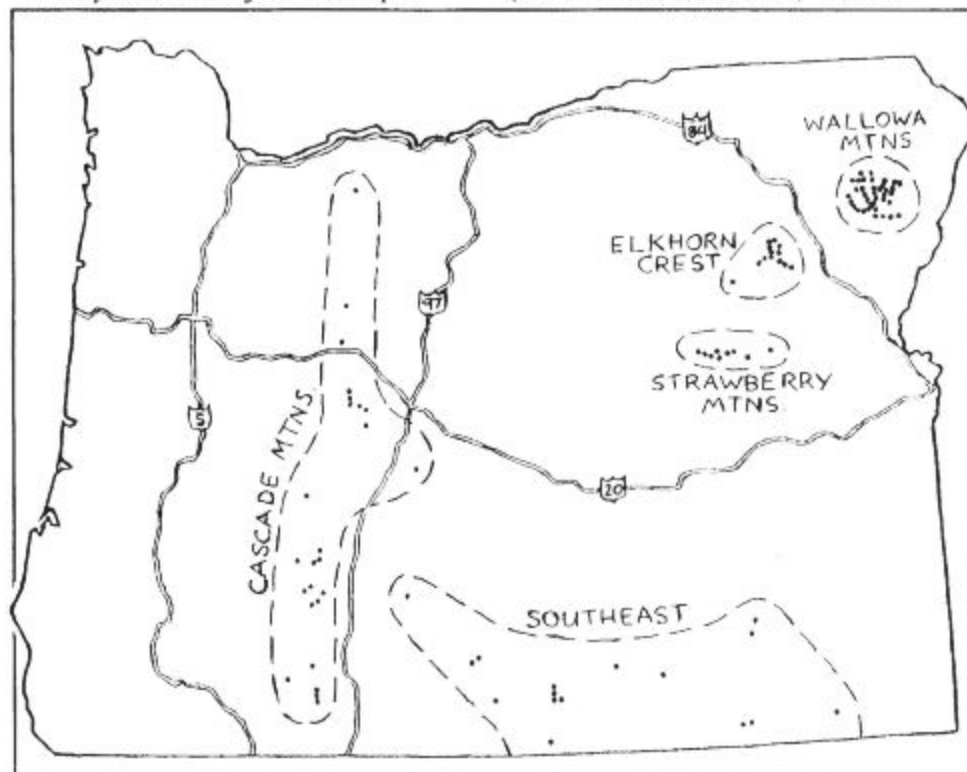
Furthermore, I decided to conduct a purely topographic survey. No consideration was given to whether a peak was named or not. As it turned out, quite a number of unnamed but distinct summits were found to qualify—25 out of the top 100, in fact.

Searching an entire state for its highest peaks proved to be vastly more work than the Home Court project. The USGS uses around 1800 7.5-minute quads to provide topographic coverage of the whole of Oregon.

I first gained an overview of the state with larger scale maps, then looked in detail at 115 of these 1:24,000 scale quads to pinpoint the 100 highest peaks and establish their prominence.

The accompanying table lists those peaks in order, from highest to lowest, with their summit elevation and the quad they're located on. Most peaks with no name on the map are identified according to the names of two nearby lakes or streams, enclosed in square brackets. Three of the unnamed peaks are identified either as a subsummit of a nearby named peak (numbers 74 and 92), or take the name of a triangulation station near the summit (number 86).

As a further aid to locating these mountains, and to show how they are distributed across the state, all 100 have been plotted on the accompanying map. They fall naturally into five



zones. (Each peak's zone is also listed in the table; see table's footnotes for abbreviations used.)

Although some of the zones are quite dispersed geographically, there is a good degree of physiographic and geologic uniformity within each zone. When comparing across zones, however, it becomes apparent that very disparate forces were responsible for raising the mountains to the heights found today.

ZONES

Briefly, the five zones look like this:

Cascade Mountains: "Cones and Craters." The 25 peaks in this zone are almost exclusively of volcanic origin. Some, such as South Sister and Mount McLoughlin, are beautiful symmetric stratovolcanoes of recent vintage, and are expected to resume eruption again in the near future.

Such cones have been building along the Cascades for a million years or more. Some of the older ones are now extinct and have been heavily scoured by glaciers, leaving behind the resistant central plug. Three Fingered Jack and Mount Thielsen are good examples of these older remnants.

Several peaks are found along the rims of a special type of volcanic landform, the caldera. Formed by the cataclysmic collapse of a large volcano, the resulting crater often contains a lake.

Crater Lake is the most famous caldera in the United States, and is ringed by five peaks on the list. Another, Paulina Peak, stands above the other large caldera in the state, Newberry Crater.

Southeast: "Rim Country." This portion of Oregon comprises the northwest corner of the physiographic province known as Basin and Range. The dominant geologic forces at work here cause the uplift and sinking of large blocks of land between long, north-south trending, parallel faults.

A characteristic feature of the resulting terrain is long, high escarpments above broad, flat basins. Prime examples of this among the 16 peaks in this zone are Warner Peak and Steens Mountain (the latter modified secondarily by Ice Age glaciers).

The rules for defining peaks produced one anomaly in this zone. The Trout Creek Mountains rise well above 8000 feet in Oregon, but the prominence-defining summit is across the border in Nevada, so it was not included in this list.

Wallowa Mountains, Elkhorn Crest, and Strawberry Mountains: "The Dry



Ann Marshall

Three Fingered Jack, 7841 feet, is number 99 on the list; the view here is from the Pacific Crest Trail.

Alps." The remaining three zones are more compact geographically, and have common geologic origins.

All derive from an ancient range of coastal mountains which ran across the state from the northeast corner to near Eugene. The rocks visible on the surface today vary from largely granite in the Wallowa and Elkhorn Crest to a huge slab of old scafloor in the western Strawberries.

Although the local climate is presently fairly dry, all were deeply carved during the last Ice Age, and display classic alpine landforms, with deep U-shaped valleys, and jagged ridges perched above the old glacial cirques.

There are 37, 13, and 9 peaks in the Wallowa, Elkhorn, and Strawberry groups, respectively. The Wallowa form an exceptionally dense concentration of peaks over 8000 feet. In Washington, only the area between Glacier Peak and northern Lake Chelan rivals it.

Anyone interested in a better understanding of the geology of Oregon will

find a superb lay exposition in the volume *Roadside Geology of Oregon*, by David Alt and Donald Hyndman

So what are these 100 peaks like as climbing destinations? For the most part, I can only guess, because I haven't been there yet. I've only made it up five of them so far—a couple of the volcanoes when I was a kid, and three along the Elkhorn Crest last Labor Day (when I went camping with, yes, the in-laws!).

There are a couple of good guidebooks that cover some of the Cascade peaks—*Oregon High*, by Jeff Thomas, and *Summit Guide to the Cascade Volcanoes*, by Jeff Smoot. The peaks described there range from walk-ups to mixed alpine climbs to easy (low fifth-class) technical jaunts.

Another useful reference is *Exploring Oregon's Wild Areas*, by William Sullivan. Although its emphasis is not on climbing, it has sections on every wilderness and mountain area in the state, and provides good information on

to page 17

OREGON'S 100 HIGHEST PEAKS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ELEV.</u>	<u>USGS QUAD.</u>	<u>ZONE</u>
1	Mount Hood	11239	Mount Hood South	CAS
2	Mount Jefferson	10497	Mount Jefferson	CAS
3	South Sister	10358	South Sister	CAS
4	North Sister	10085	North Sister	CAS
5	Middle Sister	10047	North Sister	CAS
6	Sacajawea Peak	9838	Eagle Cap	WAL
7	Hurwal Divide	9776	Chief Joseph Mountain	WAL
8	Steens Mountain	9733	Wildhorse Lake	SE
9	Aneroid Mountain	9702	Aneroid Mountain	WAL
10	Petes Point	9675	Aneroid Mountain	WAL
11	Twin Peaks	9673	Chief Joseph Mountain	WAL
12	Chief Joseph Mountain	9616	Chief Joseph Mountain	WAL
13	Eagle Cap	9572	Eagle Cap	WAL
14	Red Mountain	9560+	Cornucopia	WAL
15	Cusick Mountain	9518	Aneroid Mountain	WAL
16	Mount McLoughlin	9495	Mount McLoughlin	CAS
17	[Wallowa-McCully]	9440+	Aneroid Mountain	WAL
18	Sentinel Peak	9400+	Aneroid Mountain	WAL
19	Hurricane Divide	9386	Eagle Cap	WAL
20	[Kiger-Mann]	9348	Wildhorse Lake	SE
21	Elkhorn Peak	9233	Steamboat Lake	WAL
22	Mount Thielsen	9182	Mount Thielsen	CAS
23	Broken Top	9175	Broken Top	CAS
24	Glacier Mountain	9169	Steamboat Lake	WAL
25	[McCully-Little Sheep]	9128	Aneroid Mountain	WAL
26	Rock Creek Butte	9106	Elkhorn Peak.	ELK
27#	[Dollar-North Imnaha]	9080+	Aneroid Mountain	WAL
27#	Krag Peak	9080+	Krag Peak	WAL
29	Bachelor Butte	9065	Bachelor Butte	CAS
30	Strawberry Mountain	9040+	Strawberry Mountain	STR
31	Needle Point	9018	Eagle Cap	WAL
32	[Traverse-Trail]	8949	Bennet Peak	WAL
33	[Echo-Tombstone]	8934	Steamboat Lake	WAL
34	Elkhorn Peak	8931	Elkhorn Peak	ELK
35#	Red Mountain	8928	Anthony Lakes	ELK
35#	Mount Scott	8928	Crater Lake East	CAS
37	[Eagle-Lawson]	8924	Eagle Cap	WAL
38	Marble Mountain	8921	Cornucopia	WAL
39	Twin Mountain	8897	Anthony Lakes	ELK
40	Ruby Peak	8884	Chief Joseph Mountain	WAL
41	[Cougar Pond]	8880+	Elkhorn Peak	ELK
42	[Blue-Minam]	8839	Eagle Cap	WAL
43	[Last Chance-Long]	8820	Steamboat Lake	WAL
44	Lookout Mountain.	8800+	North Minam Meadows	WAL
45	Diamond Peak	8744	Diamond Peak	CAS
46	Van Patten Butte	8729	Anthony Lakes	ELK
47	Granite Butte	8679	Steamboat Lake	WAL
48	[Lookingglass-Culver]	8676	Krag Peak	WAL
49	[Chimney-Wood]	8675	N. Minam Meadows	WAL
50	China Cap	8656	China Cap	WAL
51	Angell Peak	8646	Anthony Lakes	ELK
52	Pueblo Mountain	8632	Van Horn Basin	SE
53	[Lostine-Granite]	8627	N. Minam Meadows	WAL
54	Mount Ruth	8600	Anthony Lakes	ELK
55	[Cached-Eagle]	8587	Krag Peak	WAL
56	Graham Mountain	8570	Strawberry Mountain	STR
57	Indian Spring Butte	8529	Strawberry Mountain	STR

58	[Cunningham-Dutch Flat]	8525	Anthony Lakes	ELK
59	[Riner Basin-Slide]	8511	Strawberry Mountain	STR
60	Crane Mountain	8456	Crane Mountain	SE
61	[Arrow-Copper]	8448	Bennet Peak	WAL
62	[Lostine-Moccasin]	8441	Eagle Cap	WAL
63	[Modesto-Little Cottonwood]	8420	Van Horn Basin	SE
64	Drake Peak	8407	Drake Peak	SE
65	Gearhart Mountain	8370	Campbell Reservoir	SE
66	Mount Bailey	8368	Diamond Lake	CAS
67	[North Minam-Bear]	8352	North Minam Meadows	WAL
68	[Hidden-Minam]	8335	Eagle Cap	WAL
69	Light Peak	8325	Crook Peak	SE
70	Howlock Mountain	8324	Mount Thielsen	CAS
71	Mount Ireland	8321	Mount Ireland	ELK
72	Aspen Butte	8208	Aspen Lake	CAS
73	Yamsay Mountain	8196	Yamsay Mountain	SE
74	Mount Thielsen, East Peak*	8178	Mount Thielsen	CAS
75	Hillman Peak.	8151	Crater Lake West	CAS
76	Dutton Cliff	8147	Crater Lake East	CAS
77	Twelvemile Peak	8144	Crook Peak	SE
78	Dead Horse Rim	8134	Lee Thomas Crossing	SE
79	Applegate Peak	8126	Crater Lake East	CAS
80	Vinegar Hill	8120+	Vinegar Hill	ELK
81	Columbia Hill	8117	Bourne	ELK
82	Ball Butte	8091	Broken Top	CAS
83	Llao Rock	8049	Crater Lake West	CAS
84	Pelican Butte	8036	Pelican Butte	CAS
85	Lookout Mountain	8032	Little Baldy Mountain	STR
86	Stevenson Peak*	8027	Bretz Mine	SE
87	Warner Peak	8017	Warner Peak	SE
88	Crown Point	8006	Mount Ireland	ELK
89	[Berry-Norton]	8000+	Pine Creek Mountain	STR
90	Paulina Peak	7984	Paulina Peak	CAS
91	Mount Harriman	7979	Aspen Lake	CAS
92	Pine Creek Mountain, East Peak*	7975	Pine Creek Mountain	STR
93	Sugarloaf Mountain	7960+	Cornucopia	WAL
94	Cougar Peak	7919	Cougar Peak	SE
95	Beatys Butte	7918	Beatys Butte	SE
96	Indian Creek Butte	7886	Pine Creek Mountain	STR
97	Mount Carmine	7882	Aspen Lake	CAS
98	Bullrun Rock	7873	Bullrun Rock	STR
99	Three Fingered Jack	7841	Three Fingered Jack	CAS
100	Crook Peak	7834	Crook Peak	SE

ZONES

CAS	Cascade Mountains
SE	Southeast
WAL	Wallowa Mountains
ELK	Elkhorn Crest
STR	Strawberry Mountains

[] name in brackets indicates a pair of lakes or drainages near the peak
 * indicates unofficial name
 # indicates pairs of peaks with identical map elevations

from page 15

approaches and trails for many of the summits which can be hiked.

Overall, the 100 highest peaks in Oregon appear more accessible and less rugged than those in Washington. This is not to say for a moment they are lacking in challenge. Especially in the

Wallowas, the maps suggest a number of peaks are non-trivial scrambles, and some may even offer technical finishes.

I hope that publication of this list will stimulate feedback from readers who live in Oregon. I'd love to hear some first-hand reports on mountains

that, for me, have so far existed mostly as clumps of lines on paper.

Jeff Howbert, of Bellevue, is a research chemist. He has returned to the Northwest after a long sojourn in Indiana. △

JACK KENDRICK

YUKON RIVER

—THREE WEEKS OF ADVENTURE ON THE GOLD-RUSH RIVER—



Jack Kendrick

Micky and Nahanni near Fort Selkirk.

After several months of preparation Micky and I started on the long drive north to Whitehorse in the Yukon Territory.

It was late July and our plan was to canoe 460 miles down the Yukon from Whitehorse to Dawson City. Al and Carol, our companions for the trip, would follow later in the day.

In little more than three days we reached our destination and secured a motel. While Micky and Carol stayed in Whitehorse, Al and I drove both vehicles 330 miles to Dawson City. The largest vehicle was left in a secure area and we returned to Whitehorse.

On the drive back we dropped food containers at the community of Carmacks. Carmacks would serve as an ideal resupply point on our river trip as it is about halfway between Whitehorse and Dawson City.

On the first of August we transported canoes and gear to the riverside at Whitehorse and we were away by late morning. Thus began a twenty-

day odyssey of adventure and a journey through history.

Each day we were confronted with an endless panorama of wilderness at its best. We encountered moose, bears, beavers, eagles, and a multitude of waterfowl. Great formations of Canada geese migrating south flew overhead and we were serenaded by the haunting howl of wolves at night.

We feasted on grayling and bannock and read Robert Service's poems around the campfire. Each day we explored the abandoned relics of the Gold Rush: log cabins, old road houses and equipment deserted and left to decay.

Then there was the paddle wheeler *Evelyn* pulled up on an island for repair at the turn of the century. It still lies there like a giant bleached skeleton of a prehistoric behemoth.

The Canadian government has done an excellent job in restoration of the more important historical sites and has



Gold dredge.

Jack Kendrick



Woodcutter's camp.

Jack Kendrick



The paddle wheeler Evelyn.

placed numerous interpretive signs.

We canoed between 20 and 40 miles each day and allowed ourselves two layover days. The river does not present any real difficulties to a canoe traveler except for the occasional sandbar. The only rapid is that of Five Fingers and it is short and of no concern.

I was confounded by the lack of Americans on the river. Examining the register at Fort Selkirk I determined we were only the third party of Americans out of several hundred parties on the river since early June. Most were German with a few Japanese and an occasional Canadian. It seems as if we have forgotten this magnificent river and the significant historical events that occurred there.

Only occasionally did we meet other people and camped alone each night. We feasted on gourmet meals prepared with the aid of a home dehydrator and topped meals with scrumptious baked delights using our Outback baker. We were gone from home a total of 30 days

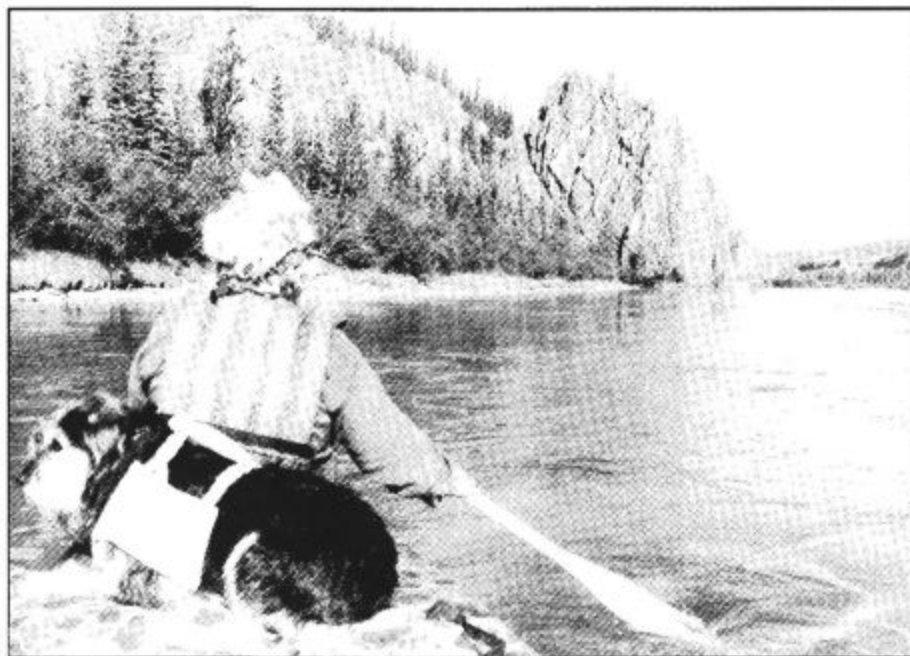
and spent about \$400 per person. It was one superb trip.



Jack Kendrick, of Edmonds, is a retired school teacher. He joined the Mountaineers about 1944 and has been climbing, skiing, hiking and canoeing all his life.



Micky, Jack and Nahanni after 460 miles on the Yukon River.



Micky and Nahanni, on the river.

Jack Kendrick

Al and Carol

Jack Kendrick

WARREN GUNTHEROTH

CLIMBING WITH SASHA

—A BOOK EXCERPT—

After hiking and climbing for ten years with his Siberian husky Sasha (who was originally supposed to stay home and be Ellie's companion), Warren Guntheroth decided to write a book of his adventures with this remarkable dog.

The book was released last winter. It tells the story of Sasha's arrival in the Guntheroth home, her introduction to trails and mountains, and her place as Warren's trusted backcountry companion.

This excerpt is from Chapter 10, "The Expert Climber," from the book *Climbing With Sasha* by Warren Guntheroth.

A belay for Sasha on Thunder Mountain.

Before Sasha had joined our climbing team, on a spring weekend, Ed and I had slogged on snow up to Surprise Lake. Our objective was Thunder Mountain. The guide book described a walk-up on the western ridge that extends up from the second lake; consequently we had brought no rope or technical equipment, only our ice axes.

After a couple of hours on moderately steep, soft snow we came to the summit block, towering several hundred feet over us, consisting of steep, broken steps with scattered evergreens. We were surprised by its vertical nature, to say the least. Ed announced that "it wasn't worth it," an inarguable statement, but he agreed that I could proceed with him waiting at the bottom, as a "support party."

I scrambled up until I arrived at a completely vertical face that appeared to be only 30 feet in height, which I estimated would end on the false summit. There were a couple of crack systems that I was confident could be climbed if I had a rope and some hardware for protection. I reluctantly descended, grumbling at the route description, but



On the summit of Snoqualmie Mountain—Sasha and Warren.

I began planning a return with proper equipment.

The next summer my son Karl agreed to attempt a first ascent of this face route. We got a late start on Saturday afternoon, and it was quite dark when we set up our tent at Glacier Lake. As we started to prepare our dinner by flashlight, we discovered that I had left Sasha's dinner and her next day's lunch at home in the fridge, along with my lunch for the next day. It was already at least three hours after Sasha's usual dinner time, and she was more intense than usual with her "death stare."

Fortunately, I had brought an extra freeze-dried dinner for Karl, and he didn't need it, so I gave Sasha half of that relatively expensive dish, and saved the other half for her breakfast, in lieu of a lunch. She didn't seem all that impressed with the gourmet meal, but she sensed that the new cuisine was going to be the only choice, and quickly downed it.

We arose at dawn and started up the ridge, which was much less pleasant than when it was covered with snow.

At the summit block, Sasha was anxious because she found no obvious way higher. I put her on "stay," as Karl and I started up. Although we didn't get out the rope at that point, Karl complained that this was clearly Class 4 climbing.

After a couple of hundred feet upward, I found a suitable place for a belay, just below a pillar. Around the pillar and up was the ledge that I had explored a year earlier. We put on our climbing harnesses and I got out my rack of Friends and chocks, and put my hand into one of the cracks for a jam hold.

It had been raining for most of that week, and although the rock looked dry, the inside of the crack was lined with soft lichen which was quite wet.

Not only could I not get my hand to stay in, I couldn't persuade the cams of the Friend to stay in. I pulled the Friend out twice with very little effort, a sobering event. I realized, after half an hour of trying alternatives, that I was again stymied by this mountain.

At about this time I heard Karl talking earnestly with someone, but I couldn't hear the responses. I inched over toward the edge of the pillar and looked down to see that the newcomer was Sasha. Since Karl had complained about the difficulty more than once on our ascent, we were both amazed at her achievement, a sentiment followed quickly by concern for how we would get her back down.

Karl is an engineer and a good person to have along when creating a belay harness for a dog.

Sasha showed no enthusiasm for the project, but did not resist, and soon was securely in a harness of one inch nylon webbing. We decided that Sasha would be tied to my harness by a short runner from her harness. I attached my rappel ring to the paired climbing ropes, which were secured around a sturdy cedar, and

Rudiger Lohmann

started down with Sasha in the lead.

One problem was immediately apparent. On her way up Sasha had gone under several low branches that I could not get under, but she saw no reason not to descend the same way, which meant some complicated unhitching and rehitching as we descended. I marveled at her route.

Unfortunately, the paired 165-foot ropes reached only to the crux of the climb, which was still 50 feet away from the base, which meant we had to proceed with no belay or rappel, with Sasha still tied to me.

In retrospect, I should have untied her, since if she fell there was a good chance that I would not be able to prevent both of us from falling. She didn't seem alarmed, since she was familiar with her route, but she did proceed with obvious caution as we both inched down, I holding onto the rock, and she leading ever-so-gently until we were down. The ordeal didn't affect her appetite, and she was able to con me out of half of my meager lunch.

Sasha the problem solver.

From the first, Sasha made many decisions on her own, such as deciding to find me on our early climb of Mount Thompson. Many problems had to be solved, but most had fairly direct solutions such as walking around a boulder field instead of directly across it.

At home, her two- and three-part charades gave strong evidence of her reasoning ability and her ability to solve problems. But her ability to solve problems in the mountains was made particularly clear last summer when we climbed Bedal Peak.

She and I were ascending the east ridge, above the lake, when I came to a notch with a 30 foot cliff that was nearly vertical. I knew that the conservative response was to backtrack a quarter-mile to a more gentle notch that could be descended to the gentler slopes on the south side, to bypass the difficult notch.

On the other hand, I was tired, and the cliff had good hand and foot holds, and I chose to downclimb it. Sasha did not complain, as she certainly would have when she was younger. Instead, she carefully searched every inch of the ledge she was on to look for a way down.

Several times she frightened me by actually starting down my route, but there was no way that it could be done without hands.

I yelled each time, "Sasha, NO!" and she would back up and search again. I then commanded, "Sasha, go around," a phrase she had more or less mastered in relation to our back lot, when her rope became caught around a tree.

Several times she started back the way we had come, but she found nothing to her liking in a short distance, and returned to the ledge. I finally resumed climbing, but would frequently turn around and repeat the command, signaling with my hand to go back. The problem was a difficult one because it was a short distance to her objective, me, but not a safe distance.

The solution required her to turn away from her objective, and go back a quarter-mile and descend where neither of us had gone before. I was delighted when I next saw her, now on the south slope, at a trot toward me. It was literally only five minutes before she had passed me, back on the ridge, without acknowledging my praise.

The rest of the ascent was simple drudgery, but successful. (I think it was Rébuffat who said that climbing consisted of hours of tedium and seconds of sheer terror.)

But on the descent, as we followed an animal trail down the ridge, I noticed that we were below the altitude where



Warren and Sasha share a summit lunch.

Ed Emery

we had gained the ridge crest, and I realized that Sasha had decided not to return the way we had come, but to take a shortcut back to the Sloan Creek Trail.

I debated with myself whether I should trust her judgment and follow her or not—but my 30 years of climbing argued that shortcuts are rarely that, but usually mean more work than sticking to the ascent route.

Sasha did not mind when I whistled her back and we commenced a long traverse back to our original route. As we regained the route, and I observed the ridge she had chosen to descend, there was no question it would have gone easily, and substantially shorter than our original route.

Thinking back, I am confident now that there were several times before that she had tried to help by directing me in a somewhat different way back. We humans are slow learners!

△

Warren Guntheroth, of Seattle, works at the UW medical school. He and Sasha spend 60 days a year in the mountains.

To order a copy of Climbing With Sasha, send \$15 (includes tax and postage), to:
Husky Books
PO Box 27803
Seattle WA 98125



Sasha in snow.

Ellie Guntheroth

JIM MILLER

RETURN to the BEACH

—THIS LEADER IS NOT DESTINATION-DRIVEN—

When I retired from the telephone company in '92 it occurred to me that I now had enough leisure to acquire a pooch. The one I chose was a Boston terrier. Kojak was raised from a pup to be a hiker, and loves it more than anything except food.

His enthusiasm for the trail is infectious and I hate to leave him behind. This has several adverse effects, two of which are: (1) I can't/don't go on Mazama Club hikes; they don't allow dogs; and (2) I cannot take him on National Park trails. This rules out a lot of hiking.

Of National Park hiking, the one I miss most is the Olympic Beach. So I decided last summer to go there and leave my pooch buddy behind. It seemed truly selfish to go alone so I offered the trip to the Mazamas: a chance for new people to go there, a chance for me to meet them.

I limited the group to eight and it filled quickly. By first names there was Karen, a vivacious and energetic teacher. Then enthusiastic Kathy and her sister Nancy, who have hiked together around Mount Rainier.

Long Beach attorney Mark. Our youngest member, Gulf War veteran Scott. Our cowboy-artist-carpenter Zac. And another teacher, sweet Carolyn who was never known (by us) to have a bad thought about anybody.

I chose a week wherein the low tides would occur from morning to midday; a desirable circumstance for this trip. Since the northern (Shi Shi) entrance was legally closed, our plan was to hike from Cape Alava north 8 miles to Shi Shi Beach; then hike back south 30 miles to exit at Rialto Beach in a week's time.

HIKING NORTH

A new permit system has been instituted due to the tremendous popularity of the Cape Alava area. So far (1995 season; and for 1996 too) the permit is needed only for the area between Ozette River and Yellow Banks, from Memo-



Taking a break near Duk Point: Nancy, Carolyn, Jim, Zac, Karen, Scott.

rial Day to Labor Day. On Saturday July 1 our eight members obtained a permit and clomped along the plank trail to a pleasant overnight camp at Cape Alava.

On Sunday we hiked northward and forded the Ozette River about 9am. Low tide would occur at 9:30. I began to worry that the tide was rising faster than the group could walk the difficult 6 miles to Shi Shi. Two miles beyond Ozette River brought us to a place called "Duk" on the map. Here a creek flowed across the sand and a private road came down to the sea.

Kathy and her sister Nancy went upstream a short distance to pump drinking water. Suddenly Kathy called, "Nancy has fallen and bumped her head on a log!" The group rushed to her aid. We decided on the spot to stay overnight at Duk.

We set up camp on a grassy bench above the sea. Nancy was not seriously hurt, but would suffer from headaches the rest of the trip. We explored the private road up to where it was gated. Several summer cabins are set on the high bluff above the sea; the Park has

purchased these parcels of private land and—according to the individual agreements with each landowner—eventually most of the structures will be gone.

ON TO SHI SHI

There are only 4 miles between Duk and Shi Shi Beach; but these 4 miles are almost an "Olympic trial," rather than an Olympic trail! The major obstacle is a quarter-mile of huge slimy boulders strewn along the shore that must be must be clambered over, around and through. This appears to be where a headland had collapsed into the sea.

Slowly the group worked its way through the rocky obstacle course. Beyond lay a low-tide point near a small campsite and "Unnecessary Mountain" (unofficial name!) where one must either climb up a rope to go over (at high tide), or go around. The group went around, which meant climbing over a 20-foot-high rock and across 50 yards of slick weed-covered rocks encrusted with mussels.

The next major obstacle was an impassable headland (meaning it cannot be rounded at sea level). The Park has

Kathy Herrmann

constructed a trail up from the beach which rose steeply upward with few switchbacks. Handholds are provided in the form of roots and ropes. Scott had a tough climb getting his huge backpack up the steep pitch.

The trail on top of the headland is springy from a thousand years of accumulated twigs and needles. It winds among old-growth cedar and spruce for a mile; then down a wet muddy rope to a small beach cove and a creek.

A half-mile farther we came to the end of the headland trail and descended steeply to the beach. Here stands the rock figure designated "Will" on the topo which resembles a crudely carved human figure. A quarter-mile onward we hiked past Point of Arches which marks the southern extremity of Shi Shi Beach.

PARADISE FOUND

The scene around was grand. We had one of the Northwest's most magnificent beaches virtually all to ourselves; with two miles of sand containing sea-caves and shipwrecks; with eagles and otters and deer and tide pools. And strange and unique seastacks. South was Point of Arches, the most spectacular scene on the Washington coast. Northward was a long sweep of sand with Cape Flattery and Vancouver Island in the distance. Overriding it all was the soothing sound of the sea. Paradise.

By evening campfire on the sand, we got to know each other better. Scott, our Gulf War vet, produced a large bottle of Tabasco and another of salsa from his pack. We looked on in amazement, but were soon borrowing them to enhance our Mountain House fare.

Zac turned out to have a large fund of riveting stories of cowboys, climbing with Fred Beckey, and other human drama. Mark also contributed some memorable lawyer stories.

Zac was suffering from fatigue and requested we lay over a day at Shi Shi. I replied "Okay, good idea," figuring everybody loves a layover day.

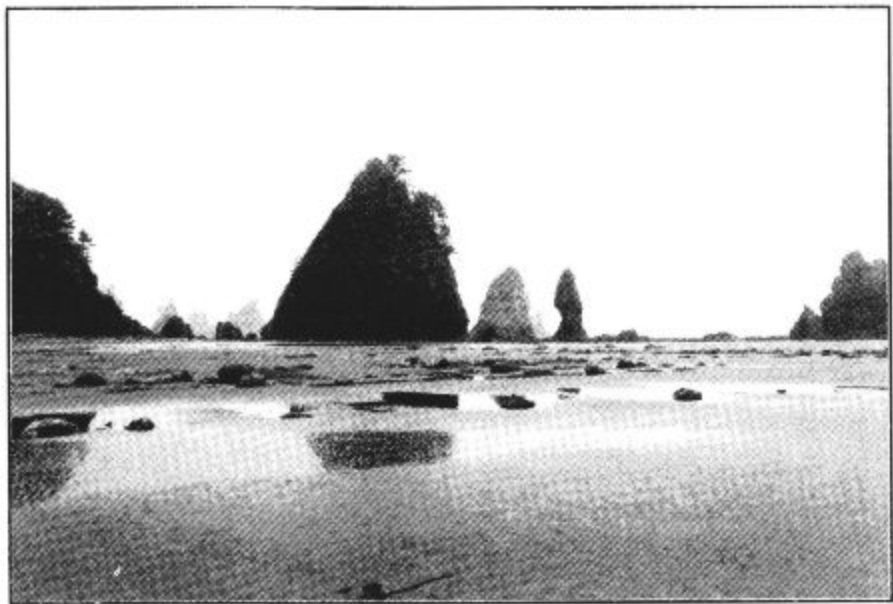
Wait, not everybody! Karen approached and said, "Do I understand you intend to lay over tomorrow?"

"Yes."

"Then how do you propose to do the whole hike to Rialto?"

"Um, don't know. One day at a time," I replied. I am not a destination-driven leader.

Karen said, "Well, I'll have to figure out something to do tomorrow. I can't



Point of Arches at low tide.

Kathy Herrmann

just lie around."

Surely she was joking. Upon arriving in paradise is one immediately bored? I stared at her, waiting to see her crack a smile—but it didn't come. Instead she said, "I may hike to Neah Bay tomorrow and have a cup of coffee. That will keep me busy."

Wow! Wonder Woman! I visualized the hike to Neah Bay. Let's see, 16 miles total—12 of those road-walking and car-dodging—would get this energetic lady to Neah Bay and back! I admire her no end but was stunned by this proposal!

A TALK WITH A RANGER

Next day, the Fourth of July, dawned mild and misty at Shi Shi Beach. Fortunately Karen seemed to have forgotten the Neah Bay plan. She and Carolyn hiked up the beach to visit the shipwreck. The rest were content to wash clothes or go tidepooling as Point of Arches uncovered itself. I poked around old sites where cabins had once stood.

Olympic National Park acquired Shi Shi in 1976 and in the interim has razed all structures except the unique old privy where a pane of glass serves as the "occupied" sign.

A young ranger dropped by to visit. His name was David and he was a Makah Indian. He fielded many questions about the tribe, and about weather, trails, camping and the ban on access from the north. We had already met people who had not hiked northward from Cape Alava. How had they gotten in? David explained:

The northern approach to Shi Shi

Beach has been plagued by complex access problems the past four or five years and has been officially closed by the Makah tribal council. However, some hikers have disregarded the closure.

The restriction has caused the once-crowded beach to be lightly used. David told us this situation will end when the court wrangling is over and Shi Shi Beach, too beautiful for its own good, will again be trashed by multitudes of carousers and litterers. David said that the rangers are not looking forward to this event with delight.

He also pointed out his house northward across the bay at the small Makah village of Wa-atch. "In olden times there were five villages," he said. "The next village southward was Ozette. Do you know the Father and Son Rocks? Well, where Father and Son are even with the beach, that was the village boundary."

What about the publicized re-introduction of whaling? Dave smiled and said that not everyone in the tribe desired the return of whaling, because without whaling everyone was equal; but when whaling was current, a strict hierarchy prevailed.

Ranger Dave also told about the massive search for a young Makah boy who was lost 2 months earlier while on a beach outing with his family. He had not been found. Alive or dead, where was he? Perhaps the sea knows ... but so far is keeping its secret

David moved on to spend the night in his ranger tent hidden in the bushes behind Shi Shi Beach.

continued page 25

WILMA PETERSON

Bald Eagle to White Pass

—BEAUTIFUL, UNCROWDED BACKPACKING—

A beautiful and uncrowded area of our state for backpacking is in the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness and Glacier Peak Wilderness south of Glacier Peak.

During the fourth week of August six of us backpacked from Sloan Creek over Curry Pass on the Bald Eagle trail to the Pacific Crest Trail at Dishpan Gap. We hiked north on the PCT to White Pass and returned down the North Fork Sauk River trail to Sloan Creek Campground.

The Bald Eagle trail still is as "lonesome" as described by Ira Spring and Harvey Manning in their book, *101 Hikes in the North Cascades*, written 25 years ago. The first day we met only two men on horseback with their packhorse and the second day a couple from Ontario with their Siberian husky dog.

It was a 25 mile drive from Darrington and 140 miles from Tacoma and the homes of backpackers Eloise and Gene Adair and Wilma and Larry Peterson. Irena Scheer from Olympia and Elaine Edmonson from Port Orchard were the other members of our group.

To get an early start the next day, we car-camped Saturday night at Sloan Creek 3 miles past the North Fork Sauk

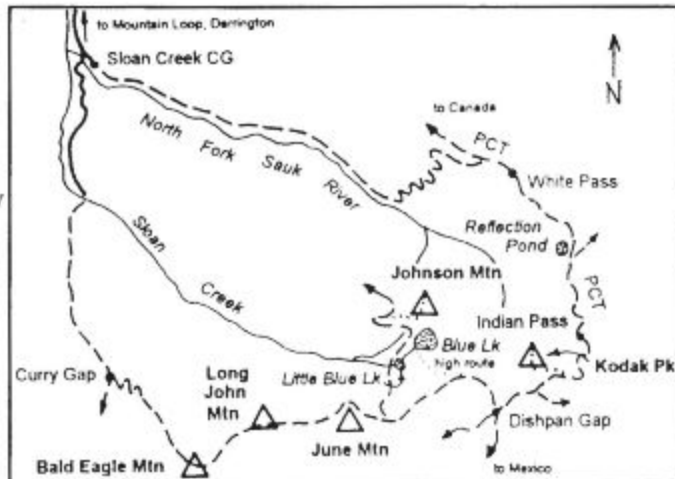
River trailhead where we left one car the next morning for the car shuttle at the end of the trip.

A sturdy new foot and horse bridge is now across Sloan Creek where a car bridge formerly had been. The first 2½ miles was on the old road and went gradually up with magnificent views of Sloan Peak and the Monte Cristo peaks.

After leaving the old road the trail led more steeply up the slope for 1½ miles to Curry Gap. We arrived there in time to eat lunch on a large log in the open meadow.

From 3900-foot Curry Gap the Bald Eagle trail goes southeast crossing avalanche slopes with more outstanding views of the Monte Cristo peaks in the Henry M Jackson Wilderness.

After crossing a ridge below Bald Eagle Mountain, the trail turned northeast and continued at a 5100-foot contour. We saw our first view of Glacier Peak covered with fresh snow



from the previous week's storm. After 8 miles we dropped down to Long John Camp in a large meadow with an abundant supply of water ... and mosquitoes.

Monday morning we packed our tents with an early sun to warm us. The first mile was up a ridge to Spring Camp beneath tall fir trees with a view of Mount Rainier. Nearby was a spring and a small meadow filled with lupine, meadow parsley, bistort and other flowers.

The trail continued up to nearly the top of 5946-foot June Mountain with its panoramic view of Johnson Mountain and 10,541-foot Glacier Peak to the north, Sloan Peak to the northwest, Monte Cristo peaks to the west, Mount Daniel, Hinman, Overcoat Peak and Mount Rainier to the south.

We could also see the nearby Pilot Ridge Trail leading down 1½ miles to Little Blue Lake where we made a side trip and set up our tents before hiking up Johnson Mountain.

The cement anchors of a lookout remain on top of Johnson Mountain. We looked across the North Fork Sauk River valley to White Mountain and Glacier Peak with White Chuck and White River glaciers skirting its base.

On the south side 1096 feet below us was Blue Lake with its deep blue waters



Glacier Peak, Johnson Mountain, Blue Lake and Little Blue Lake from June Mountain.



Wilma Peterson

Monte Cristo Peaks and Sloan Peak from June Mountain.

that flow into Sloan Creek. Above it to the south we saw the unmaintained high route that we had backpacked over last summer. It is not recommended for stock or backpacking.

Tuesday morning we retraced our steps up to the Bald Eagle Trail and continued east to Dishpan Gap and the Pacific Crest Trail. Continuing north we dropped our packs to hike a footpath up the east ridge of Kodak Peak for another 360-degree view. Earlier in the summer its slopes are covered with many flowers in bloom.

We continued on the PCT to Indian Pass and a view of Indian Head Peak with the face in profile of an Indian reclining on his back.

This was to be a long day with a

planned 11 miles to White Pass. Since it was getting late in the afternoon we decided to camp at Reflection Pond (reflecting Indian Head Peak) about 2 miles from White Pass.

One of our members was ahead, however, bound for the original planned destination. Carrying a day pack I left camp and caught up with her at White Pass to tell her about the change in plans. We descended the trail to the meadow and talked to the ranger who sternly told us the regulations: camp in only designated sites, use the toilet, put no garbage down the toilet, build no campfires and treat, boil or filter the water.

There is no camping in the meadow and the few campsites are along the

meadow's edge beneath the trees. The open toilet in the trees has an outstanding view of 7835-foot Sloan Peak above the North Fork Sauk River valley.

It was a pleasant 35 minute walk back to Reflection Pond through slopes of fragrant lupine in the cool evening. A golden eagle spread its wings on the ridge top and I heard the shrill warning whistles of marmots.

Wednesday morning clouds moved up from the valley over the Pacific Crest Trail and ridges. We moved camp to White Pass before climbing 7030-foot White Mountain. Although the clouds covered Glacier Peak, we could still see White Chuck and White River glaciers.

We returned to camp and ate an early supper before the rain started. After a windy and rainy night we decided to go out a day early and hiked the 9 miles down the North Fork Sauk River trail to Sloan Creek Campground.

It was a great five day backpack with spectacular mountain views. We were fortunate to have sunny weather for most of the trip even though the flies and mosquitoes were a nuisance.

△

Wilma Peterson, of Tacoma, has been backpacking since 1962. She has been a Mountaineer trip leader for 12 years.

RETURN to the BEACH

continued from page 23

Wednesday dawned bright and the nomads packed up. We made good time over Impassable Headland and down the ropes. Even the Big Boulder Scramble seemed less formidable.

Karen decided she would quit mincing about and hop boldly over those boulders. This worked fine for a while until she slipped and one of the boulders bopped her on the forehead. Zac and Mark stopped the bleeding and applied a dressing. It was her pride that was hurt most.

Approaching the Ozette River, Kathy said, "Jim, the tide is still low; do you think we could still make it all the way to Rialto?"

I replied, "No way! Your sister is still having migraines, Karen has an injury, Zac is suffering from fatigue, and Scott's worn out from carrying that big pack."

OTTERS, EAGLES ... AND RACCOONS

The camp at Ozette River was grand. All bathed in the semi-cold river water. Zac spotted a harlequin duck with one chick. Several people watched a family of five otters sporting about in the river. Next to Shi Shi this was the finest evening of the trip.

The group hiked past Cape Alava next day. We were thrilled to watch a pair of bald eagles alight in a tree on top of Cannonball Island. South of Alava we paused to examine the petroglyphs, which are only about a mile north of our next camp at Sand Point.

Sand Point is infested with raccoons doggedly determined to steal food. At first we threw things to scare them, but they were undaunted and soon we were hurling missiles intended to hit. The old "swing set" that campers used to hang their food on was gone, replaced

by a steel cable and pulley system.

We heard that the 'coons had now learned to chew their way into tents, complete with sleeping person, in search of food. Scary, huh? And it's only a matter of time until some raccoon-Einstein figures how to beat the pulley system.

Carolyn commented, "Why doesn't ONP trap these garbage raccoons and sterilize them? Then they wouldn't pass on the propensity to their kids!" Hmm, good idea. Are you listening, ONP?

Friday, a day early, the group packed up and hiked out, ready to deal with civilization instead of raccoons. All participants said they had fun and were happy with the outing despite not making it all the way to Rialto Beach.

△

Jim Miller, of Portland, works at spending all his time in the back-country.

JACK HORNUNG

THE PCT: Snoqualmie Pass to Naches Pass

—A SURVEY OF THE TRAIL IN MID-WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 1995—

About fifty miles east of Seattle, the PCT dips down into Snoqualmie Pass and crosses Interstate 90. At this point, the closest access from Seattle, the trail deserves a Janus-faced double signpost.

Why? Immediately to the north lies a 67-mile stretch to Stevens Pass through the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, a trail section so remote and spectacular that some think it almost rivals the High Sierra as a favorite portion of the trail.

In contrast, the 45 miles of trail south from the Pass to the Norse Peak Wilderness traverse a checkerboard pattern of private and public land on which extensive clearcutting seriously mars the intended natural scenic character of the PCT. One knowledgeable hiker expressed the opinion that this section may be the worst in the entire length of the trail.

As a voluntary contribution to PCT affairs, I decided to scout out this "step-child" section and make my own assessment.

So, in a series of two-way day hikes, driving up to the mountains from my home in Seattle, I walked the entire length of this forty-five mile section twice, once in 1994 to become gener-

ally familiar; and then again in 1995 writing down detailed observations, taking photographs, and drawing some conclusions. Here are some of the things I found out.

UGLY VISTAS

To address the worst feature right away, when you walk the trail here, almost any distant viewpoint of wooded hills behind or ahead or on flanking ridges will be spoiled by the extensive clearcut sections.

There is no escaping these ugly vistas. These conditions will cause some hikers to altogether avoid this section of the PCT. But the clearcut vistas are far from the whole story. There *are* positive aspects.

TRAIL BETTER THAN ANTICIPATED

I was pleasantly surprised to learn that, with interruptions, a very clear preponderance of the overall trail length passed through lovely woods, most of which appeared to me to be virgin forest. The trail itself was nicely contoured for the ease of backpackers.

In the woods, the Forest service had

done a good and current job of clearing log obstacles. So the wooded sections of trail were clear and usually well-marked. Where the clearcuts were recovering with small trees, I found the meadowed openness interesting and not unpleasant.

And there are lovely lakeside camping spots. In general, the ambience of the trail was pleasant but without the spectacular features of its continuation north into the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

GOOD TRAIL ACCESS

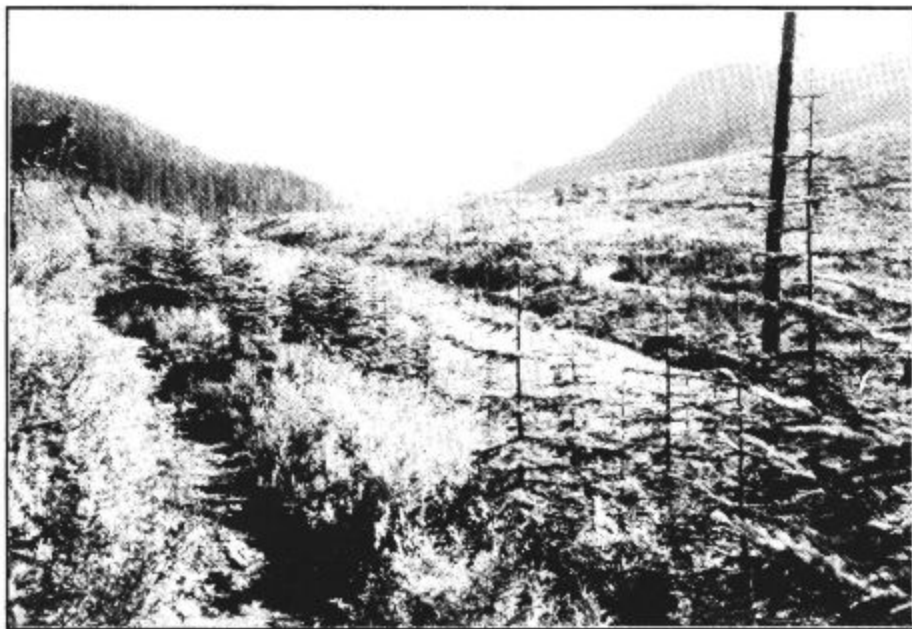
An unusual feature of this stretch of the trail is that it is segmented into easy day sections by accessible and good Forest Service roads, mostly cutting through the passes (these good roads badly need better marking and mapping). This makes the Trail very attractive for day use by the increasing population of the Seattle-Tacoma metropolitan area—a use which could take some of the pressure off the overused Wilderness areas nearby.

Because conditions are not uniform in the 45-mile stretch under discussion, I have divided the mid-Washington PCT into pass-divided segments, proceeding from south to north, just as most through-hikers would encounter the trail. These segments are summarily described.

NACHES PASS TO TACOMA PASS

The PCT emerges from the Norse Peak Wilderness at Naches Pass and travels some 16 miles north, passing Blowout Mountain at midpoint, to Tacoma Pass. This is the most heavily forested section, with only two to three separated miles of clearcut sections.

All in all, this is a very satisfying hiking experience, especially in the vicinity of Blowout Mountain which should be climbed as a short side trip. Note, however, that the only water available is at Naches Pass and at a spring about one and a half miles north of Windy Pass—none at Tacoma Pass.



Looking south toward Olallie Meadows.

Jack Hornung

TACOMA PASS TO STAMPEDE PASS

This section is the clearly the worst. The majority of the trail is over unrelied clearcuts, with a fair amount of walking on abandoned, stony logging roads, and the trail badly needs marking to avoid losing the trail as I did several times. Redeeming trail features exist but are sparse.

STAMPEDE PASS TO YAKIMA PASS

I found this section not too bad because there seemed to be a deliberate alternating pattern between clearcut swaths and the retention of very nice forested strips.

The exception is the vicinity of Yakima Pass which has been devastated by complete clearcutting. In addition, the trail through this section badly needs brushing where it passes through the clearcut swaths. The brush in many of these spots was over my head and conceals dangerous stony conditions underfoot.

The Forest Service was supposed to have let a contract to do this trail work beginning in 1995 but I saw no evidence anywhere that such work had begun.

Through-hikers can put behind these last two sections in one day by doing the following: camp in lovely Scheetz Pass about 2 miles north of Tacoma Pass, finding a small spring about 1/2-mile north of the campsite. Then, next day, hike all the way through to Yakima Pass, ascending at its north end the short grade to camp at Mirror Lake. This choice would, however, miss the lovely camping spot at Stirrup Lake.

YAKIMA PASS TO WINDY PASS TO SNOQUALMIE PASS

A wonderfully lovely forested section, uninterrupted by clearcuts, extends almost 4 miles from Mirror Lake to Windy Pass. Along this section is an unmarked trail connection whereby you can climb Silver, Tinkam, and Abiel Peaks as worthy side trips—that is if you know how to do it. It is too bad that this trail connection and the trails up these peaks are not identified and formally marked.

At Windy Pass is a clearcut, but from there to Snoqualmie Pass the PCT is mostly forested, at times using logging roads. At one point is a great westward vista of the corridor through which I-90 descends from the Cascades into the



Jack Hornung

Vistas of clearcuts.

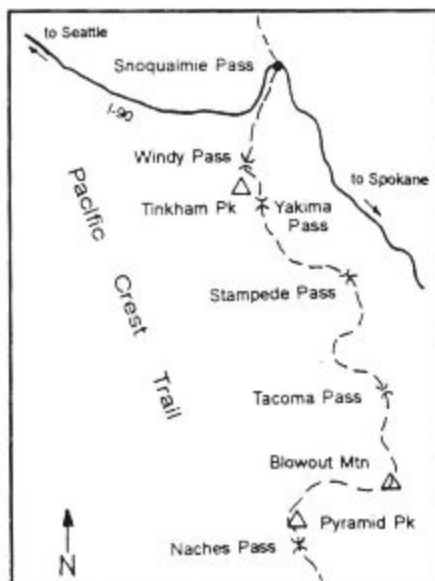
Seattle metropolitan Area.

As the PCT descends the last half mile or so into Snoqualmie Pass, the Trail traverses ski-slopes providing panoramic views of the Pass, the adjoining mountains, and unfortunately, the extensive clearcuts.

SUMMARY OF THE TRAIL

If you are not put off by the clearcut vistas, and if you are willing to bull quickly through the sections between Tacoma and Yakima Passes, the PCT between the Norse Peak and the Alpine Lakes Wildernesses is worth walking.

I have to say that once I became injured to the clearcut vistas and the newly cut over trail interruptions, I found the hiking quite enjoyable.



SUGGESTIONS FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE

The Forest Service should be urged to get that contracted-for trail work done pronto, giving priority to the badly overgrown sections between Stampede and Yakima Passes. Also, to put clear and proper signage in those confusing spots between Tacoma and Stampede Passes.

Local hikers interested in this section of the PCT might form a caretaker trail team, under the umbrella of the Pacific Crest Trail Association, which could perform a number of tasks: (1) monitor trail conditions; (2) actually maintain the brushing aspects once the major work is done; (3) check and replace signs with a view toward attractiveness and uniformity; (4) create or enhance camping sites together with finding and marking paths to springs; (5) work with the Forest Service to develop maps and brochures for day use of the trail, together with better access road signs.

Jack Hornung, of Seattle, drove a distance equal to that from Seattle to Chicago to carry out this survey project. He owns a carpentry business and is a member of the Pacific Crest Trail Association.

For information about the PCTA, write or call:
 Pacific Crest Trail Association
 5325 Elkhorn Blvd #256
 Sacramento CA 95842
 800-817-2243

PANORAMA

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

SPIDER MEADOW—Thanks to more than 450 individuals who made donations to save Spider Meadow, the Trust for Public Land has achieved its \$120,000 fund-raising goal (*March, page 25*).

With this success, TPL has exercised its option on the 334-acre Erickson Logging property and will purchase it in early May.

In so doing, TPL is still taking an uncommon risk. The money raised privately by Friends of Spider Meadow was only to cover TPL's transaction costs in excess of the anticipated Forest Service purchase price. The Forest Service has not yet received an appropriation for the \$730,000 needed to purchase Spider Meadow.

Nationally Spider Meadow has become a high priority for purchase through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, but until funds are appropriated the integrity of the Glacier Peak Wilderness will remain in jeopardy.

To continue assisting this effort, contact your legislators to encourage appropriation of the funds.

DNA TESTING FOR BEARS—Banff National Park officials plan to conduct DNA testing on any bears suspected of attacking people, park superintendent Charlie Zinkan said at the end of March.

He acknowledged Park wardens made an error last summer when they trapped two grizzlies after an attack on tourists camping at Lake Louise. Recent DNA tests revealed that the two grizzlies, which were destroyed, did not

attack the tourists.

The tests have now shown the attack was by a bear known as Old Dumpy, who got her name foraging at the Revelstoke dump. Old Dumpy and her cub were trapped near Lake Louise the same day the suspect bears were destroyed and were relocated north of Golden, where they are hibernating. Old Dumpy has a radio collar and will be monitored.

There are now fewer than 80 grizzlies in Banff Park and the population is steadily declining, mainly because of the growing numbers of tourists.

There are between 3000 and 5000 grizzlies in BC, with some living as close to Vancouver as Chilliwack.—*excerpted from the Vancouver (BC) Sun.*

IRON GOAT VOLUNTEERS—Volunteers are welcome to help work on the Iron Goat trail in the Stevens Pass Historic District.

Crews will clear and excavate trail tread and construct drainage structures. The work can be strenuous but fun. Participants need to be in good physical condition.

Each month's work parties are organized by a different coordinator. For Wednesday and Saturday sessions in May, call Herb Schneider at 206-322-1191.

CUSHMAN LAND EXCHANGE—ONP superintendent David Morris has announced his recommendation that the proposed Lake Cushman land exchange with the City of Tacoma "does

not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment."

The conclusion of the Park Service's environmental review has set in motion the complex land exchange in which the City of Tacoma will acquire from the State of Washington about 45 acres in two land parcels within the authorized boundary of the National Park.

These parcels will then be swapped by the City for approximately 30 acres of the Park at the head of Lake Cushman, thereby resolving a trespass of the Cushman Project into Olympic National Park.

SPARTINA CONTROL—On April 18, the Fish and Wildlife Service released its Interim Environmental Assessment for Spartina control on Willapa National Wildlife Refuge.

Spartina is an invasive salt marsh grass from the east coast which was introduced to Willapa Bay 100 years ago. In the mid-1980s this grass began spreading over the tidelands of the Refuge and the Bay at an increasing rate. It is rapidly dominating the upper mudflats which are important foraging areas for tens of thousands of aquatic migratory birds.

The Interim EA addresses the Refuge's proposal to use both mechanical and chemical treatments to control Spartina. Copies of the EA are available at all Timberland Libraries, the Willapa Refuge Headquarters and the Fish and Wildlife office in Olympia.

Two public meetings were scheduled, but *Pack & Paddle* didn't receive the notice in enough time to alert readers.

The EA is open for public comment until May 18. For more information, contact:

Refuge Manager James Hidy
HC01, Box 910
Ilwaco WA 98624
360-484-3482.

AWARD—Naches District Ranger Jim Pena announced that the Naches Wilderness Crew, local volunteers and some small contractors received a prestigious regional Wilderness award.

They were recognized for their skills in using traditional tools to pack out over 3000 pounds of garbage from a remote helicopter-placed camp in the William O. Douglas Wilderness.

The award was given for demonstrat-



Frank Sincock

A lenticular cloud hovers off Mount Rainier.

PANORAMA

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

mitment to Wilderness principles in undertaking an extremely challenging clean-up project. The crews demonstrated a variety of creative backpacking and horsepacking techniques.

Folks are invited to view the award which is on display at the Naches Ranger Station.

CAUGHT BY STORM—Pam Lombard and Martin Spahn, of Corvallis, were caught by a storm while hiking up the North Fork Quinalt in the Olympics.

When they didn't return home on April 15, as expected, family and friends notified Park personnel the next day. On April 16, the hikers' car was found at the trailhead, and on the 17th a search was started.

As it turned out, the hikers lost the trail under snow on the second day of their hike. On the third day, they travelled only about a mile before setting up camp in the storm. They stayed put at that camp for two days, while a foot of snow fell. They stayed warm with sleeping bags and clothing and melted snow for water.

On April 18, their sixth day, they travelled about 4 miles cross-country to the Irely Lake trail and followed it out to their car at the North Fork trailhead.

Searchers had found their tracks but because of the poor visibility and falling snow were unable to locate them.

PCT—The DNR has released plans to log 46 acres along the PCT within the Columbia Gorge. The plan includes construction of a road of the trail.

The timber sale is about 1.5 miles from the PCT trailhead on Highway 14 at Bonneville. The timber sale will have significant scenic impacts and will further encroach on habitat for the pileated woodpecker and northern spotted owl.

According to Friends of the Columbia Gorge, last year was the second best year on record for timber sale dollar values. Washington can afford to keep the PCT for everyone.

Urge the Commissioner of Public Lands to cancel the Spring Timber Sale. Write or call:

Commissioner Jennifer Belcher
PO Box 47001
Olympia WA 98504-7001
 306-902-1004 (fax: 360-902-1775).
 —*excerpted from The Mountaineers Conservation Newsletter.*

RAINIER TRANSPORTATION—In the interest of reducing auto traffic in Mount Rainier National Park, the Park Service recently granted permits for two businesses to operate shuttles.

Rainier Overland Transportation, operated by Eric and Kathryn Simonson, will pick up hikers and climbers at Sea-Tac or wherever else they arrange, and take them to their destination in the Park. At the end of the trip, the service will pick them up.

Rainier Express, operated by Peter Whitaker, will run a regularly scheduled shuttle between Sea-Tac and Paradise.

Both businesses will provide ways for out-of-town Park visitors to avoid having to rent cars, and for Washington residents to avoid having to leave cars parked at trailheads for extended periods.

OREGON ADDS YURTS—The yurts at Oregon State Parks are so popular, the state is adding 50 more to their facilities. Most of the yurts are located at nine coastal state parks, where they are used year-around by campers.

The yurts sleep five for a fee of \$25 per night. They include electricity, a space heater, and bunk beds with mattresses.

SUMMER WATER—The monthly forecast published by the Natural Resources Conservation Service predicts summer streamflow will be above average throughout the state this year.

Cool, dry weather in February preserved the snowpack at higher elevations across the state and slowed the melt at lower levels.

Forecasts for North Central Washington summer streamflows vary from a high of 142% of average for the Methow River near Pateros to 108% for the Wenatchee River at Peshastin.

March 1 snowpack for the Wenatchee Basin for 104% of average. The Chelan Basin was 131% of average, while Stemilt Creek was 89% of normal. Entiat River Basin was 144% of average.

Summer runoff forecast for the Okanogan River is 125% of normal; the Similkameen River is 130%; and Salmon Creek near Okanogan 109%.

Storage in the Conconully Reservoirs was 18,300 acre feet, with is 78% of capacity and 131% of the March 1 average.

"You should have called it Encyclopedia Rainierica. What a ton of information!"

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- 1 banana, mashed
- ½ cup margarine, melted
- ½ cup applesauce
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Spread into a greased 8"x10" pan. Sprinkle an additional ½-cup of cereal, crushed, on top and bake at 350 for 30 minutes. Cut into squares. Low in fat, high in fiber!—*Sharon Cline, Vancouver.*

NEW FROSTLINE CATALOG—With the publication of their 1996 catalog, Frostline Kits is now 30 years old. They still offer their classic 60/40 Mountain Parka—and now an updated Mountain Parka in waterproof/breathable Ultrex.

Gaiters, rain gear, kids' stuff and packs are some of the outdoor offerings. You can also order fabrics and neoprene by the yard, plus hardware, zippers, webbing and Delrin buckles.

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Frostline Kits
2525 River Road
Grand Junction CO 81505.

HELPING OUT—The latest edition of *Helping Out in the Outdoors* is out. This 88-page large format directory lists volunteer jobs in 47 states, Guam and the District of Columbia.

Although volunteers must pay some or all of their own costs, housing is frequently available, and sometimes food re-imbursment or a small stipend are provided.

Here are some sample positions. The Tonto National Monument (Arizona) needs a photo file and library assistant with an interest in archaeology. The

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.

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Antietam National Battlefield (Maryland) is replanting the historic "West Woods" and needs help with nursery operations and plant inventories. The North Bend Ranger District (Washington) needs someone to staff the Granite Mountain lookout, June to September. The Big Thicket National Preserve (Texas) needs an avifauna researcher.

Helping Out in the Outdoors is published by the American Hiking Society. You can order a copy by sending \$7 (or \$18 for a 3-year subscription) to:

American Hiking Society
PO Box 20161
Washington DC 20041-2160.

For questions, call Chuck Kines, 301-565-6704.

GAITER STRAPS—One way to save wear and tear on the strap that holds your gaiter under your boot is to slide a piece of tubular webbing onto it.

Cut a piece of tubular webbing about 4 inches long and seal the ends—but don't seal them closed. Slide the gaiter strap through the tube, re-fasten to your gaiter, and wear.

When the webbing wears out, replace it. Your original gaiter straps will still be in good condition and you don't have to worry about them wearing through. At 20 cents a foot, each webbing strap is about 7 cents.—*Mark Owen, Seattle.*

BLUE SUNSHINE—It was July 1947 on a Mountaineer climb of Mount Rainier that I experienced an unusual phenomenon that has never been explained to my satisfaction.

I was a member of a rope team of three, route-finding for a large group of climbers. We had left high camp at Steamboat Prow at about 1am and had climbed to approximately 13,000 feet by sunrise. The main party of climbers were some 1500 feet or more below.

The air was crystal clear with not a trace of haze or smog. We sat down to witness the most spectacular sunrise I have ever seen.

Before the sun broke over the horizon, vivid distinct bands of the spectrum bedazzled our senses. Blood red at the horizon graduated upward into bands of orange, yellow and green. The visual spectacle held us in silent awe.

Suddenly the brilliant red rim of the sun burst above the horizon and we were instantly bathed in an eerie blue light. This gave an unearthly appear-

ance to everything. It did not last long, but it was long enough for me to poke several holes in the snow with my ice axe, creating what looked like pools of blue ink. The blue light changed quickly to the pink hue which is commonly seen in alpine environments

I would like to hear from anyone who has experienced a similar situation. Of my two companions on the climb, one died shortly thereafter in a climbing accident and the other I have not seen in close to fifty years.—*Jack Kendrick, Edmonds.*

SEATTLE FABRICS—Seattle Fabrics has received an extension until August 1 on their expiring lease. There is no word yet on the new location, but owners say they hope it will be within a mile or two of the present store.

TICKS—Spring is tick season. You are likely to pick up the little critters on any dry trail, especially the east side of the Cascades.

If you are bitten by a tick, remove it and save it to take to your physician. Check yourselves and your companions while hiking and try to avoid brush where ticks lurk to jump on you.

BACKPACKING VIDEO—A new video for beginning hikers has been released by Twilight Entertainment of Seattle. The tape emphasizes safety, the environment, clothing, and covers all the gear a hiker needs to spend a night on the trail. The tape won't have much appeal to experienced hikers, but will be great for those wanting information to start out with. The narrator has an encouraging, you-can-do-it attitude that will help beginners start on the right foot.

I was surprised to see hikers in the tape wearing cotton jeans but, as Kendel Reeves of Twilight Entertainment told me, the scenes where jeans are worn are of sunny summer days. The tape does discuss foul weather gear, layering, and other fabrics for apparel.

To order a copy by mail, send \$29.95 (plus 8.2% sales tax for Washington residents) and \$3.50 for shipping and handling to:

Video Workshop
12049 124 Ave NE
Kirkland WA 98034

or by phone: 206-820-3985.

EDITOR'S JOURNAL



At Cascade Pass.

FROM THE MAILBOX—"Would like to see fewer out-of-state/out-of-country reports. Keep information to the Pacific Northwest, BC and Alaska, areas within comparatively easy reach of most of us."—*Seattle*.

"I've just finished a winter of weekly hikes in Arizona. ...Looking forward to another summer of hiking with the Renton Women's Hiking Group."—*Kirkland*.

"When I retire I will have to drastically reduce my subscription list. *P&P* will definitely survive that process."—*Yakima*.

"Updates on road and trail conditions much appreciated! Would like to see more specific and detailed condition reports from Ranger Districts."—*Seattle*.

"Gudger Basin looks interesting. So many places to explore, so little time."—*Anacortes*.

"Great magazine!"—*Seattle*.

A BREAK FROM HIKING—Many of us do other things besides hiking and paddling. One of our readers, BRN of Bainbridge Island, was a prolific sender of reports until last summer, when he suddenly "disappeared." We miss people who have been steady contributors, but we know that life carries us all in different directions.

We recently got a call from BRN's wife, who said that they had been busy—BRN bicycled from Anacortes to Indiana for his mother's 85th birthday last summer, then they had toured the

northern country and got home at the end of October! He'll be hiking again this summer and hopefully we'll see some more BRN reports.

DOUGLAS-FIR—I had always written the common name of *Pseudotsuga menziesii* as two words: Douglas fir. Yes, I knew it wasn't a true fir, really in the pine family. But recently I glanced through the senior paper of Lee's oldest son Bill and found that he spelled it Douglas-fir, hyphenated.

Although Bill has been studying trees in his UW forestry classes for the last four years, I was sure he was wrong. We pulled out the field guide, and I learned the error of my ways.

From now on, I will spell Douglas-fir with a hyphen.

TRAILS FEST—The Trailsfest event at The Mountainers on April 13 was a lot of fun. We got out lots of information to new hikers and paddlers, and really enjoyed talking with the couple of dozen subscribers who stopped by.

Although most were from the Seattle area, Tom Magee from Lynden and BNJ from Port Angeles probably came the longest distance to attend.

PRACTICE—As usual this time of year, our women's climbing group had our ice axe practice. This time we decided to go to the Stevens Pass ski area, since the lifts closed the week before.

As we climbed up Cowboy Mountain, we observed several slides and decided not to continue to the summit. At

lunch, Bettye wondered why her feet felt cold. Looking down, she saw that her plastic boots had split right across the toes! Bummer.

We found a good slope with a safe runout and packed some fast glissade tracks. Then we hurled ourselves off and practiced stopping.

Also on the mountain that day were about a hundred Mountaineer Scramble students and their instructors on a field trip for their ice axe practice. It was a busy place!

On the way down we ran into Rose O'Donnell, the field trip coordinator (also a *P&P* subscriber), and got her to take a group photo for us.

PUTVIN TRAIL—Lee and I chuckled at James Latteri's report (*page 6*) when he said that he thought hiking the abandoned road would be easier than hiking the lower trail. We have done this trip twice, both times walking the abandoned road.

Since we don't like walking roads, we thought the next time we would try the trail because it might be quicker and easier—just opposite what he thinks!

HIGH MOUNTAIN RENDEZVOUS

—We are sorry to hear that High Mountain Rendezvous will be closing its doors (see ad page 2). Over the years we've enjoyed stopping there on our way to or from the mountains to see what's new and pick up various pieces of equipment. We wish owner Jim O'Malley well in whatever his next venture is.

See you in the backcountry,

Ann Marshall



Spokane's hard working yellow cat, Bonatti, takes a nap between shifts.

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