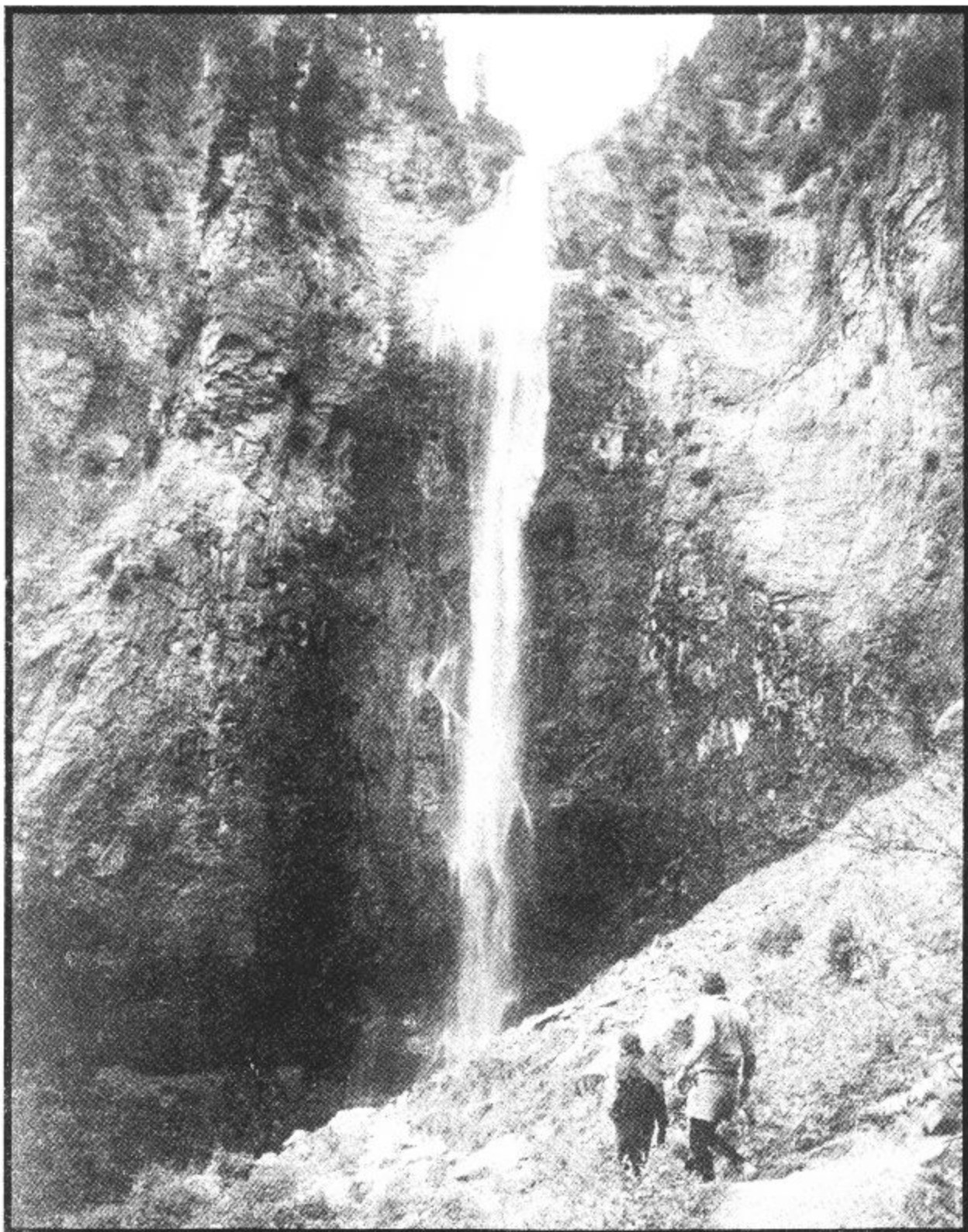


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JUNE 1997  
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Methow Report for May by the  
**MAZAMA COUNTRY INN**

**Hiking:** With the heavy snow pack Cedar Falls will be awesome (easy); Driveway Butte is switchbacks but the flowers will be worth it.

**Mountain Biking:** Methow Community Trail follows the river in the valley (easy); Cedar Falls is a single track to falls (intermediate); Buck Mountain is a single track loop with great views (difficult).

**Paddling:** Caution—Methow River could have high water; guided raft trips (floats and whitewater) begin this month.

For more information call the Mazama Country Inn at 800-843-7951 or e-mail us at mazama@methow.com. Check out our web site at www.mazama-inn.com

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# Pack & Paddle®

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 6

RANDOM VIEW—



Fred Redman on the trail to Cascade Pass, North Cascades National Park.

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Hikers approaching Comet Falls, near Van Trump Park. Mount Rainier National Park, Washington. Photo by Don Abbott.

### HOW TO BE A PACK & PADDLE CONTRIBUTOR:

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• • •

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• • •

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### Staff

Publishers: A. Marshall and L. McKee  
Editor: Ann Marshall  
Business Manager: Lee McKee  
Administrative Assistant: Yellow Cat

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### HIGH POINTS

"The Summit" is a recent development atop 1190-foot Mrs. Farmer's Last Mountain (see *May*, page 9). Since it was scalped, but not before, there has been a real money-maker of a view.

Immediately across Coal Creek is the ridge formerly known as Mount Trashmore, utilizing the generic name invented by an eastern city for the garbage dump it heaped up, then planted in grass, and made a park.

A better name, now, would be Microsotic Ridge, or perhaps Mount Oki-Doki, for the billionaire who bought the new city of Newcastle ... Beyond that eminence, across China Creek, is Marshall's Hill, which settlers in May Valley were calling it for a century before Harvey Manning ever conquered its 1125-foot summit.

Still farther beyond, across Cedar River, is the 899-foot eminence of Echo Mountain, the centerpiece of Lake Desire-Spring Lake (King County) Regional Wildland Park. See pages 124-126 of *Walks and Hikes in the Foothills and Lowlands Around Puget Sound*.

I omitted mention of the trailhead described by John Roper in the May 1997 issue of *P&P* for two reasons. One, all the trail accesses to the park except the one I describe (which is NOT on a "jeep track;" the only vehicles allowed are those which service the water reservoir serving Lake Desire homes) are questionable due to private property issues.

Second, this park is an eco-jewel, precious and fragile, and cannot withstand the wrong sort of usage. The master plan is dealing with this but until certain spots are "hardened" visitors should not be excessively energetic. Walk softly.

If it's heavy exercise that's wanted, and big views, 3280-foot McDonald Point is the proper choice. See pages 160-161 of *Walks and Hikes*.

(By the way, I don't really know what a "2000-foot-prominent peak" is. However, if "closest to Bellevue and Seattle" is a criterion, West Tiger I rises to 2948 feet, which I make to be 2500 feet above the trailhead at High Point.)

By the by, I almost take umbrage at "... is referred to as 'Mount McDonald' in *Footsore 1* ..." and "... what Harvey Manning calls 'Marshall Hill' ..." I sense this is a polite way of saying

"aka," and I do not think either of these peaks ever has been on the police blotter.

Harvey Manning  
Bellevue, Washington

John's reponse to Harvey's letter follows:

### POLICE BLOTTER?

(1) Prominence is the number of feet a summit rises above the pass that connects it with the next higher peak.

West Tiger I (2948 feet) has 848 feet of prominence over the 2100-foot saddle leading to Tiger Mountain (3004 feet), which incidentally is 1664 feet above Tiger Summit (1340+).

Rattlesnake is the closest 2000-foot prominence peak to Seattle.

(2) Oki-Doki, it's Marshall's (not Marshall) Hill, and McDonald Point (not Mountain) at 3280+ feet, but check out *Footsore 1*'s map, he said politely.

(3) Where did the name "Echo Mountain" (875+ feet on current maps) come from? I like it. These twin summits are mirror images.

John Roper  
Bellevue, Washington

### ECHO MOUNTAIN

After reading John Roper's report in the May issue (page 9) I wanted to identify for him the mountain he climbed. I have been leading hikes in the King County Lake Desire-Spring Lake Open Space for the Issaquah Alps Trails Club for 6 years. Echo Mountain is the name of the most western of the two humps. Maybe John can propose Young Desire for its twin.

King County Parks has just finished a Master Plan for the 371 acres and improved trails will be the result. ... A unique area in the Open Space is the bog/fen which now has restricted access because of its fragile nature.

Raised walkways have been proposed in the new plan which would give pedestrian traffic a chance to see the interesting flora including sundew, cranberry, bog laurel and labrador tea.

The 70 acres were purchased in 1993 by King County to save it from being developed into waterfront lots.

The summit of Echo Mountain also has a very interesting and diverse plant colony including chocolate and fawn lily, sea blush and monkey flower. Harvey Manning has a description of this hike in his book *Walks and Hikes in the Foothills and Lowlands* (1995).

I read John Roper's article on the Blob Peaks in *Signpost* (1992) and have wanted to thank him for pointing me toward Sugarloaf Mountain, which is now logged and has a 360 degree view as of 1995. He should try it again.

I have been a subscriber to your magazine since I arrived here 17 years ago, and want to take this opportunity to let you know how much I have learned from others who write and to thank you for keeping the hiking community informed on all issues.

Betty Culbert  
Maple Valley, Washington

### NEW FEES

The Forest Service plans to [charge] the hiking public for walking (simply walking!) through our own National Forests (*April*, page 26; *May*, page 17).

It's like putting up a toll booth in your own driveway and charging you to exit and enter.

This is the climax of a century of selling OUR trees for pennies without OUR consent and then using OUR tax money to build roads that the logging companies should have built. Now they want to charge US because they didn't make enough revenue!

We could raise a protest but I suspect it wouldn't be enough. Certainly we as hikers need to band together and speak with a united voice.

Maybe it would be better to accept the change and expect upgrades like better trail maintenance and an end to clearcutting on public lands. It would be worth it if it caused the Forest Service to respond to the public (as was originally intended) instead of just the resource extractors.

Jim Miller  
Portland, Oregon

# 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.

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—Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.



**GENERAL CONDITIONS**—The snow IS melting. Slowly. Expect road and trail damage from winter storms.

### PENINSULA



**PERMITS AND FEES**—A \$1 per car per day parking fee is in effect at Lake Ozette.

A \$5 permit is required for overnight stays in the Park. In addition, a \$2 per person per night fee is charged.

**BEACH FIRE BAN**—A temporary campfire closure will be in effect beginning May 1 from Wedding Rocks to Yellow Banks. The closed area will be signed at both ends and at trailheads.

Olympic National Park tells us the closure is to enhance the restoration efforts underway at Sand Point. The

ban will be in place for *three years* (this is temporary?) and will apply year-round.



### HURRICANE HILL LOOK-OUT TRAIL

(*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Hurricane Hill*)—We left Aberdeen at 7am and arrived at Port Angeles ranger station at 10:30. Allow yourself some time to enjoy this place. Don and Al both bought yearly passes (\$20) for Olympic National Park.

The road up to Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center (another place to allow yourself some time) is winding, has three tunnels to drive through and is free of snow. We saw two deer.

Our snowshoe hike was done at times in hurricane winds, ice pellets, snow, rain sprinkles, an occasional sunbeam, and dark menacing clouds.

When the wind was gone the quiet solitude of being surrounded by all the snow was breathtaking. The cornices were especially eye-catching.

We shared part of the trail with cross-country skiers. The snow softened considerably on our return trip.

The lookout is gone; just a concrete step is left. The fog allowed us only glimpses of the Bailey Range, the Straits, and the inner peaks of the Olympics.

It was the first time Al, Peggy (her first snowshoe hike) and I had ever been to this place. Though we were all tired (6 miles round trip) we decided it was a lot of fun and would remember this for years to come. We stopped at the Hungry Bear for dinner.—Don Abbott, Kerry Gilles, Al Gregory, Peggy Lynch, 4/19.



### NORTH FORK QUINAULT

(*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Bunch Lk, Mt Hoquiam*)—A 14-mile round trip with elevations from 520 feet to 1088 feet.

Don and I had not been out backpacking for six months (we missed our annual winter outing), so we took the first opportunity we both had and headed for an old favorite, Elip Creek, on the North Fork Quinalt.

The South Shore Road, which had been washed away, is now open and very impressive. We had the good luck of seeing elk too numerous to count on the drive in. The North Fork Quinalt River has changed its course, taking many trees with it.

There were six cars at the trailhead, but we saw only one tent as we hiked to Elip Creek. There are small branches, twigs and such on the trail. Three big blowdowns cause you to fight through them, or detour up around them. It was a good feeling to be out again listening to the birds tweetering and chirping their songs, seeing the chipmunks scurrying around the trees and even smelling the abundant skunk cabbage!

Wild Rose Creek (the log crossing is gone), the widest, was the only one where we managed to get our feet wet.

Elip Creek (that log bridge is gone) looks like a stick of dynamite was thrown in the middle of the campground. Numerous campsites are gone due to the river. A trail crew has their tent set up here and is working on the trail. They, however, were not there while we were.

They put in a new out-house (the

### BACKCOUNTRY NEWS DEADLINE: June 21

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

can't-shut-the-door-because-your-knees-are-in-the-way kind) with see-through slits.

We made camp down at the end, close to where the creek meets the river. Getting firewood was not a problem! Sitting on the rocks, with the warmth of the sun, we both nodded off.

We hiked up to see the now-gone Kimta Creek bridge. There is all kinds of work crew equipment on the trail, and red flags warning of the danger. The rain held off until we got back to our truck.—Kerry Gilles & Don Abbott, 4/12-13.

**BLAKE ISLAND** (State park; NOAA 18449)—A circumnavigation of Blake Island was the goal of this short Saturday paddle. Lesley and I launched from Manchester ramp (see *Middle Puget Sound & Hood Canal Afoot & Afloat* for directions) just before 11:30 and headed across to the northwest tip of the island.

I was practicing navigation skills so maintained a course based on a predetermined compass heading—adjusted a

couple of degrees to account for the predicted ebb current.

The crossing is about 1½ nautical miles, and we arrived a little to the north of the spot I had been shooting for. There was little evidence of current during the main part of the crossing, but close to the island we could see it moving along close to shore. I apparently didn't adjust enough in my compass bearing to totally account for it.

We landed on the north side of the tip and checked out the Cascadia Marine Trail campsite. I thought that it had been moved, but it was still the same spot that it always has been. It really is a nice location if it's not windy.

Back in our kayaks, we headed around the north side of the island and made a brief stop at the Tillicum Village boat basin. A couple of sight seeing boats were in making the Village a busy place.

On the water again, we rounded the end of the island. Today was a day of minus tides, and I was surprised how far the water was out. Lesley needed to be back at a set time so we picked up our pace as we headed south.

The current predictions showed the current switching to a flood about the time we rounded the south end of the island so I expected we would meet some current resistance.

Much to my surprise the current was not only still ebbing but was moving at a fair rate as evidenced by the water action around the mooring buoys there. We had a pretty good ride for a ways up the west shore.

When our free ride ran out we set a course back to Manchester. Southerly winds had started to pick up making for some wave action part way through the crossing—quite a contrast to the calm paddle we had on the way over to the island.

Back at Manchester we had just enough time to do an assisted rescue practice before loading up and heading home.—LGM, Port Orchard, 4/26.

**SOUTHWORTH TO MANCHESTER** (NOAA 18449)—Ten of us in six single sea kayaks and two doubles set out for this just-under-4-mile paddle on a Tuesday evening. After setting up a car shuttle, we launched at the road end just to the north of the Southworth ferry terminal.

The wind was blowing from the south and west in the range of 10 to 20 knots so we kept close to the shoreline of the Kitsap Peninsula using the land to shelter us. Except for a short distance after rounding the point at Harper we felt very little effect from the wind. Farther out, though, the wind was stirring up whitecaps and waves.

At the west end of Yukon Harbor several of us entered the mouth of Curley Creek to explore. After the narrow mouth, the creek opens into a wide shallow pond, then after a short distance necks down to a width of about 25 feet. The waterway at this point has head-high grass on both sides. The feeling is of immediate remoteness.

Kingfishers, ducks, herons and lots of other birds call this area home. Debris blocks the channel after a while so exploration is limited.

A little under 2 hours after setting out, we were ashore again at our take-out at the Manchester boat ramp. Except for Curley Creek this is typical urban paddling with the shoreline dotted with homes, but it does make for an enjoyable paddle.—LGM, Port Orchard, 5/6.

**QUINULT VALLEY** (Olympic Natl Park; USGS Lk Quinault, Mt Christie)—The weather was clearing as I drove into Aberdeen, and the stars were shining with an un-



A field of globe flowers (*Trollius laxus*) and false hellebore (*Veratrum viride*); Olympic National Park.

Don Paulson

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

fettered brilliance as I headed north to Humptulips.

I saw the smudge of The Comet near the northwest horizon, so I momentarily turned out my headlights. That Comet was radiant with a brightness I had not seen in the past month! I decided to pitch my tent in the "Pleistocene Bog" (*May, page 5*) to get a nice look at the spectacle amid the timeless sphagnum ecosystem.

I sloshed through the edge of the water and found the "island" of raised ground which harbored the only living trees in the bog. I turned out my headlamp and was overwhelmed by the Comet, its anterior wake streaming red and green charged ions through the vacuum. I made the appropriate exclamations as I periodically glanced up while pitching my tent.

The next morning I carried my stuff back to the car and headed for the Quinault. I decided to go up the road toward Graves Creek Campground from the locked gate at the bridge. I only got about a mile up the road when the road crew boys told me to "hop in" for a ride to go get my car. They had decided to open the road!

I parked at the trailhead and headed for the "flats" about 1/2-mile up the road from the Graves Creek bridge. This is a wonderful area of old growth Douglas-firs, some of them approaching 12 feet in diameter!

If you cruise over to the creek bed about 1/4-mile to the right (south) of the road, you will encounter a very large old growth area with many huge firs and some spruce, all evenly spaced survivors of a fire about 600 years ago.

The creek itself is nearly a living fantasy of little waterfalls and pools. The maidenhair ferns and other growth are astonishing on this early spring day. I hiked farther up the road to within 1/4-mile of the end of the old road.

If you look to the left (north) here, you will notice a sharp crest with a notch about 100 feet above the road. Drop steeply beyond this notch about 400 feet down to the river and a very nice lunch spot by a deep green canyon pool. There is a spectacular step in the riverbed just upstream, and the river roars over this step with mighty power.

I hiked through the spring growth to the Pony Bridge. The canyon walls are sprouting. I decided to take a second lunch on the sunny rocks just downstream from the bridge. This was a starting point of a wade down the canyon I took many years ago. Even in the low water of September 1963, it was more of a semi-controlled swim than a wade!

Put 'er in low gear and hiked back to the car. The sun was streaming beautifully through the timber and lighting up the moss. At the campground, I took a tour along the nature trail loop. The deer were pretty tame, and I got within ten feet of them!

The hillside across the river was dusted with snow above 3000 feet. The cottonwoods were particularly fragrant, and the yellow foliage counterpointed the deep green of the conifer forest. —Larry Smith, Port Orchard, 5/1-2.

*Note:* The "Pleistocene Bog" is 5 miles north of Humptulips, not 5 miles south as previously mentioned in last month's *Pack & Paddle*.



## GIG HARBOR TO BLAKE ISLAND (state park; NOAA

18449)—The newly formed Gig Harbor Kayak Club had its first overnight kayak camping trip.

Four of us put in at the Gig Harbor boat launch, packed our boats, and were on the water at 8:15. It was bright overcast when we left on the ebb tide with the very light south wind behind us, and we made it to Olalla in just under two hours. We stopped for a break and also to pick up another two paddlers.

Then it was on to Blake Island. Colvos Passage was near perfect paddling and as good as Colvos gets. We paddled to the camping area at the north end of Blake, where we were met by another of our group who had paddled over the night before after leaving his car at Southworth.

We figured we paddled 16 miles from Gig Harbor, and arrived at our destination at 12:45. There were a number of campers here and quite a few boats tied to the buoys, as the marina was almost full.

We set up camp and hiked to the south end, checked out the Cascadia Marine Trail campsite, and hiked back. We flew kites and prepared dinner as the weather changed. That evening the wind did a 180-degree switch and howled and the rain hammered as we each hunkered down in our soggy tents.

The next morning dawned cold and wet, but semi-bright and we hadn't been blown to Oz. We cooked our breakfasts and packed up, did a trip around the island, and set off for Southworth, where we were picked up.

A good shake-down warm-up for more kayak camping trips.—J. Berlin, Gig Harbor, 4/26-27.



**MOUNT ELLINOR** (*Mt Skokomish Wilderness; USGS Mt Washington*)—Joined 10 others under the guidance of Serendipitous Sam for

an annual spring ascent of Mount Ellinor and the Great Glissade. This is an annual event for literally thousands.

Road snowblocked at the lower trailhead. To the upper trailhead in about 50 minutes by way of the road and clearcut in light rain. From the upper trailhead to the summit in about 2 1/2 hours. Whiteout conditions from the base of the chute on.

At the brief summit stop (left to make room for the next party of pilgrims) one had the feeling that a compass would indicate due south in every direction.

About two feet of heavy wet new snow in the chute. Glissades were slow, bumpy, and limited to the few very steep pitches. Two hours, summit to lower trailhead.—Paul G. Schaufler, Olympia, 5/4.

**GRAY WOLF RIVER**—Slides over trail at 4 and 4.5 miles. Trees down. Footlog at Slab Camp is out.—Ranger, 5/5.

**NORTH FORK SKOKOMISH**—Trail has been cleared of debris to 4 miles. Snow begins beyond Big Log.—Ranger, 5/5.

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# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

**FLAPJACK LAKES**—Snow beyond Madeline Creek; 4 feet deep at the lakes. Reservations available (not required, but recommended) beginning Memorial Day weekend; phone 360-452-0300. Limit of 30/night.—Ranger, 5/5.

**DOSEWALLIPS**—Gate is OPEN at the park boundary. Main Fork trail is snowfree to Slide Creek.

The High Bridge on the West Fork trail that has been closed for repairs for a long time **WILL BE OPEN** by Memorial Day weekend, says the ranger. The repair and closure of this bridge has stopped cross-Olympic traffic over Anderson Pass for more than a year.—Ranger, 5/15.

**ELWHA**—Trail is snowfree to Buckingham Creek, but has only been maintained as far as Marys Falls. A crew is working out there now, so the trail improves by the day.—Ranger, 5/15.

**SOL DUC**—The bridge over Sol Duc falls at 1 mile from the trailhead is being replaced. Trail will be open only to the bridge until repair is complete, probably sometime in July.—Ranger, 5/15.

**LENA LAKE**—Trail has been maintained and is snowfree. Lake is thawed.—Ranger, 5/15.

**OLYMPIC HOT SPRINGS**—Road is now re-opened. 2½-mile hike into hot springs.—Ranger, 5/15.

**HOH**—Trail is snowfree to Elk Lake. Downed trees have been cleared out to 11 miles. Trail is drying. Martin Creek bridge is out.—Ranger, 5/15.

**QUINAULT, NORTH FORK**—The Kimta Creek bridge is out. The trail is closed beyond Francis Creek until the bridge is replaced later this summer. The Stalding Creek and Three Prune

Creek bridges are also scheduled for replacement in the fall.—Ranger, 5/15.

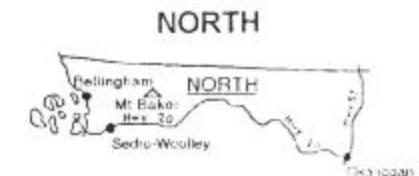
**DUNGENESS SPIT**—New regulations have arrived. Basically, hikers can walk the strait-side of the spit year-round. But the inside is closed to walkers 5/15 to 9/15 beyond the first ½-mile.

For paddlers, the waters are open from 5/15 to 9/30 outside a 100-yard buffer from shore. The *only* place kayaks or canoes can land is at a designated spot near the lighthouse. It is marked by signs and reservations are required to land! Call the Coastal Refuge office in Sequim to obtain reservations: 360-457-8451.—5/16.



## SOUTHWEST

**LEADBETTER POINT** (State Park & National Wildlife Refuge; USGS Oysterville, North Cove)—All trails to ocean beaches still flooded. Loop trail between parking lots wet in spots but passable. Beach trail on Bay side (yellow trail) connects to green trail through woods for short but pleasant loop trip.—Paul G. Schaulfer, Olympia, 5/12.



**GUEMES ISLAND (VOL. 1 18421)**—Plan A was to launch from the northeast end of Guemes Is-

## 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



Lee McKee

Taking a break at Lightning Creek on Ross Lake; North Cascades National Park.



# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

land at Young County Park, quickly paddle counterclockwise around the north end of Guemes to catch the last of the ebb current in Bellingham Channel, then ride the flood through Guemes Channel and continue back to the launch point.

It didn't work because as our group of 11 kayaks started down Bellingham Channel, we encountered, to our surprise, the start of the flood current instead of the last of the ebb.

Rather than continue, we formed Plan B. That plan was to turn around, paddle back around Clark Point on the north end of Guemes, and continue down the east side of Guemes via Jack Island to Saddlebag Island for lunch, then return to the launch point. That didn't work, either, because as we rounded Clark Point, we found ourselves paddling into sustained 10 knot winds with accompanying waves.

The prospect of doing that for several miles wasn't appealing, so Plan C was quickly formed which was to land on Jack Island for lunch, then call it a day and paddle back to the launch point.

Plan C worked! After fighting wind and waves for a mile, our group of now 9 kayaks (two called it a day early) made it to Jack and found a small landing spot among the rocky shoreline on the southwest end of the island to pull out on. Jack is part of the Nature Conservancy and a sign asks visitors to respect the wishes of that group when visiting the island.

Dark clouds brought a rain shower which also brought an end to lunch. Back in the kayaks our group leader suggested we circle small Jack Island so that we could say we had circumnavigated at least one island on this paddle. That done, we headed back to Young County Park which is due west of Jack. The winds had died down considerably making for a much more pleasant crossing.

To visit Guemes Island, you need to take the San Juan County ferry from Anacortes. The crossing takes 5 minutes and costs \$6.25 round trip for car and driver (\$5.25 October through April) and \$1.25 for a passenger. The ferry runs basically on the hour, with additional runs on the half hour on weekdays during commute hours. For more information, call 360-336-9400.

On Guemes are three road-ends on the west and southwest sides of the island where you can launch, but there is very limited parking and no restroom facilities. Young County Park on the northeast end has parking for a number of cars, picnic facilities, and a portapotty. See *North Puget Sound Afloat*

& *Afloat* for directions.—LGM, Port Orchard, 5/3.

**SAN JUAN COUNTY PARK**—We had a splendid two days of kayaking from San Juan County Park on San Juan Island.

Some of our group of 18 paddlers got a good look of a pod of orca whales.—Roger Gray, Bremerton, 4/11-12.

**NORTH CASCADES NATL PARK**—Permits are required for overnight stays in the backcountry. Permits are available in Marblemount, Sedro-Woolley, Newhalem, Glacier, and Chelan. Call 360-873-4590 for more information.

North Cascades Highway is open. Snow is 8 feet deep at the PCT trailhead at Rainy Pass. Cascade River road closed at mile 12 (Hard Creek) until July.

Thunder Creek trail snowfree 3 miles; trees down. Fourth of July Pass trail snowfree halfway up. West Bank trail snowfree to Big Beaver and trees cleared.—Ranger, 5/15.

**ROSS LAKE**—Ross Lake resort (206-386-4437) opens 6/13. Water taxi service begins 6/13. Diablo Lake passenger tug begins service 6/13.—Ranger, 5/5.

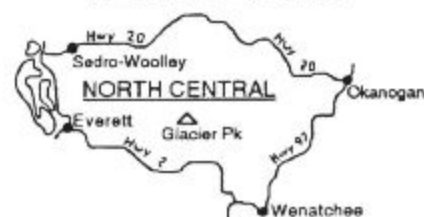
**OKANOGAN NATL FOREST**—West Chewuch road snowfree to 1 mile past end of pavement. Eightmile road snowfree to Flat Camp. Harts Pass road snowfree to Cache Creek. Twisp River road snowfree to end of pavement.

With warm weather, roads will change daily. Call Methow Visitor Center for current conditions: 509-996-4000. Trails remain snowed in.—Ranger, 5/9.

**MT BAKER DIST**—The Glacier Creek road will be open this year—when it finally melts out. All trails under snow, except for lower portions of some south-facing trails, like Church Mountain.—Ranger, 5/15.

**DECEPTION PASS STATE PARK**—All of the park south of the bridge and west of Highway 20 is closed until July for major renovation work. Call 800-233-0321 for information.

## NORTH CENTRAL



**MOUNT PILCHUCK**—Trail construction work scheduled for this summer will limit access to the trail. It will be closed Monday through Thursday from June to late October to allow the use of explosives and helicopters.

The trail will be open Friday through Sunday with possible short delays on Fridays.—Ranger, 5/10.

**SUIATTLE RIVER**—The Canyon Creek bridge will be replaced this sum-



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mer, starting June 1. The construction project will close the Suiattle River trail beyond Canyon Creek, 6½ miles in, until early July.

There is no alternative crossing, and fording is not recommended. The 90-foot bridge was built in 1953. Many of the wooden materials, including all support beams, need to be replaced.—Ranger, 5/10.



### STILLAGUAMISH RAILROAD TUNNELS (USGS

*Granite Falls*)—I joined the Granite Falls hiking group for the first time this season to hike down to the railroad tunnels, ruins from another era. The trailhead is well marked, on the top of Sand Hill (a glacier moraine) right off the Mountain Loop Highway.

The trail is very well maintained, dropping to the river then fairly flat and in great shape for the most part. It did slide here and there (along the river) but is mostly fine until just after the second tunnel, where it's closed (a bad slide)

A total of 1.2 miles, one way, and a good walk. Especially as we are all waiting patiently (well, maybe not so patiently but definitely *waiting*) for the high country to melt out!—Mystery Hiker, Verease and Willow, Granite Falls, 5/13.



### HEATHER LAKE (Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest;

*USGS Verlot*)—We wanted to see for ourselves how the BIG job of melting all that snow was coming!

Heather Lake is a short 2-mile hike (one way) and the lake sits at 2320 feet. The trail is in fine shape. It's completely snow free to about 2100 feet (by my altimeter at that moment) then it's pretty much snowcovered.

No problem finding the lake as the snow was very hard packed and we weren't the first ones up there! It was a beautiful day. The lake itself has begun to melt out but finding so much as a rock or tree trunk to sit on and enjoy our delicious turkey sausage sandwiches wasn't easy though we did manage!

Ah, the challenges we face in the mountains!—Mystery Hiker and Mr. Maphead, Granite Falls, 5/14.

**MOUNTAIN LOOP**—Was just plowed open to Barlow Pass on the Verlot side 5/15. There's a small parking area but it's going to be tight until some more snow melts.

The Big Four trail is snow-covered past the second bridge, but the old parking area and the picnic grounds are snowfree.

The highway is plowed to just north of Elliott Creek; you can walk to the Goat Lake trailhead. The trail has snow patches and downed trees the first 3 miles, and solid snow after that.—Ranger, 5/16.



### BARCLAY LAKE (Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest;

*USGS Baring*)—The trail is mostly snowfree but the shoreline is still snowy, with campsites just starting to melt out.

I headed up the slope toward Eagle Lake, and finally hit solid snow at 3500 feet.—Ron Rugg, Seattle, 5/15.

**CHELAN DIST**—Ticks are out in abundance. Run-off has definitely started; Lake Chelan is rising at 6 inches a day. The Lakeshore trail has been brushed and cleared of downed logs.—Ranger, 5/15.

**STEHEKIN**—Bus service begins 5/23 from Stehekin Landing to High Bridge for the holiday weekend, and daily starting 6/1. Target date for extending service to Bridge Creek is 7/1.—Ranger, 5/15.

**ENTIAT DIST**—The Entiat road is melted out now to Silver Creek, still many miles from road-end and the trailhead.

The lower Mad River trail is snow-free for 4 miles.—Ranger, 5/14.

**LAKE WENATCHEE DIST**—Road access is limited. Little Wenatchee road 6500 is gated at 1 mile. Chiwawa road 6200 is gated at 1 mile. White River road 6400 is accessible to Tall Timber Ranch. These roads are still snowcovered, and after the snow melts, they will be closed until the tread dries.

With luck and continued warm weather, the Chiwawa road may be open to the end of the pavement by Memorial Day weekend.

The Dirty Face Peak trail, which begins right behind the ranger station, is snowfree for 2½ miles. Mosquitoes and ticks are plentiful. A few days ago, hikers spotted a mother bear with cubs on the trail.—Ranger, 5/15.

**PCT**—There's still 5 feet of snow in the Crest Trail parking lot at Snoqualmie Pass.—Sally Pfeifer, Seattle, 5/11.



### COWBOY MOUNTAIN

(*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Stevens Pass*)—It was a lovely day, no wind, no rain and little sun. We ascended the Cloud 9 run on Seventh Heaven at the Ski Area.

Beyond the upper lift station, we went up a steep slope. I lost my courage. It seemed vertical and snow gave way as I scrambled with hands and feet. Joanie was at the right spot and talked me into doing just the next hold or step.

The ridge was so narrow I could hardly walk it, but after lunch I was able to move around more comfortably. The view was spectacular and panoramic. Canada jays ate from our hands!

Okay, so I made the summit. But as Linda, Nancy, Bettye, Ann and Joan laughed, talked and ate and admired the view, I was plagued by one question: How would I get down?

Nancy to the rescue! She went first and made footholds for me to follow. I couldn't stay up there alone, so with fear and trembling, a good self-belay with my ice axe, and constant prayer (Ann, who was behind me, said I muttered all the way down). I moved one foot at a time.

As the slope lessened, Joanie said, "Turn around, look down and go forward." I obeyed and it did feel divine to be in control despite the angle.

On the way down we paused for ice-axe self-arrest practice, my least favorite activity. Every year I grit my teeth and do it because I need to, but this is the first time I enjoyed any of it. Fear diminished and comfort increased. Another dragon slain!

We finished by regrouping at Nancy's cabin and planning our next outing.—Manita Nery, Freeland, 4/26.

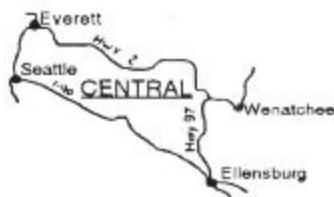


### TAYLOR RIVER AREA

(*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Lk Philippa*)—The Taylor River road was in unusually good shape, with impressively healthy potholes. There was one low-bridge tree hanging across the road and a tree blocking the trailhead lot near the Middle Fork trailhead. Compared to last year, there is remarkably little road damage.

On the Taylor River trail, there is also little of the storm damage that I expected. Perhaps part of the reason is the snow hasn't melted yet! Last year at this time I was probing the snowline at the high lakes. This year, at only 1600 feet, I am crossing 8-foot high drifts. Unbelievable. The deepest snow is in

### CENTRAL




# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

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the second and third miles of trail.

The snow is less of a problem than the water. Water is pouring out of the hills fast and everywhere, mostly ignoring the old, plugged culverts. The seasonal creek crossing at ½-mile, usually a pleasant hop, is swift and almost dangerous.


At Marten Creek, 3 miles, the old bridge is still hanging on—barely. The normally quiet falls are roaring and putting on a show. More water hazards near 3.5 miles where a brisk Anderson Creek overruns about 80 feet of trail, and at Otter Creek, about 4.5 miles.—Larry Trammell, Issaquah, 4/20.

 **GRANITE MOUNTAIN** (*Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS Snoqualmie Pass*)—A solo climb of Granite seemed in order on this nice morning.

Starting from trail 1007 at exit 47 from I-90, I found the lower trail in excellent condition. No snow encountered until about 3500 feet. The snow under the trees was frozen hard and difficult to kick steps.

Arriving at the main avalanche chute I opted for a route up the southwest ridge, on the left side of the chute. I was soon wishing I had brought my crampons as the snow was hard on the flanks of the gully.

I bailed out directly onto the ridge and was immediately post-holing. The only other climber was another soloist on his way down at the 5200-foot level. The climb up took me 2½ hours with a rapid descent, with lots of sitting glissades, of just over an hour.—Fred Redman, Woodinville, 4/7.

 **MAILBOX PEAK** (*USGS Bandera, Chester Morse Lk*)


—Seven of the Kenworth Hikers left Yarrow Bay for exit 34 on I-90. Left on Edgewick Road past the truck stop, right turn on the Middle Fork road. Drive to the end of the blacktop and park on the left.

On the right side of the road is a gate across an old logging road; hike this road to the trail start on the left side, just before a creek that passes under the road. The trail is pretty well defined, until you get to a point where a trail crosses the creek to the right. Don't take it—the trail you want goes to the left.

The trail very quickly starts heading UP with very few switchbacks. The summit has plenty of snow, the mail box being barely visible above it. Spectacular cornices on the north side of the ridge.

The descent gave us one sitting glissade, then straight down the trail. It

took us 2 hours and 26 minutes for the ascent and about half that to get back down.—Fred, Doug, Mickey, Dan, Bill, Jack, Dick, 4/24.


 **MAILBOX PEAK** (*USGS Bandera, Chester Morse Lk*)

—A lot of trails are steep for maybe 1000 or 1500 feet, but this narrow-but-smooth path is *very steep* for most of its 4000-foot-gain in less than 3 miles.

At 3500 to 4000 feet the trees thin and at 4000 feet is a pleasant bench to relax after the relentless exercise. I used the many snow patches to keep cool. Some ribbons led to the left into deep hard snow so I returned to the bench and went straight up the rocks for about 10 minutes to another bench with plenty of snow patches. This pretty little spot was my favorite of the trip. From here it is a few hundred feet up the open ridge to the mailbox at 4841 feet.

This southwest corner melts out very early (even before Bandera) and is the ultimate spring workout close to the Seattle area. Also very few people. On

this perfect Sunday, I met only one large scattered group coming down as I was going up.—Ron Rugg, Seattle, 5/11.

 **DIRTY HARRY'S BALCONY** (*DNR; USGS Bandera*)—Three of us decided to explore the new trail to DHB. As we drove to the trailhead parking lot along road 9031 (Green Trails Bandera 206), we and 12 other cars were stopped by a log across the road about ½-mile from the parking lot. We arrived at the log at 11:30.

North of the road blockage, blow-downs and tree top breakoffs abound. We cleared about half of the small limbs and tree tops from the road as we walked toward the trailhead. When we got to the trail located to the left at the first right bend in the road/trail, we found more blowdowns, lots of rocks, and a few avalanche remains on the trail.

We discovered that the trail builders connected it to the abandoned Mount Defiance trail. I remember when that trail was closed during the I-90 construction. It still remains and is in fair

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condition.

Look sharp! If you don't, you may wind up down at the freeway. Stay right until you come to the big rock with the overhang. Stay below that rock and within 20 to 50 yards you will have to cross a creek. In the summer it may not be flowing. Keep following the trail for another mile to DHB.

On the way back we cleared more branches and trees off the road from the nice new parking lot to the cars. The new lot should hold about 60 to 70 cars. We met only two people on the DHB trail. They went to the first avalanche where we met them and their friendly black Lab.

On our way back to the car, we happened upon a group of 10 Mountaineers who were clearing the road up to the Mason Lake trail. We also met two fellows who had chopped through that 12-inch tree that blocked the road. They did it with a little camp hatchet.

For hikers not familiar with the trails available from the Mason Lake trailhead parking lot, there is DHB, Mount Defiance, Mason Lakes and beyond, and Bandera Mountain. All have nice vertical gains and wonderful sights to see.—Wanderbuns, Shortstop, and the Driver, 4/26.

**LEAVENWORTH DIST**—Ice road is snowfree 13 miles. Eightmile road is gated at the bridge due to repair work; the plan is that it will be open by Memorial Day weekend, but that's a "maybe."

Snow Lakes trail is snowfree 3 miles, then solid snow. Ice Ridge trail is snowfree to the ridge, but has not been cleared of debris. Ingalls Creek trail is snowfree for a couple of miles; winter flooding has washed out tread in a couple of spots.—Ranger, 5/15.

**ENCHANTMENTS**—Permits are required for overnight use from 6/15 through 10/15. Permit reservations for most summer dates are full. To make reservations call 888-953-7677.

The fee is \$1 per person per day; VISA or Mastercard are accepted. You can also pay by check, which must be received within 5 calendar days of making your reservation. When you place your call, have your trip itinerary ready including trip dates, destinations, entry point, and group number. Have alternate dates in mind.

Maximum group size is 8. Reservations will be taken up to 7 days prior to trip date.

Day-of-use permits are available on a lottery system at the Leavenworth Ranger Station.—Ranger, 5/6.

**CLE ELUM DIST**—Although snow is melting fast, it's still deep enough for skiing. Kachess campground has 3 feet of snow; at Salmon la Sac campground it's 3 feet deep. In the Teanaway, you can drive to Beverly guard station, but then snow is 3 feet deep. The Stafford Creek road is only snowfree about a mile.

Salmon la Sac campground will be closed all of '97 for extensive repair to water and sewer systems damaged in the winter flooding.—Ranger, 5/15.

## NORTHEAST



**SAGE HILL** (private; USGS Wenatchee, Monitor)—April marks the season for balsam on Sage Hill. Large numbers of these showy, yellow flowers change sections of the hillside from a soft green to bright yellow.

They are intermixed with flowering lupine, making the hillsides a delightful place to travel this time of year. Balsam are favorite browsing material for the resident deer herds. On a recent hike about fifty deer were sighted, with one group being 20 to 30 strong.

The hill lies directly west of Wenatchee Valley College, and rises to an elevation of about 3000 feet. With the Columbia River flowing nearby at about 600 feet elevation, the relief is enough to create inspiring views of Wenatchee and the surrounding area.

The trailhead at the end of Sage Hill Drive is an informal one and crosses private land with one posted restriction from the owner: no motorized vehicles. Many mountain bikers also use the area, but their presence is mostly on the lower trails closer to town.

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## SOUTH CENTRAL



## WEST TIGER 2 AND 3

(Issaquah Alps; USGS Hobart, Fall City)—Kenworth Hikers group decided to try another route on Tiger as we wait for some more snow to melt off the higher trails.

We left High Point and walked up to the Bus Road, along the Bus Road and turned up the Caves trail. From the caves we headed up to the West Tiger Railroad Grade Trail, by way of the Section Line Trail, and turned right, roughly south. The trails in the area of the caves are a little ill-defined and care must be taken to get on the correct trail to head southwest to join the Section Line Trail.

There was a lot of downed alder on the WTRRG Trail and it made for a lot of climbing over logs and branches. We turned on Mannings Reach and headed up to summit 2. This trail goes through an open area with some very nice views. The trail is quite overgrown and it was a lot of pushing through knee-high brush.

From 2 we followed our regular route back to 3 and down Tradition Lake Trail.—Doug, Dan, Bill, George, Jack and Fred, 4/17.



## POO-POO POINT

(Issaquah Alps; USGS Issaquah)—Doug invited me to go on a Saturday hike with him and his two daughters, Sarah (10) and Carol (6). They picked me up at my house and we drove to the High School at Issaquah. It was a lovely morning.

The trail up to the power line is a good starter but Carol was having trouble getting motivated, so we had lots of rests. Eventually we got to the power

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

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line and took the Poo-Poo Point Trail. This is the one that heads southwest. The trail that starts at the pole fence is marked and is the Section Line Trail.

Carol finally got motivated and the girls wanted to go ahead with a radio to keep in touch with dad on his radio. Pretty soon I'm dripping sweat and have to put my head band on as we are climbing at a steady 1600 feet per hour to keep the girls from getting too far in front. There has been lots of trail work done since the winter storms and a magnificent new bridge built over the creek that had the big mud slide (West Creek?).

At the Railroad Grade we turned right to the Poo-Poo Point trail. This section still has lots of small trees down over it but some had been cleared. We had lunch at the Point and enjoyed the views in warm sunshine.


We followed the West Tiger Railroad Grade Trail back until we got to the Section Line Trail then headed down and back to the High School.

The girls wanted to play a game with dad going down this trail, where they run and grab onto a tree, then dad runs down after them. I got the job of holding the dog on leash. Each time they ran the dog took off after them with dear old Fred hanging on for dear life and no free hand to grab a tree.

It was great fun, but I did pay dearly that night with sore knees and thighs.

There are lots of things to keep children interested on this hike—old logging artifacts, railroad spikes, deer tracks, parasailers at Poo-Poo Point.

The girls did extremely well and made for a very enjoyable hike.—Fred Redman, Woodinville, 4/26.

 **WEST TIGER MOUNTAIN**  
1, 2 & 3 (Issaquah Alps; USGS  
Fall City, Hobart)—A good turnout

with seven hikers from the Kenworth Engineers hikers: Jack still not fully recovered from a torn ligament; Annita's first hike of the season—both decided to go the tourist route to West Tiger 3. Dick accused the rest of us of being "animals" and decided on the short route to West Tiger 2. Dan, Mickey, George and I set off to do all three.

Jack and Annita set off first as we waited at the High Point trailhead for everyone to get ready.

While I was waiting a Jeep with exempt plates came down the road from the new parking lot, so I figured the driver was DNR or State Parks. He was DNR. I asked him what the intention was for the gate to the park. He told me that it was a day use park and would close at dusk. I guess evening users will still have to park out on the road!

We finally got started. Dan set off at a blistering pace with Mickey hanging on for dear life. Dan left Mickey in his dust so Mickey waited for the rest of us to catch up. Just before the West Tiger Railroad Grade Trail we passed Jack and Annita. At the WTRRG Trail there was no sign of Dan. We called his name without response, we turned left and hoped Dan had made the turn ok.

We tried the fabulous new bridge over the washout at Highpoint Creek—great job—and continued to Dick Heinz trail up to WT 1. Surprised to find a swath of new logging on 1.

Crossed over to WT 2 on the roads to find Dick waiting for us. He had gone along the WTRRG Trail and taken the direct trail to the summit of 2. No sign of Dan!


Followed the trail to WT 3, still no Dan. We had a long discussion on what we could do about Dan if he wasn't at the parking lot when we got down. We arrived at the WTRRG Trail just in time to see Dan coming along that trail

from the left!

"Dan, where have you been?"

"I was going so well I missed the turn and finished up near the top of Tiger 3. I knew I'd goofed so I turned around and met Jack coming up here. I asked him which way I should have gone and he said right so I went that way."

Poor Dan had been past Poo-Poo Point Trail before turning around. We had to give him a bad time for his memory of routes but gave him full credit for his timing.—Fred Redman, Woodinville, 4/10.

 **MOUNT WASHINGTON**  
(state and private land; USGS  
Chester Morse Lk)—Hurray, Hurray,  
the first of May, summer hiking begins  
today!

The Kenworth Hikers thought so anyway. We wanted to bag Mount Washington before all the snow has gone.

After our last snowshoe attempt, resulting in parking tickets (*February, page 12*), I called Tom Riggs at Sammamish State Park to get permission to be parked after dark (*May, page 4*).

The gentleman answering the phone informed me that Mr. Riggs was in a meeting. I explained that I was THE Fred Redman who caused the ruckus

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when I got a parking ticket and that I wanted permission to be at the parking lot after dark. He took the information on my vehicle.

The trail has had a lot of work done on it in the lower elevations with many of the small trees cut down. This is great except that who ever did it cut them at an angle producing punjisticks, waiting for unsuspecting sole to step on them. The full impact of this was not realized until Mickey got to the parking lot and removed his boots. A section of stick had pierced his boot sole narrowly missing his toes and embedded into the upper part of the boot. He had complained that his feet were wet and cold!

The trail is obvious to follow in the lower elevations until you get to a fork at a cliff. The left fork deadends, but has a nice view over the valley. Take the right fork. Arriving at a creek, go directly across. The trail isn't quite as obvious here.

By this time we had encountered snow, new, on top of old base, with snow still dropping from the trees. After a couple of switchbacks the trail follows a creek bed for quite a while. A nice pond in a hollow has an outflow that must be crossed to head up the west slope.

The slope has been logged in the past so the mixture of old stumps, logs and rocks partially covered with snow made for lots of fun. After a while we hit a headwall of trees that we had to get through.

At one point on this slope fighting the small trees Brandon suddenly declared, "It's time to unload my rocks!" He removed his pack and dumped out about 40 pounds of rocks he had stowed for extra load.

Our approximate response was, "Don't you have some in your head you need to unload?"

At the top of this slope we broke out onto an old logging road that we followed. It headed east then switched back to the west until we came to the north ridge.


We followed the ridge up to the summit. It was great—the sun was shining and we were postholing in 12 inches of new over a very good base. The basin that faces north had obvious signs of snow slides that had started at the cornice. At the summit the views are great and the remote weather station mast was coated with ice.

On the descent we followed the ridge rather than going back down the miserable slope and found it much easier. Then we kept going straight down until we hit the old trail in the creek bed,

avoiding the big switchback up to the pond. A cliff part way down this route can be avoided by keeping to the left.

We arrived back at the car park at dusk, 3 hours up, ½ hour on the summit, 1½ hours down. NO TICKET!

Mickey's experience prompted him to buy some new, better quality boots!—Brandon, Doug, Fred, Jack, Mickey, 5/1.

 **PINNACLE PEAK** (*Rainier Natl Park; USGS Mt Rainier East*)—As usual Dean and I left Lakebay at about 0530 for the drive to Mount Rainier and were pleased to find that traffic was very light. We arrived at the Park entrance before 0730 and found the gate open and no one collecting entrance fees.

Upon our arrival at Longmire, the gate to Paradise was also open and we proceeded to Narada Falls. Only two other cars were in the parking lot and the occupants of both were preparing to start the climb up to the snow-covered Stevens Canyon Road that leads to Reflection Lakes. One group of two was off for a day of cross-country skiing. The other was a group of four heading for the summit of Lane Peak.

Some good steps were already kicked in the snow just to the right of the trees, so we were able to gain the road without any difficulty. It was too steep for snowshoes and the snow was firm and yet soft enough that crampons weren't needed. Upon gaining the road, we put on snowshoes and we kept them on until the first steep area just to the right and south of Reflection Lakes.

From this area and the saddle between Castle and Pinnacle Peak, we probably removed the snowshoes two or three times on the very steep portions. At the large rock at the center of the saddle we stopped for a lunch break.

Here we left our snowshoes as we proceeded south and then west. We traversed the south side following a previous climber's good steps until we cleared the last rock formation and several loose moats. Then we kicked new steps in the snow as we headed northeast until we reached the standard South Route and climbed partially on rock and snow up the gully to a small ridge crest just below the summit.


There was some water ice from this ridge to the summit but nothing that required us to put on our crampons. The views from the summit (6562 feet) were great—Mount St. Helens, Mount Adams and even Mount Hood were visible. Mount Rainier was so very close but was socked in with cloud cover and yet we were very clear.

We followed the same route back

down to the saddle and found a downhill skier and a snowboarder about to follow our route to the summit. There was also another group of three that appeared to be making an attempt on The Castle and one other solo individual either attempting the summit of The Castle or doing some cross-country skiing way above the Stevens Canyon Road. Due to being so close we thought about climbing The Castle, but it was obvious that the predicted storm was heading our way and after a few rain drops we were convinced that The Castle could wait for another day.

We did more traversing on the return trip to save the removal of snowshoes. Saw a number of cross-country skiers on the road on the return. On the final descent to the parking lot at Narada Falls we found the snow a little softer and slushier than I would like for good footing. We found by hugging the forested area the snow was a little firmer and footing was much more secure while plunge-stepping down.

The parking lot now had many cars and the traffic back down the mountain was more like a summer day.—James V. Latteri & Dean Shriner, Lakebay, 4/26.

 **MAZAMA RIDGE** (*Rainier Natl Park; USGS Mt Rainier East*)—The combination of midweek sun and fresh snow creates rare opportunity for scenes with pristine snow. Arrive Paradise at 8:45am, just as Mountain Rescue, TV crews and found snowboarder are departing.

22-inch MSR shoes provide adequate support except in drifted hollows. With the 4x5 camera I gross out at around 180 pounds. Really gross.

At 11am the Stevens-Van Trump Memorial is somewhere underneath me. Brisk wind numbs fingers. The trail leading up to the Memorial is a knife edge snow drift. Wander south from the Memorial, dramatic drifts all along the east edge of Mazama Ridge, crystalline snow sparkles in sun. Back to Paradise at 3pm. Snow in south facing upper Paradise River valley has turned to slush.—Paul G. Schaulfer, Olympia, 5/7.

**ROAD OPENINGS**—*Cayuse and Chinook Passes* are scheduled to open Memorial Day weekend. *Stevens Canyon road* tentatively will open 5/23.

*Sunrise road* tentative opening on 7/3. *Greenwater road* 70 closed at 7 miles; will be relocated this summer.

Carbon River bridge on road 7810 into the *Clearwater Wilderness* is still out; repair is not expected any time soon. Access to the wilderness from the

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

east is shut down because bridge on Viola Creek is out.—Ranger, 5/5.

## SOUTH



**WIND RIVER DIST**—Lower elevations of some trails are melting out, such as the PCT, Dry Creek, and Trapper Creek.

Wind River Highway is plowed open to Lone Butte; 1 foot of snow remains.—Ranger, 5/16.

**MOUNT ADAMS DIST**—On the northeast side of the district, roads are snowfree about 2½ miles above the forest boundary. On the west side, roads are snowfree about 2-mile.

**MT ADAMS WILDERNESS**—Campfires are no longer allowed in elevations above the trail encircling the mountain, including Round-the-Mountain, PCT and Highline.—Ranger, 5/7.

**MT ST HELENS**—Fee now required for many areas in the Monument. Call 360-247-3900.

## CALIFORNIA



### JOSHUA TREE NATL

**PARK**—The high desert north of Palm Springs is at its finest during the spring. During this time blossoms on the Joshua trees, yuccas, other cacti, and assorted other flowers provide a variety of color. Temperatures vary from freezing at night to pleasant 60-70 degrees Fahrenheit during the day.

An entrance fee of \$5 allows use of the park for a period of seven days. No fees are collected for the camping sites. A fourteen day limit within the park guarantees turnover, but the most popular campgrounds are perpetually full.

Guided nature trails at Barker Dam and the Real Hidden Valley are plenty popular. The Ryan Mountain trail provides vistas of the vast desert area.

"Josh" is also world renowned for its rock climbing opportunities. A guide book detailing close to 4000 routes proves so unwieldy to many that the guide book author has published a second book with about 500 selected routes.

Tom Farmer and I stayed most of a week while we sampled 35 or 40 routes. By selecting different climbing areas each day, we were able to see lots of the park from a variety of angles.

For those willing to carry their own water and overnight equipment, a large percentage of the park is managed as wilderness. Solitude is easy to find here

if one simply leaves the road and guided trails.—Charlie Hickenbottom, Wenatchee, 4/6-12.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

### TENT POLE REPLACEMENTS

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**TA Enterprises**  
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## BULLETIN BOARD

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

**FOUND**—A pair of sandals at the Mailbox Peak trailhead. Call 206-363-6978 (Seattle) to claim.

**FREE**—To good home only. Backpacker magazine, issues 1 through 33. You pay shipping. Call Louise, 425-771-7208 (Lynnwood).

**WANTED**—Kelty kid's Trek or Elite, or Tough Traveller Stallion child carrier. Can pay up to \$50. Contact Sheila, 206-745-2157 (Lynnwood).

**WANTED**—Soft, all leather, three-pin ski touring boots, sizes 38 and/or 39/40—old Alphas, Narronas, Alpinas, Kikuts, whatever.

Eric or Margrit, 509-996-3101, or

write HCR 74 Box B3, Mazama WA 98833-9712.

**FOR SALE**—McHale Inex Bayonet backpack. Paid \$660. Sell for \$330. Excellent condition. Call Jeff at 253-850-2856 (Spanaway).

**FOR SALE**—Two large Gregory Soft Packs, \$75 each. Also misc. day / climbing packs. Crampons, etc. Call Mary at 360-435-9574 (Arlington) for more info.

**FOR SALE**—Sailboat. 14-foot fiberglass C-Lark. Roller furling jib, spinnaker and extra mainsail. Custom trailer and cover. \$1200. Northend Seattle. 206-522-8539

**FOR SALE**—Just in time for the season! Walrus "Lite-Star" backpacking tent. 4.5 pounds, flysheet w/ vestibule, and custom footprint. Used 2x. \$150. Call Dave at 206-752-9214 (Tacoma).

**FOR RENT**—Orcas Island waterfront cabin for rent by the week. Sleeps 8. Seclusion; views; beachwalking; wildlife viewing. Available May-Oct. Write 1819 Hickox Road, Mount Vernon WA 98274 for additional data.

**HIKING PARTNER**—Woman, 46, interested in locating friends for hikes, canoes, Washington. Fransine, 206-216-0962.

**GROUP**—I'm interested in starting a small, loosely-structured group of hiking/backpacking companions from the Olympia/South Sound area.

Dayhikes to several-day walks (or longer?), sometimes strenuous. Call me. Stan, 360-866-5220 or 866-5270.

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

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

BILL BUNCH

# Hells Canyon

—A GOOD SPRING HIKE ON THE OREGON SIDE—

After a trip to Hells Canyon on the Idaho side last year, we decided to "go for it" with the extra cost, and do a long trip on the Oregon side in mid-April this year.

It had been a long winter in Spokane and we were anxious to get out. Hells Canyon fit our requirements: low elevation and no snow.

We contacted Beamers Hells Canyon Tours to arrange for a jet boat to drop us off on Thursday, April 10, and another boat to pick us up some 40 miles downstream on Tuesday, April 15.

Where is Hells Canyon, anyway, you ask? This canyon begins 90 miles south of Lewiston, Idaho, and Clarkston, Washington, and extends 40 miles farther south to a point near Oxbow, Oregon. Other than Pittsburg Landing, a road near White Bird, Idaho, no roads lead down to the river's edge.

The canyon has its own distinct beauty. It is almost desert-like, because it is almost barren. Flowers bloom in the spring, with a lot of low grass.

The tree line is about 4000 feet above sea level. With the river elevation at about 1000 feet in the canyon, tree level would be about 3000 feet above us.

After working for several months to coordinate dates and people, the true number of hikers was down to just three. On the morning of departure, the third guy phoned at 6:30am to say he could not leave work. We were down to just two—Jim Keenan and me.

Beamers got us as far as their Copper Creek Ranch that Thursday afternoon, where we stayed unexpectedly overnight due to delays by the other passengers.

The next morning we were dropped off at Johnson Bar at the river gauge at 11am on the Oregon side. We saw three Forest Service workers that day, and then no one else on the Oregon side until Sunday afternoon.

We thus started our trip downstream

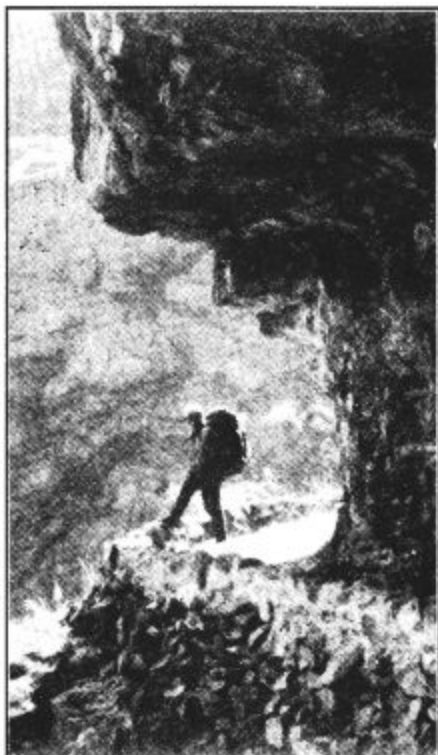
on trail 1726. One of the first points of interest was the trail through Eagle's Nest, where the trail is blasted out of rock. There is plenty of room for hikers and horses.

Our second highlight of the day was the now-abandoned Temperance Creek Ranch. Up until the summer of '96, this had been an active sheep ranch.

We did find ourselves losing the trail near the upstream fence line, so we followed the elaborate hand-dug irrigation line. It was worth seeing!

A party hiking through this area now should just walk through the open fields toward the abandoned house. We saw a wild turkey just a few feet from the building.

We crossed Temperance Creek on a 20-foot-long scaffolding plank and camped the first night along the river next to a sandy beach. We could look across to Suicide Point.



Jim on the blasted-out trail at Eagle's Nest, Day 1.

After a cold night—maybe 30 degrees—we got an early start on a nice sunny morning. As we approached Kirkwood Ranch, the trail was 25 to 30 feet above the river, and again cut into the rock walls.

On a downward slope, with the river right next to us, we both felt a little dizzy. Was this vertigo? We both stopped for a few seconds to get our balance back, and continued. Neither of us had experienced this before.

The river was running at about 40,000 cfs. During the winter it had been so high that it had covered the trail and in some places we had to negotiate large piles of driftwood.

As we moved on down opposite Pittsburg Landing, we could see damage from the August '96 brush fire. This fire had burned on the Oregon side down to the river's edge, and had jumped the river in a few places.

Any trees we came across were damaged by the fire, and many of them were dead. Near here, we saw our second herd of elk about 1000 feet above us. They watched us carefully.

Then the trail started to move away from the river and climb. Did it climb! We ended up setting up camp at about 3pm at Pleasant Valley Creek. We were in bed early with plans to get an early start the next day.

During the night we could see Comet Hale-Bopp very clearly.

The next morning we were on the trail by 7am. Picture the opening scene of "The Sound of Music"—this is what the climb was like.

We reached the top at 9:30, with the river now some 2000 feet below us. We could see it running almost in a straight line from Somers Creek to Copper Creek. We were still about 1000 feet below the tree line and snow line.

The trail follows Somers Creek on the north side until it meets the river. The Oregon Snake River trail 1726 follows the river northward and down-

Bill Bunch





Jim Keenan

Bill Bunch.

stream pretty much in a straight line for 3 or 4 miles. It was very easy walking with a little fine grass and a few wild roses or blackberry bushes near the trail, and occasional burrs.

This was by far our hardest day of hiking. We made it to Beamers Copper Creek Lodge by 3:30pm, after 8½ hours of pretty steady travel. At the lodge we got a beer and a warm shower.

The next day we planned to hike the next 10 to 12 miles to Dug Bar, where Chief Joseph and his people crossed the Snake while fleeing the Cavalry, but Monday was a day of rain.

We waited it out until 3 or 4pm. It was still raining, so we phoned our take-out ride, Butch of River Quest Excursions, to ask if he would be willing to meet us at Copper Creek.

If he wouldn't or couldn't, we would have to start moving downstream to meet him at Dug Bar by noon the next day. He agreed to come up the extra distance and get us.

So we did not finish the entire 40-mile trip. We had a very good 30-mile hike instead.

On our way out with River Quest, we stopped to walk through a 580-foot solid rock mine that runs between the Snake and Imnaha Rivers. The Mountain Chief Mine was constructed right after the turn of the century. Well worth the stop.

April and May are perfect times to do this trip. The trail is in good shape. Hikers can check on the river flow below Hells Canyon Dam by phoning Idaho Power Information at 800-422-3143.

Just a week after I returned home, the Snake River rose from 40,000 cfs (which would be a level of 74.5 feet) to

60,000 cfs (78.8 feet). With this 4-foot increase, a few areas of the Oregon Snake River Trail could be under water.

For the Idaho side, coming upstream from Pittsburg Landing to Kirkwood Ranch, water would be over the trail about ½-mile upstream from the trail-head. Our timing for the trip this year was just perfect.

To get a detailed map of Hells Canyon Wilderness, contact the Forest Service office in Enterprise at 541-426-4978.

This was our third April visit to Hells Canyon. At this time of year there is plenty of water, no bugs and no rattlesnakes. Daytime temperatures are in the 60s; at night it drops into the 30s. Snakes do come out a little later and many of the side streams running into the Snake do dry up.

The cost of our trip up was \$50, and the trip down (the only boat that day) was \$65. This early in the season, hikers have to work around the boat schedule.

In the summer months, there are lots of boats, but the temperatures in the bottom of the canyon can very easily top 100 degrees. Limited water and warm temperatures are not our style of backpacking.

We will be back again to do some more hiking and exploring of Hells Canyon. We still have to complete the section from Copper Creek downstream to the Imnaha River (where the Imnaha flows into the Snake), plus the "high trail," which is about 2000 feet above the canyon floor.

For more information:

**Forest Service**

541-426-4978

**Beamers Hells Canyon Tours**

800-522-6966

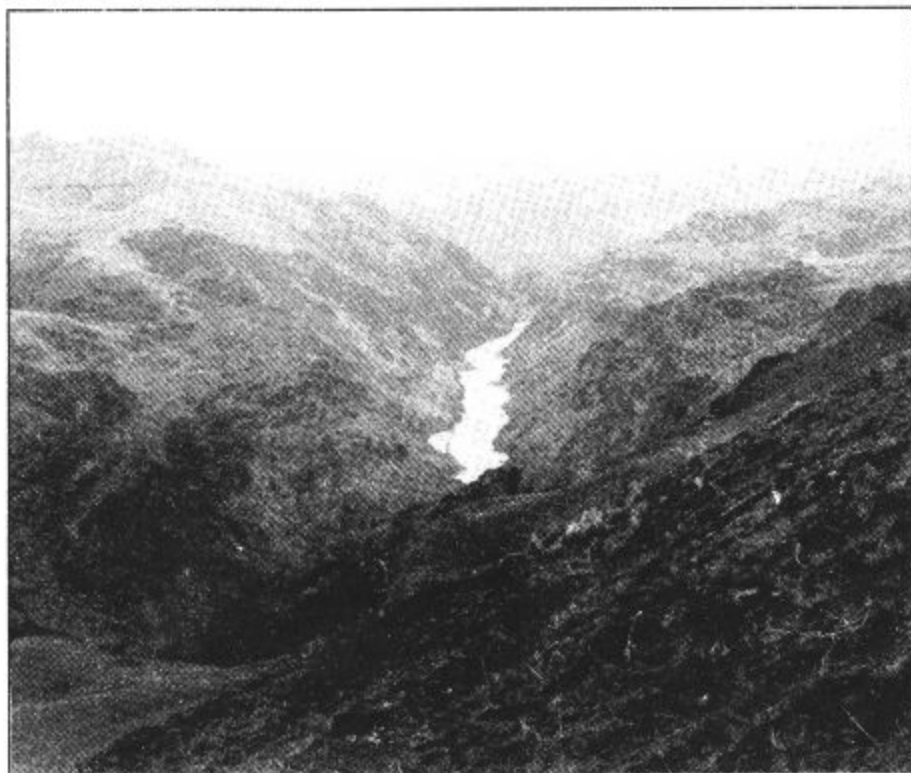
**River Quest Excursions**

800-589-1129

For current river flows from the USGS:

<http://www.idaho.wr.usgs.gov>  
Locate station 13290450, which is the Snake River at Hells Canyon Dam.

*Bill Bunch, of Spokane, runs the Bill Bunch Insurance Agency. Jim Keenan lives in Colbert.*



The Snake River 2000 feet down. Copper Creek Lodge is around the river's corner to the left.

Bill Bunch

KERRY GILLES

## Obstruction Point to Whiskey Bend

—A COOL TRAVERSE—

### September 14, 1996

It took 4½ hours to drive from Aberdeen to Obstruction Point, on the north side of Olympic National Park. The Obstruction Point road is scary, being very narrow, winding, and exposed.

Don and I did the 3.8-mile hike (with a 1400-foot drop) to Grand Lake in "hurricane" winds, fog, sun poppers, and a drizzle of rain. Very cold.

The trail is open and bare, but not colorless. The steep switchbacks down to the lake caused soreness in my knees. We picked campsite 4 which gave us some protection from the cold wind and snow-rain yet still allowed us a view of the lake from the back tent window. The solar toilets were full.

Amalia Falls, a short walk away, is worth seeing. Grand Lake is the lowest and largest of the three lakes. It is triangular in shape with mountains on two sides that sweep upward to high peaks.

The real rain came at 4:30 so we stayed in the tent and pored over our maps. I fell asleep and missed the only hour of good weather while Don went over to talk to the only three other people who were camping that weekend.

I spent eighteen hours in the tent on that first day and hoped that wasn't a

sign of things to come. Three times in the night we heard rock slides.

### September 15

Left camp at 9:30 with added rain weight, oh joy. Heading southward we crossed meadowland and ½-mile later we were at Moose Lake. The spot is a carpet of fall colors, little tarns, shale slides, and hills.

A mixed bag of weather again today. Snowing, cold and freezing on Grand Pass eliminated the chance to hike to Grandview Peak. Descending sharply from Grand Pass the weather got nice enough for us to see the surroundings. Deer and marmots were out and about. Many "old man of the mountain" covered the hillsides.

This 2 miles of trail is another knee-bender. We rested at the Cameron Creek trail junction. Four campsites here are spread out over a short distance.

We hiked up Cameron Basin, with the trail being a bit brushy, and crossed several small streams. Many cairns with stick-poles marked the way. We were both exhausted by the time we set up camp at Upper Cameron. The remains of a shelter were still visible.

It had been a hard up-and-down 7-



Don Abbott

*Snowing and cold on Grand Pass.*

mile day. We got snowed and rained on intermittently. With the views we had, we saw snowclad peaks and ridges, open meadows and subalpine forest. A strange sight was when a heron flew by. We had stars that evening and heard another rock slide.

### September 16

We awoke to a frosty morning and the blue sky made everything sparkle. We waited until everything dried out, so it was 11 before we headed up toward Cameron Pass.

We stepped across moss-lined brooks, traversed meadowland, then started climbing long switchbacks across shale slopes. It took only an hour to get to the pass.

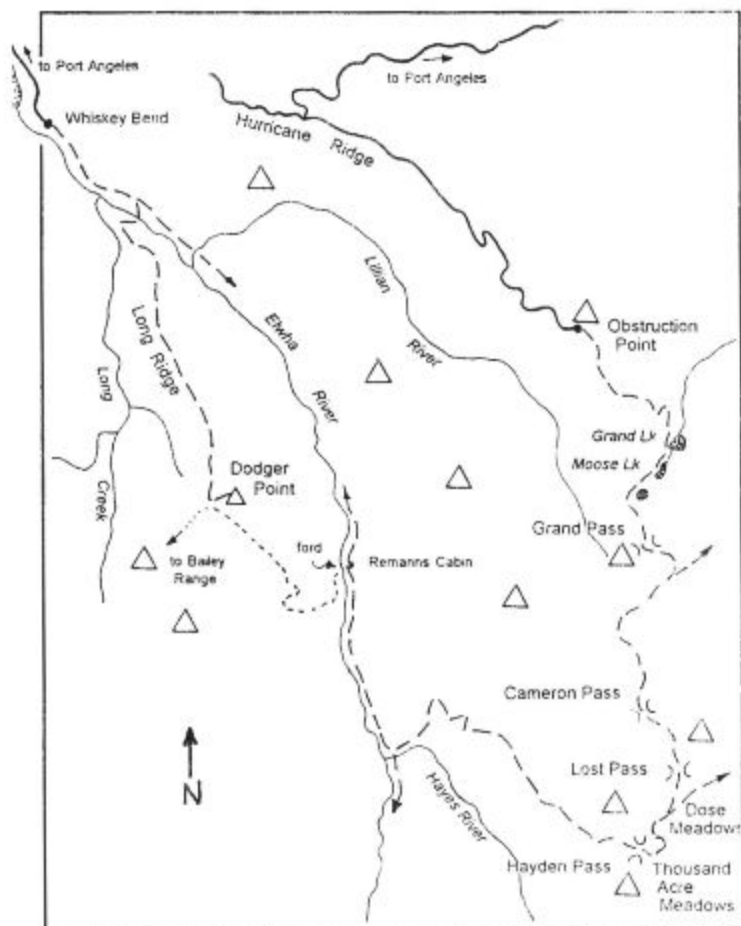
We sat down and looked back into Cameron Basin, a beautiful sight! Ravens seemed interested in our packs, which we had left open, so we got up and went back to them.

The cold wind made us leave sooner than we wanted to. The hike down off the pass was slow and gradual (to save our knees) and we had zillions of grass-



Don Abbott

*Looking toward Cameron Pass from Upper Cameron Basin*



hoppers bouncing up around us.

Once off the pass, we hiked across open meadowland with small streams and marmots about. The climb up to Lost Pass (from this direction) is very easy (only one blowdown) and didn't seem like a pass at all.

The .9-mile down the other side, however, made up for it. We stayed at Dose Meadows only long enough for me to use the outhouse and for Don to take more marmot pictures. We climbed the trail toward Hayden Pass, crossing the new bridge, until we branched off to the left where we set up camp.

This camp spot is on a bluff, wide open, and the ground is covered with blueberries. It looked like a shelter was here at one time. Five deer checked us out. We no more got camp set up when the temperature dropped and it started snowing on us. It stopped after an hour and we enjoyed the rest of the evening.

Our mileage today was 6.

#### September 17

A lay-over day. When we unzipped the tent we found frozen white ground.

We dayhiked up to Thousand-Acre Meadow, sometimes following a trail with the wet brush saturating us, and

other times side-hilling it.

The lime-green moss, smoky tarns, white rocks, vibrant pinks, purples and yellows intermingled in a perfect psychedelic fantasy. Families of calico marmots came out to sit upon huge gray boulder and whistle at us.

A straight line of fir trees goes down the middle of the meadow and then vees out. Hiking across the meadow we climbed toward the ridge to the east. Sitting at the top, we stared down into the basin for an hour hoping for a sun break that would make a brilliant picture. We didn't get it.

We stayed high and followed the

rock ridges back west to our camp, making a loop hike. We saw a black bear who took off running when he saw us.

Back at camp while Don took a nap I watched twin deer play. Later we saw two more bears from camp—one going up the Hayden Pass trail, the other grazing on the meadowy hillside across from us.

The fog drifted up from Dosewallips

but evaporated after an hour. We had a clear, star-filled night.

#### September 18

We were awakened again at 7am by the same woodpecker who woke us yesterday. This morning is a lot warmer. We hurry to get going by 9 as we have 9+ miles to do to get to Hayes River.

Four loong switchbacks got us to the top of Hayden Pass (new sign) at 10. It was a dull gray day with promises of light showers.

From this side the next 8.3 miles were a comfortable grade to hike at 2 miles an hour. We encountered four blowdowns, passed four campsites (the best being the first), and ate some plump blueberries.

The first 2 miles of this trail are the most scenic. The meadows are rich in fall color, with basins to look down into and peaks to look up at.

The rest of the trail gives a variety of hiking—through open timber, across boulder slides, soft ground, brushy trail, soggy marshes, six streams to cross and a full thick moss carpet right before the descent to the log cabin patrol station. An outhouse and bear line are here. We have to walk down to the river for water.

We set up the tent on the porch of the cabin. Yes, it was raining again. Don has caught a cold. We ate dinner under our umbrellas. The fine mist never let up.

#### September 19

I broke my left contact this morning. The air is balmy and the sky is gray and blue. It's the first morning when we put our packs on that we comment



Kerry in Thousand-Acre Meadow.

how light they are beginning to feel.

It took 1½ hours to hike the 3.7 miles to Remanns Cabin. We sat, ate and rested before crossing the knee-deep Elwha River.

The 5.3 miles of the Dodger Point trail is a 4300-foot elevation gain and is marked with orange tree flags and ribbons. I found it to be a depressing ascent, the hardest thus far of our journey, our packs no longer feeling light.

Don was stung on the arm, we had three blowdowns to cross, salal tripped up our feet and there were very few level spots to stop on.

The grassy path enters a bit of open country where we find water from a little rivulet. Many white snags stand on the hillside above us. We cross another larger meadow, then break out in the open to views of mountain all around.

The trail makes a long traverse, crosses a rock slide, then comes to a small, dirty pond and campsite. The trail forks here: Long Ridge trail or Dodger Point Basin.

We make camp in the basin. Water is not convenient. We were at 5700 feet, exhausted, hungry and cold. The ridges of Dodger Basin's south side are timber, the north slopes are barren, forming a glacial cirque shaped like a half-moon.

#### September 20

No frost this morning, but cool. We are in total silence here. Even the wind is quiet. We dayhiked up .5-mile to the fire lookout. The old cabin, no longer used, sits atop a rounded, grassy knoll, surrounded by meadowland.

We had 360-degree views of all the front peaks but the back peaks were clouded over. Four grouse ate close to our feet. It started snowing lightly so we left and headed for the abandoned Ludden Peak trail.



A frosty morning in upper Dose Meadows.



At the abandoned Dodger Point Lookout.

This trail crosses several steep ravines and one must be careful. It's snowing and raining again. We see four goats lying on the steep hillside below us. We turned around where the trail ends, but climbers can continue into the Bailey Range.

On the return trip we saw down in the valley-meadow a herd of elk. Back at camp we stay under the tarp that we set up, thus keeping us out of the tent. Our water run is a 20-minute round trip.

We haven't been bitten by a mosquito or deerfly this entire trip.

#### September 21

I woke with a full-blown head cold (thanks, Don). It snowed lightly during the night. Today is the 10.5-mile Long Ridge trail and neither of us felt like we got any sleep last night.

We left at 9:30 and arrived at the iron Elwha bridge at 2pm. This is an excellent trail and I would recommend using it both ways instead of taking the Dodger trail from Remanns cabin. There were ten small to medium blowdowns and two mediocre campsites.

We had an hour of rain but the golf umbrellas kept us from having to put on rain gear. We made our last camp just down from the bridge on a cliff that overlooks the Elwha. Big fir trees protect us from the rain. Water is down the trail a few yards. We are tired but happy.

#### September 22

The last 3 miles of our journey are a

tourist heaven. Eleven horses pass us. We hiked past Humes Ranch and Michaels Cabin, historic old log cabins.

Our ride is waiting for us. We emerge into the world of unlimited toilet paper, soft warm beds, hot water, and solid roofs to keep the rain out.

*Kerry Gilles and Don Abbott, of Grays Harbor County, spend their spare time exploring the Olympics. They are members of The Olympians.*



Kerry and Don at Cameron Pass.

Don Abbott

Don Abbott

Don Abbott

ANN MARSHALL

# Too Much Snow!

—SUGGESTIONS FOR HIKING AND BACKPACKING IN A DEEP SNOW YEAR—

The North Cascades Highway didn't open until early May this year; the snow is about 8 feet deep at the PCT trailhead at Rainy Pass.

The snow at the PCT trailhead at Snoqualmie Pass is 5 feet deep.

The snow depth at Paradise on Mount Rainier is 18 feet.

Trails are snowed in. Roads are snowed in. Many campgrounds remain closed. If you don't want to hike on snow, where can you go?

With mid-May's warm weather, the snowpack is melting. Call the managing office of the area where you want to go hiking—they may be able to suggest newly-snowfree trails.

Or follow these suggestions for guaranteed snowfree hiking:

## DAYHIKES

**Issaquah Alps.** These lowlands trails are especially great when the high country is snowed in. *Guide to Trails of Tiger Mountain*, by Bill Longwell, is a good guidebook to start with. Or call the Issaquah Alps Trails Club for scheduled hikes with IATC; you don't have to be a member: 206-328-0480.

A major trail starts at the High Point exit 20 on I-90; another starts behind (east of) the high school. If you go exploring without benefit of map or experienced companions, beware—the maze of trails has confused many hikers.

**Dungeness Spit.** From Sequim on Highway 101 on the north side of the Olympic Peninsula, follow signs to the Dungeness Wildlife Refuge. Pay a \$2 use fee, and walk down the forest trail to the spit.

The still-forming spit stretches several miles into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The lighthouse is about 5 miles out on the spit and is staffed by volunteers. Great views on a clear day, and usually always windy on the strait side.

**Dog Mountain and Hamilton Mountain.** For Dog Mountain, drive Highway 14 in the Columbia Gorge to 5 or 6 miles east of Carson. The trail starts at river level, about 100 feet,

and climbs to 2950 feet in 3 miles. It's a steep climb with excellent views and beautiful wildflowers.

Hamilton Mountain, 2445 feet, is in Beacon Rock State Park, about 4 miles west of the PCT trailhead. This trail also has views and flowers but is not as well known as Dog Mountain and therefore is less crowded.

**Diablo Lake.** Drive the North Cascades Highway to Diablo Lake. Watch carefully for the sign that directs you north on a narrow road across Diablo Dam. Near the end of the road is the Diablo Lake trailhead. Begin by crossing Sourdough Creek on a bridge.

This trail to the bottom of Ross Dam sees little use. Although mostly in deep forest, it climbs a bluff 500 feet above Diablo Lake where you have good views at about 2 miles. Continue another 1¼ miles to the base of Ross Dam, then retrace your steps for a 7½-mile round trip.

The Diablo Lake trail has been cleared of all downed trees and is in good shape.

**Thunder Creek.** A few miles past the Diablo Dam road, above, you'll come to Colonial Creek campground. Park at the far end and find the Thunder Creek trail. It is snowfree for 3 miles, with winter debris and some trees down on the trail. Despite the debris, it is a beautiful walk, nearly level.

For variety, at the Fourth of July Pass trail intersection at 2 miles, you can follow this trail halfway up to the pass before you run into snow.

**Ingalls Creek.** Turn off Highway 97 between Swauk Pass and Highway 2 onto the Ingalls Creek road and follow it to the trailhead, about 1 mile.

This is a fairly level trail with many flowers and, unusual for a river-bottom hike, has good views to surrounding peaks. It is snowfree for only a couple of miles, which is why it's under "day-hikes" and not "backpacks."

The trail has some debris over it, and winter flooding has narrowed the tread in place, but it still makes a good trip.

## BACKPACKS

**The Olympics.** The Hoh, North Fork Skokomish, and Quinault river valleys all have trails that begin at very low elevations. The North Fork Skokomish, the highest trailhead of these three at 900 feet, is on the southeast side of the range at Staircase.

The trail is snowfree for 4 miles, to Big Log Camp. It has also been cleared of blowdowns to this point. Expect snow beyond Big Log. You can also explore up the Flapjack Lakes trail; it is snowfree to at least Madeleine Creek.

The Hoh, on the west side, is known for its rain forest. At the trailhead, 600 feet, is a visitor center with nature trails. Camp at Olympus Guard Station, 9 miles in; for a shorter trip, stop at Happy Four, about 6 miles.

The Quinault River trail is also called "Enchanted Valley" because of the waterfalls in the upper valley during spring run-off. The trailhead is at 650 feet. Camp at O'Neil Creek, 6½ miles; continue the full 13-mile distance to Enchanted Valley at 2000 feet, or stop at any one of several other camps along the way.

**West Bank of Ross Lake.** You can reach this trailhead one of several ways; the *Pack & Paddle* favorite is to take the Seattle City Light tug from Diablo Lake to Ross Dam and the Ross Lake Resort truck around the dam to the start of the trail (\$10 per person roundtrip for tug-and-truck).

Hike across Ross Dam and north about 6½ miles to Big Beaver Camp. The trail has been maintained and all blowdowns cleared.

For a special treat, hike back to Ross Lake Resort and spend the night in one of their floating cabins (call 206-386-4437 for reservations and info).

Remember to stop at Marblemount for your North Cascades National Park permit.

We're running out of room, but there's still the **Chelan Lakeshore Trail**, from Prince Creek to Stehekin and the **Yakima Rim Skyline Trail**, north of Yakima.

PAULA HYATT

## Hiking & Canoeing in Central Oregon

—LONG JUNE DAYS ARE PERFECT FOR EXPLORATION—

June is a great time for expeditions to Central Oregon. The snow is gone in many places, but there is still plenty around to see on the mountain tops. By July it is getting pretty hot, so for those of us who prefer less heat and less dust, we selected late June.

For this expedition Carolyn Scott and I were the organizers, she for the total plan and the hiking, I for the canoeing. It was a scheduled Miscellaneous Event under the auspices of the Chemeketans, our local outdoor club.

Hiking, and canoeing for those of us who wanted to, were on the menu, as well as fabulous food, of course!

On Monday morning, four of us, in pairs, left Salem headed for the Scotts' cabin north of LaPine. Roz and I each had a canoe atop our cars, knowing that Monday, Wednesday and Friday were hike days for all of us, and Tuesday and Thursday were canoe days for those who wished.

In tandem, we headed for the cabin where we opened up, left food and sleeping bags, then headed off in my car for the Newberry Crater Volcanic Area and Paulina Lake. Long June days allowed time for a good afternoon hike.

At the lake we located the trailhead for the Peter Skene Ogden Trail which runs downhill along Paulina Creek with its rushing water and some interesting falls. I chose to go only part way, then returned to the car, having made the promise to pick up the other three at McKay Crossing.

This plan would give them a pleasant 6-mile hike. I reached the crossing, the campground there, took time to go to see the waterfall below the camp, returned to the car (parked close to where the trail comes in), soaked my feet in the deliciously cool stream then ambled up the trail to meet them. No sign nor sound in more than a quarter-mile! I went back to the car for a nap.

It was a good half hour later that they showed up. It seems there was a road crossing we didn't know about. They waited patiently, wondering what had

happened to me, then left a note on the bridge, and hiked on down. All's well that ends well, of course.

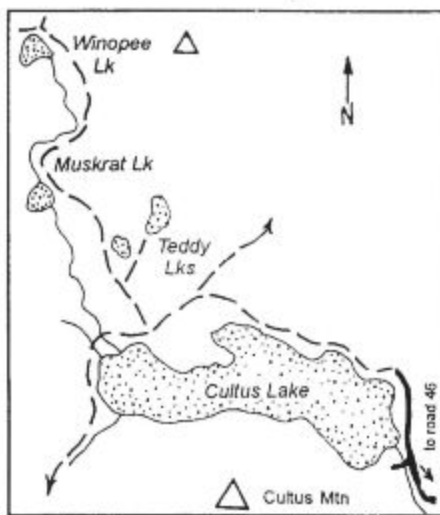
They went to take a look at the lower falls after which we headed back to the cabin where we had the first of the delicious dinners of the trip.

Tuesday Roz, Enid, Carolyn and I headed out with Klamath Lake as our destination, specifically the Upper Klamath Canoe Trail. The put-in is a public landing at Rocky Point. Here canoes were launched for our paddle of the Canoe Trail (yes, it's signed at junctions) in the Klamath National Wildlife Refuge.

Enid is an avid birder and had her binocs out from the start. The water was high—the trail signs were almost under water—and the birds weren't making themselves seen as they often do. We spotted one hawk high in a tree, but the many other birds were scarce.

Our original idea was to do the 6-mile loop, but wind coming from the north got me to change my mind. Okay, there are other ways to do this. Try for the upper end, come back part way on Crystal Creek and do the cut-across, then back to the landing by way of Recreation Creek.

One of the interesting things one must remember for this trip: there is no



place to pull out, stretch your legs, go to the john, whatever. You are in a large marsh; it's all reeds and water. We found a small inlet for lunch. Pulling into the quiet water, we tied up to a snag, tied to each other, and enjoyed the sunshine.

On north to the junction, but at the junction, directions were not very clear. We turned left up Crystal Creek and went and went. Never came to another junction, so I simply had to call for a turn-around time.

Carolyn wanted to go "to the next curve." Oh, no—we've heard that before! Back at the landing, the other three chose to go over to the nearby resort while I chose to swim in the rather reedy water. 'Twas very refreshing, however.

The long drive back to LaPine was not a chore for we knew that a delicious dinner would be awaiting us.

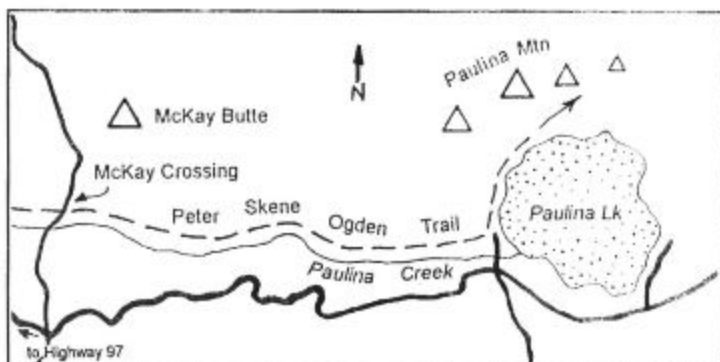
Oops! We beat Alma and Mary Jo as they came in from Salem with a hike somewhere along the way. No matter. Long June days and pleasant evenings were destined to make for relaxing and enjoying.

Wednesday was hike day again. In two cars we went east and slightly north headed for Cultus Lake. At the northeast corner of the lake we located the trail that would take us into the Three Sisters Wilderness and to Muskrat Lake and shelter, then on to Winopee Lake.

The trail system is extensive here and were this not a day hike, we could have gone on to the Mink Lake Basin or any of many other places.

At Muskrat Lake I sat and sketched, as best I could, while the others extended their hike. For the first time we met mosquitoes here. The others said they were worse at Winopee. On the way back, several of us took a side trip to see the Teddy Lakes.

The canoes and hikers separated again on Thursday. There was a minor fiasco connected with the decision. Roz's car wouldn't start. It's an old Mercedes and the only way to take care



of it was to have it hauled into Bend, far to the north. Revise plans slightly.

After saying "goodbye" to Roz's car, sans canoe which was resting against the porch of the cabin, Roz, Carolyn and I headed for the boat landing at Hosmer Lake, behind the much better known Elk Lake which lies right alongside the Century Drive (officially Cascade Lakes Highway) south of Mount Bachelor.

Enid, Alma, and Mary Jo found the trailhead at Lava Lake which would take them along the east side of Hosmer Lake. Could we meet for lunch at the north end of Hosmer? Don't count on it, but it did sound like a fun idea.

Our 4½ hours on Hosmer were fantastic! Many birds floated all over the main part of the lake and in the channel leading to the far end. Bald eagles and ospreys were in the tree tops above us. Views of Mount Bachelor, South Sister and Broken Top were our constant companions.

Carolyn, the goal-oriented, insisted we search out the source of the lake in Quinn Creek, so we wended our way to the "top" and up the creek as far as we could go. What a great experience!

We returned to the landing where a nice tall gentleman helped us put the canoe back on top of the car. I'm too

short and too decrepit for canoe-lifting. Paddling? That's still in my repertoire.

The hikers found it a warm day on their trail. They did get above Hosmer and when they realized how far down and then back up they would have to go, they called a halt and had lunch on the ridge.

We did meet again, back at the cabin. Leftovers night and boy, was it yummy! Planning for tomorrow was in order since we were now short one car and the originally planned trip didn't make sense. We had to go to Bend to find out how the car was faring. We would take it from there.

Friday—another gorgeous day in the offing! We packed up, cleaned up the cabin, and headed for the auto place. Problem not yet solved. Roz will have to return. Where to go? How about Tumalo Falls?

It's some years since I was there last. I remembered the falls as being in the woods and very lovely. We approached the road-head, as I remembered it, turned right on a gravel road and went through wide-open land, the result of a forest fire a few years back. I was stunned!

The new trees are beginning to grow, but it's going to be a while before it becomes a thick forest. We entered the woods a hundred yards or so below the falls, parked in the marked picnic and parking area, then went up to read the signboard and decide on our trail plan.

A loop looked feasible on the North Tumalo Creek Trail to Happy Valley Meadows. The trail is in the open for the first hundred yards or so before entering deep woods along the creek.

Again I opted out of the full trip, went to an upper creek crossing, came back and enjoyed several views of the big falls, completely out in the open, and returned to the picnic area for feet-

soaking and a short nap.

When the others returned they reported that the snow was still too deep and a possible creek crossing too iffy to allow them to do the loop. They did say that falls all along the trail were very beautiful.

One last stop on the return to Salem by way of the North Santiam Highway. We took a break at the headwaters of the Metolius River, northwest of Sisters. Here the water comes tumbling out of a small spring in the wall, and within a few feet it becomes a 20-or-so-yards-wide river.

Paved paths and fencing now keep one back from the water, but it is well worth a look if you haven't been there before.

Five days in Central Oregon, five great experiences. Would I do it again? You bet!

Hikers and canoeists were:

Paula Hyatt  
Carolyn Scott  
Enid Preuitt  
Roz Shirack  
Mary Jo Lundsten  
Alma Wells

#### USEFUL SOURCES

*Oregon's Quiet Waters*, by McLean and Brown.

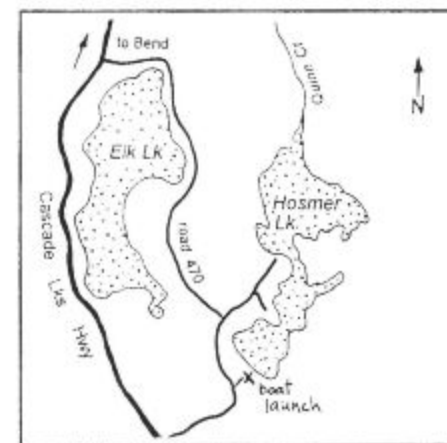
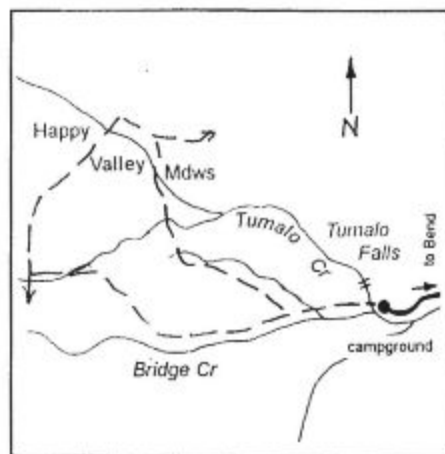
Upper Klamath Canoe Trail Brochure, Winema National Forest.

Deschutes National Forest Map.

(Didn't use any topos because the DNF map provided all we needed to know, except elevations, of course, but we weren't concerned because we know the area, generally speaking.)



Paula Hyatt, of Salem, is a member of the Chemeketans club.



LEE MCKEE

# The Surf Zone

—OVERCOMING FEAR OF FROTH—

Wind and the accompanying waves are a fact of life in sea kayaking. Either you plan to paddle on days when wind and waves are minimal, or you learn to deal with them. I decided I wanted to feel more comfortable in wind and waves, so I would have to learn to deal with them.

While I was looking over the brochure for George Gronseth's Kayak Academy, the topic "Paddling in Wind & Waves" caught my eye.

When I contacted George about the subject, he said one of the steps to being more comfortable in wind and waves was to take an ocean surf kayaking class. Such a class, taught by Cathy Chute, was available for \$95 through the Kayak Academy.

Learning to ocean surf in a kayak was not what I had in mind, but I looked over the information sheet George sent me anyway, and then I talked with Cathy.

I explained to her that I was just a sea kayaker looking for ways to improve my abilities and that spending

time in Pacific Ocean surf wasn't all that appealing to me. I was apprehensive and had visions of being swept out to sea.

She explained how the class worked—we would be using sit-on-top kayaks at Pacific Beach State Park, just north of Hoquiam, where the beach slopes gradually for good surf conditions to learn in.

She hadn't yet had a student get swept away, she said, and lots of class participants were just like me—sea kayakers wanting to improve. Being apprehensive was normal, she added.

Feeling more positive about the class, I mentioned it to several people I paddle with. Only one of them said it sounded interesting. So before either of us could change our minds, Lesley and I had sent in our deposits and were signed up for the May



Lee McKee

*This is FUN!*

10th class!

By the time May 10th rolled around we were both having some second thoughts. On the 2½-hour drive from Port Orchard to Pacific Beach, though, we decided that we were going to have FUN and we put aside thoughts of menacing waves and dislocated shoulders.

The day was clear and sunny, with a temperature of over 70°, northwest winds of 10 knots, and swells of 3 feet. With all the bad weather lately, we had lucked out on a beautiful day to be taking a class on the beach!

The day started with Cathy fitting us out in dry suits, helmets and neoprene booties. Then we moved to the beach where she got down to the basics of ocean surfing.

Drawing pictures in the sand, she explained, among other things, wave action, launching and landing, safety, and surfing etiquette. As she talked, I occasionally eyed the waves coming in and questioned my sanity.

The final step was a review of the strokes we would be using—forward and reverse, sweeps, braces, and stern



Ann Marshall

Instructor Cathy Chute (far left) reviews strokes and bracing with students (left to right) Bob, Shirley, Lesley, John and Lee.



rudder—then it was down to the water's edge.

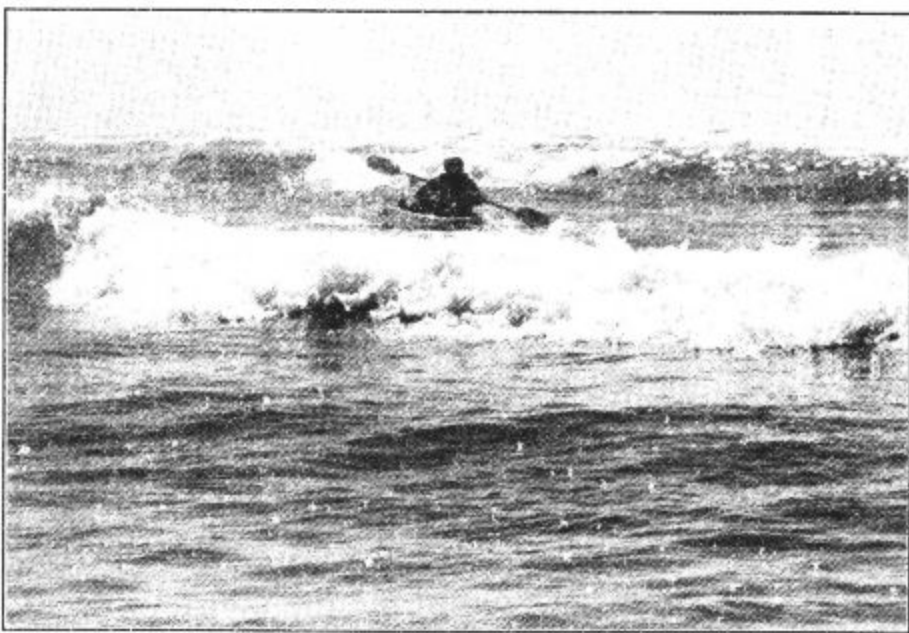
Before actually getting into the boats, everyone spent some time getting used to swimming in the surf. I had always avoided swimming in the Pacific Ocean (except in Hawaii), so this was a first for me.

Cathy marched confidently into the frothy water and our class of five followed like ducklings. In waist-deep water she demonstrated swimming with a paddle, and we all followed her example. Dry suits kept us comfortable as we bobbed around in the 53° water. I wonder what the people strolling along the beach thought!

Swimming in the surf really did relieve the apprehension that had been building in me and soon it was time to move on to the kayaks. We had four kayaks for five students, so one student would be on shore with Cathy at all times helping to keep an eye on the people in the boats. Also, Cathy's assistant, Rex, was in his surf kayak on the water ready to provide instruction and assistance if needed.

Lesley and I looked at each other and after a few words, I convinced her that she really did want to be one of the first to go out. After adjusting the kayak's back and knee straps, she was off into the waves. Soon she was paddling out, turning, and surfing in with a fair amount of confidence and a big grin.

One of the good things about this class is that you can progress at your own speed. The wave height is relative-



Lee McKee

ly small close-in and gets larger the farther out you go. You choose what kind of waves you want to be in. You can practice broaching and bracing, punching through breaking waves, back-paddling to avoid waves, and, of course, surfing.

And you can do all that while in water that is only waist deep—if you capsize, just stand up!

The next few hours went quickly as we all took turns with the boats and got used to the surf zone. The sit-on-top boats were easy to maneuver and were easy to get off and back on after

capsizing.

This is an energy-intensive activity, however, and by the time 3:30 rolled around, we were tired and decided it was time to call it a day. Three of us headed off to the showers, while two of our classmates still frolicked in the waves.

It had been a good day. I gained experience in dealing with waves, and it had been fun! The only drawback is that I now have caught myself thinking about adding a surf kayak to my list of equipment!



Ann Marshall

Two tired surfers, Lee and Lesley head for shore to take a break.

For more information on this class or other classes contact:

**George Gronseth's  
Kayak Academy  
2512 NE 95th Street  
Seattle WA 98115  
206-527-1825.**



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

LARRY TRAMMELL

# Middle Fork Trail

—SURVEY AND REVIEW—

This is a new trail, opened last year, so it does not yet appear on most trail maps or in the trail guidebooks.

It features occasional views of the rugged Garfield Mountain ridgeline to the north, occasional open views southeast along the Middle Fork Snoqualmie river valley, and large arching bridges across the Snoqualmie at the trailhead, over Cripple Creek, and again across the Snoqualmie at Dingford Creek.

This *should* be an attractive alternative to other trails in the North Bend area, most of which are severely steep, rough from under-maintenance, or overcrowded. Whether you will find this trail fully satisfactory is another matter.

Driving east from North Bend on I-90, take the Edgewick Road exit. Turn left under the highway and continue north past the truck town about ½-mile. Turn right and go about 2 miles to a fork. Take your choice; both branches lead to the same place, but the lower road is wider and safer.

The road becomes rougher at 3 miles, so take your time. Even passenger vehicles can survive the potholes to the large parking lot at the Middle Fork trailhead, 10.5 miles from the highway.

Crossing the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River on an arching bridge, the trail clings to the steep river bank for the first ¼-mile, passing the Taylor

River confluence. The river bank begins to level, and the trail swings gradually away to the southeast.

In a long ½-mile, reach the lower edge of the sheer rocky face of Rainy Knob, a good final destination for tiny tot hikers. At about 1 mile, the trail swings southward past the east end of the Knob.

At about 1.75 miles, join an old road grade and a firm surface, a welcome change from the mud. At 2 miles, easy crossing of creeks on stones, losing the road grade. At 2.75 miles approach the river again, and reach the river bank at about 3 miles.

Parallel the riverbank about ¼-mile through wild roses as the hummingbirds hum nearby, then about the same distance along a gravel bar. Up and over a gentle rib, then back down to re-join the river at 3.75 miles, at an excellent viewpoint of the river valley.

Another ¼-mile continues not far from the river. Then, an abrupt turn, and two switchbacks gain 100 feet elevation, the largest single elevation gain on the route.

Join up with an older trail that has a more solid base, hence much less mud. A gradual swing south with very gradual elevation gain reaches the 75-foot bridge span above Cripple Creek at 4.5 miles.

The trail continues on a roughly level contour, soon passing above an abandoned beaver swamp where opinionated frogs argue vigorously. The trail follows the mossy edge of a bench above the river, roughly level, the river level rising gradually.

The pitch becomes somewhat steeper and the river closer, and at 5.5 miles, a signpost indicates the access trail junction to Dingford Creek. A quiet lunch alone in the rain by the creek, and I am ready for a return trip.

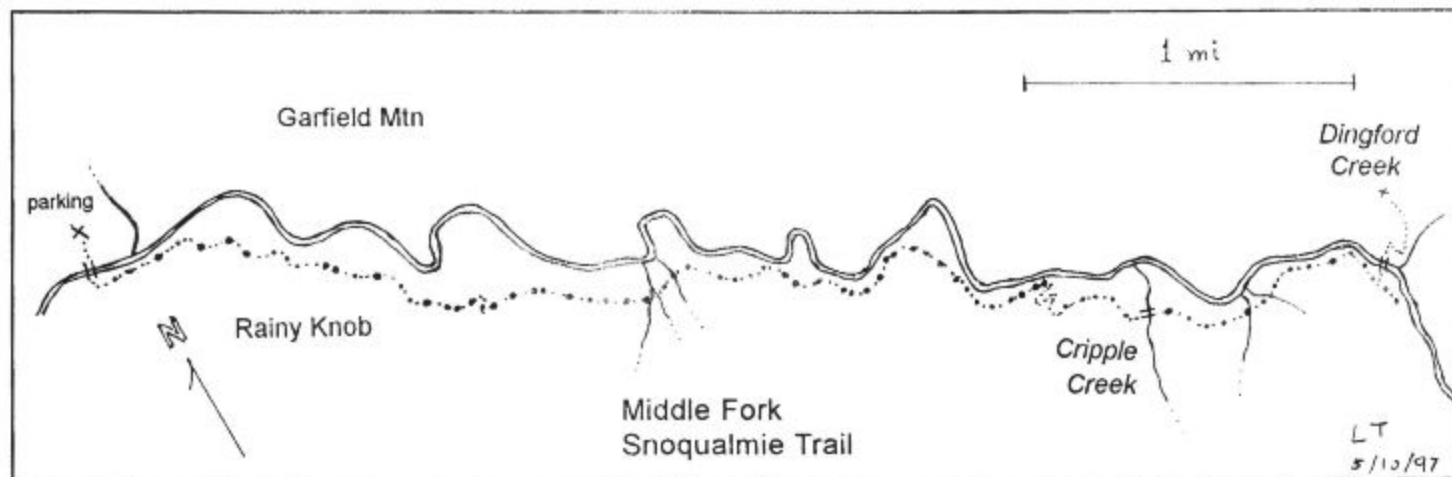
Travel time about 3 hours each way, with numerous stops to take notes and to locate routes through mud baths.

Why the mixed review? Much of the distance is rather featureless, removed from the river. You might appreciate the grandeur of the glorious old growth forest, but you won't find any.

Except for the blankets of moss, I found much of the torn-up hardwood jungle with occasional pockets of second-growth coniferous trees rather unattractive.

The trail should be relatively easy flat travel for lowlanders, with under 300 feet total elevation change over 5.5 miles. Yet much of the tread is very soft, in spite of the 37 bridge or boardwalk structures along the trail, with over 1200 feet of artificial tread.

The mud won't solidify until late



DEBORAH RIEHL

## RESCUE EPICS

—BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE, CONTINUED—

Last month I wrote about a rolling rock that gathered no moss, but did acquire a rescuer who was in the wrong place at the wrong time. This month's epic involves another episode of rocks. Current score: Rocks 2, Climbers 0.

While climbing the west face of Guye Peak on June 8, 1996, at about 2:45pm, "Kristin" was struck by a falling 100-pound rock. Her climbing partner, "Dwight," pulled out his cellular telephone and called 911.

King County SAR officer "Tim" was patrolling along the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River when he received notification. Tim called the Forest Service Visitor Center at Snoqualmie Pass where "Art" was on duty. Art is also a mountain rescuer.

Art was able to call Dwight directly, and received details of the accident. As the mission was being organized, Art drove to the parking lot near the scree slope beneath Guye Peak's rock face. He was able to see the climbing party from there.

Rescue Base was established at the Snoqualmie Pass Cache. At 4pm, Dwight called again and reported that Kristin's condition was deteriorating due to a possible punctured lung, and she was going into shock. Tim already had contacted the MAST helicopter. At 4:30pm mountain rescuer "Dave" arrived at the cache.

He started in with two ESAR climbers. At 5:30pm a larger mountain rescue team started in. MAST arrived at 5:50pm in the form of one of the new Blackhawk helicopters. They were able to lower a medic with a litter to the site. At 6:27pm Kristin was winched up into the Blackhawk quickly followed by the medic.

Mountain rescuer "Andy" rappelled down to Dwight and then helped him up to a ramp to start the walk back out. By 8pm everyone was out of the field.

In this mission some of the hazards of using helicopters were clearly illustrated: While Kristin was being winched up, the medic's pack was blown off the ledge by the rotor wash and tumbled down the scree slope, scattering all its contents. Also a few tree limbs were pruned as the helicopter maneuvered to get near the critically injured climber.

This is a postscript to the January 1997 Rampart Ridge Mission (see *April*, page 15). I was recharging my solar cells in the lawn chair during one of the rare sunny days we had this spring when the telephone rang. It was a call from "Mary," the wife of "Bryan," the snowshoer who broke his femur in a fall on Rampart Ridge. Mary had hiked out for help.

Mary called to ask who had been involved in this mission so that she could

write letters of thanks and make contributions to the volunteer groups which had helped. She also filled in some fascinating details about the mission.

The companion who had stayed with Bryan while she hiked out was Mary's nephew. He had kept the injured man warm in the 9 degree weather by literally lying on top of him.

When Mary left for help, she was not sure that Bryan was going to survive. His leg was broken in three places and required two surgeries of several hours each to repair. He still faces more surgery for removal of the pin holding the bone in alignment while it heals.

Bryan can drive now, but putting weight on the leg for walking is yet to come. Bryan did say that he knew he was going to make it when he saw SPART member "Tom" and his headlamp come up over the crest of the slope onto the level spot where Bryan was lying.

It was fun being able to inform each other of the details of the mission which were unknown to us. We had been put in touch by a SPART member who had been on this mission, and had learned through a chance comment that he works with Bryan's brother.

△

*Debby Riehl, of North Creek, is a member of the Ski Patrol Rescue Team.*

### Middle Fork Trail

summer, and is made considerably worse by the churning of bike tires. Though I appreciate the effort to reduce the pressure on the Alpine Lakes trails, the maintenance costs are going to be staggering. I have to wonder if this was a better use of resources than, say, repairing some of the serious damage on the Hester Lake trail just across the valley.

I intentionally picked a time of year

when trail conditions and weather are unpleasant, to avoid the bikes. When the weather turns nicer, and when the tread turns drier, a hiker will hardly have a chance against the bicycles.

Bicyclists are only a minority, but they are certainly a prominent minority. I passed four bikers on my survey trip, yet I had to hop off of one of the boardwalks to avoid two of them.

Perhaps the solution is not to beat 'em, rather, to join 'em. Here I come, yee hah! But speaking as a hiker who

has made many trips into the Middle Fork area, I have mixed feelings about making this trip again.

△

*Larry Trammell, of Issaquah, has been going into the Middle Fork for the last 13 years as an escape from the software industry.*

# PANORAMA

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

**TRAIL PARK PERMITS**—The Trail Park permit system (see *April, page 26*, and *May, page 17* for details) will go into effect in June.

Permits will be required to park at most trailheads on eight National Forests in Oregon and Washington. In Oregon they are the Siuslaw, Willamette, Deschutes and Wallowa-Whitman. In Washington they are the Olympic, Wenatchee, Okanogan and Baker-Snoqualmie.

The permit costs \$25 for one year. At time of purchase of the main permit, a second permit may be purchased for \$5.

"Trail users who have not displayed a Trail Park permit in their vehicle will find a polite note on their windshield explaining the new fee and reminding them to pay," said Wenatchee Forest Supervisor Sonny O'Neal.

"We realize it will take some time to gain broad public understanding of the new fee," he added, "but we think most trail users will be willing to pay to maintain a top quality trail system."



This symbol means a Trail Park pass is required within 1/4-mile of the trailhead.

**NORTH CASCADES INSTITUTE**—Fascinating seminars are scheduled this summer by the North Cascades Institute.

Learn about bats in **Teaway Nightlife: Bat Ecology**, July 25-27. The wildflowers are going to be spectacular this year. Learn about them in **Wildflowers of Harts Pass**, August 8-10. Unravel the mysteries of those valleys and ridges with **Field Geology Backpack**, August 12-14. The fee for each of these classes is \$125 per person.

Full scholarships for minority and/or low-income folks are available. For a scholarship application or a complete 1997 course catalog, contact:

**North Cascades Institute**  
2105 Highway 20  
Sedro-Woolley WA 98284  
360-856-5700 x209  
nci@nccascades.org

**LAND, LUNCH AND LAUNCH**—The Washington Water Trails Association is working to provide "Land, Lunch and Launch" sites along the Cascadia Marine Trail.

The idea is that you can land your boat, know it will be safe while you grab some lunch or pick up provisions, and launch.

So far, three sites are in the LLL program: Olympic Outdoor Center in Poulsbo, Vashon Island Kayaks, and Bainbridge Island Boat Rentals.

For information on these sites or on the Cascadia Marine Trail, contact:  
**Washington Water Trails Assoc**  
4649 Sunnyside Ave N, room 305  
Seattle WA 98103  
206-545-9161.  
www.eskimo.com/~wwta

**GARBAGE DUMP**—Joshua Tree National Monument is one of the most remote spots in the lower 48 states. Perhaps for this reason, a speculator in waste management wants to create the world's largest landfill on a site surrounded by the park on three sides.

The dump would be more than just near the park. It would be surrounded by it, tucked into a fold in the park's uneven southeast boundary. If the dump is built, the desert winds would spread trash and carry odors throughout the park. Lights would be visible and noise would be audible.

This dump would accept 20,000 tons a trash a day for more than 100 years.

Write Riverside County and let them know that a dump here is unacceptable:  
**Riverside Cnty Board of Supervisors**  
PO Box 1147  
Riverside CA 92502.

—*excerpted from The Mountaineers Conservation Newsletter.*

**IDAHO BLACK BEAR REHAB**—

The Idaho Black Bear Rehabilitation Program started in 1989 under the guidance of wildlife manager John Beecham. During his bear studies, he raised and released many orphaned cubs. Using his bear expertise and my rehab experience, I developed rehab techniques exclusively for bears. Between 1989 and 1996, Idaho placed a total of 31 orphaned cubs in the rehab program.

Idaho is one of the few states that successfully rehabs bears. Zoos or wildlife parks can rarely take the cubs. Left alone in the woods, the orphans don't

survive. Fish and wildlife departments in many states have few options in handling these cubs. Most of the time there is no place for them to go.

In 1994, the rehab program was presented at the Western Black Bear Workshop. Many wildlife managers, biologists, fish and wildlife departments, and bears researchers worldwide have requested copies of the program. Thanks to the successful release of cubs in Idaho, more states are considering rehab as an alternative to euthanasia.

For the past eight years I've had the rare privilege of spending my life with bears. Many individuals helped me during that time. However, I'm asking everyone to help just one once.

The main threat to the program this year is the change in my work. In December, my job moved to Salt Lake. I probably had the only job in Boise that would let me bring cubs to work and stop to feed them every three hours.

I'm developing opportunities to work at home so I can manage the rehab program and care for the cubs. Until I'm fully established, however, I can't provide the finances needed to support the program for this year. That means I can't take orphaned cubs.

It costs about \$400 to rehab each cub. The program easily uses \$150 of formula a week, 20 pounds of dog food a day, and several cases of fruit each week.

The good news is that it's just the immediate future that is at risk. Cubs will start arriving any day and I need some help right now so I can take them.

During 1997, we will incorporate the program and apply for non-profit status. For now, I will send out newsletters to anyone who donates to the program. I'll introduce you to the endearing Nipper, share the amusing antics of Griz, and the special spirit of Shoshone. I'll tell you how we care for the cubs and take you along as we place them in dens for hibernation.

Contact:

**Sally Maughan**  
Idaho Black Bear Rehab  
6097 Arney Lane  
Boise ID 83703  
208-853-3105.

—*excerpted from an article in International Bears News by Sally Maughan.*

**COLVILLE FOREST EVENTS**—A series of wildflower walks is scheduled this summer by Colville National For-

# PANORAMA

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

est. A couple of the events are:

**Swan Lake Walk.** Saturday, June 7. Take a 2-mile walk around Swan Lake with recreation specialist Keith Wakefield highlighting plants, animals and historic sites. Meet at the Swan Lake campground kitchen at 9am, about 15 miles southwest of Republic off the Scatter Creek road. Call the Republic Ranger Station for more information: 509-775-3305.

**Hall Mountain Walk.** Saturday, July 12. Take a 4-mile round-trip hike to the top of Hall Mountain with biologist Tim Bertram to look at forested and non-forested communities. Meet at the Sullivan Lake Ranger Station (about 7 miles east of Metaline Falls) at 9am and carpool to the trailhead. Have lunch at the top at the site of an old fire lookout. Call the Sullivan Lake ranger station to register (space is limited): 509-446-7500.

For information on other summer events on the Colville National Forest, call 509-684-7000.

**EAGLE RESCUE**—An immature bald eagle got a helping hand when he was spotted floundering in the water of Lopez Pass in the San Juans. Two people in a small boat approached the bird and one of them held out an oar.

The eagle scrambled onto the oar and held on while the boat slowly took him to shore.

Young eagles have to learn to fish, and develop their judgement by practice. Sometimes they goof. This time, one got lucky.—*from information in a story by Sharon Wootton, The Herald.*

**MOUNTAIN LOOP HIGHWAY**—Traffic on this 50-mile stretch of road between Granite Falls and Darrington has nearly doubled between 1979 and 1994. During the peak summer season, vehicle counts now exceed 500 per day.

The Department of Transportation has identified these problems:

- the road is narrow with too few pullouts to pass safely.
- lack of adequate parking space at trailheads and other sites.
- sight distances are poor around curves.
- the gravel surface between White Chuck River and Barlow Pass is easily rutted and difficult to maintain.
- the road crosses a large unstable landslide near Monte Cristo Lake.

The Federal Highway Administration, along with the Forest Service and Snohomish County, is developing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the 14-mile unpaved section between White Chuck River and Barlow Pass.

Here's a summary of the alternatives addressed in the draft EIS:

- The road is widened to 28 feet and paved along the existing alignment.
- The road is widened to 24 feet and paved along the existing alignment.
- The road is widened to 22 feet and remains a gravel road.
- Sections of the road would be realigned in segments of ½- to 1-mile.

There is also a "no action" alternative. The draft EIS will probably be completed in early 1998, with a final EIS and a decision in 1999. If an "action" alternative is selected, construction would not start until after 2001.

If you would like more details on the project, or would like to be informed of public meetings, contact:

**Western Federal Lands  
Highway Division  
610 East 5th St  
Vancouver WA 98661.**

**ARMED AND PEACEFUL**—For many years the US Army has held training exercises on the White River Ranger District to provide a combination of terrain, elevation and vegetation for infantry, special forces and other military units from Fort Lewis.

The current permit prohibits the carrying of weapons during training. The Army is proposing to amend the existing permit to allow soldiers on training exercises to carry small arms. They feel the weight and bulk of carrying weapons through mountainous terrain will more closely replicate conditions soldiers actually face during deployment.

Appropriate public notices and signing will be implemented for these types of training exercises. The White River District is interested in your response to the following question:

How will the public react to seeing US military personnel carrying weapons while conducting training exercises on the White River Ranger District?

Please respond in writing with your comments and suggestions, including specific rationale for your opinions, to:

**Don Maks  
White River Ranger District  
857 Roosevelt Ave E  
Enumclaw WA 98022.**

(Ed. Note: Comments were due by May 10, but we didn't receive the notice in time for the May issue. We're sure Don would like to hear from you anyway.)

**CHILEAN MEMORIAL**—In 1920 the Chilean schooner *W J Pirrie* wrecked off the coast just north of La Push. Only two survived.

The daughter of one of those survivors returned to the Seattle area in May. Norma Peterson visited as a musician with a singing group from Pozo Almonte, Chile.

Through a translator, she told a *Herald* reporter of the ship wreck, and that the two survivors had been brought to Seattle for medical care. Her visit as part of the Pozo Almonte Municipal Women's Choir was "a magnificent opportunity to visit Seattle," she said.—*from information in The Herald.*

**IRON GOAT TRAIL**—Help preserve the Iron Goat Trail by participating in a construction or maintenance work party. Each volunteer will receive a free Trail Park Pass for the day. Those who volunteer two times will be able to obtain a free annual pass.

Phone the monthly work party coordinator to make a reservation for specific dates. For June the coordinator is Suzy Stockton, 425-643-0395.

For more information on the trail and its maintenance, call the Iron Goat info line at 206-283-1440.

**PLASTIC BOARDWALK**—About 30 years ago Olympic National Park replaced the knee-deep-mud trails from Lake Ozette to the beaches with a raised boardwalk of cedar planks. The cedar boardwalk saved the marsh from being trampled by thousands of boots.

But the cedar planks grew slippery moss, rotted, and have needed continuous maintenance. Last year as an experiment, Park crews began installing new planks made of recycled plastic and wood fiber. The new planks are located on the first 200 feet of the Cape Alava trail.

Although they are more expensive than the cedar boards, says Ozette Ranger Dan Messaros, they may last longer—and they are *not* slippery!

# REST STOP

EQUIPMENT, RECIPES, TIPS

**VANDALISM**—This is the time of year when trailhead vandalism picks up. Although things don't seem to be as bad as they were a few years ago (when *P&P* ran "Vandalism Alerts" through the summers), there's no telling when the creeps will come out again.

Number one, don't leave anything in your car. In particular, don't shove a purse, wallet or camera under the front seat. If you bring it in the car, take it with you in your pack.

Number two, if you do suffer a car break-in, report it to the county sheriff (and also notify the local ranger station), no matter how small your loss was. The sheriff's office can respond much better when they have lots of information.

**NEW NORTH CASCADES MAP**—Richard Pargeter's new map, "North Cascades East," is now available. Updated and revised, it covers the Cascades from Mount Redoubt to Lake Chelan.

The map is done in pictorial relief, which means that, although it is not suitable for navigation, it can be used for simple trail travel. It is beautiful to behold and looks great on an office wall. It is also useful for long-distance planning, as the map shows trails and

gives distances for 2300 square miles of mountains.

Order for \$6.95 plus \$1.50 shipping from:

**R.A. Pargeter**  
PO Box 844  
Kent WA 98035.

**HEADLAMP**—Years ago I used a four-battery headlamp with a separate battery pack that rode in a pocket, with a wire snaking up over my shoulder to connect with the lamp. It was heavy and awkward, but it sure was a nice, bright light.

A while back I put that old light



The VOR-TEC headlamp.

away and got a modern, lightweight, two-battery light that is convenient but not nearly as bright.

Now comes a new four-battery light from Princeton Tec. They call it the VOR-TEC headlamp. The four batteries are contained in a waterproof plastic cylinder right behind the lamp.

It weighs 9 ounces total, which compares favorably to my current Petzl headlamp at 6 ounces. Even with two brand-new batteries in the Petzl, the VOR-TEC with its four batteries is very much brighter.

The VOR-TEC headlamp is waterproof to 1000 feet and has a lifetime warranty. It comes with batteries, two bulbs, two reflectors and a nylon storage bag. The price is \$41.95.

If you can't find the VOR-TEC at your local store, contact:

**Princeton Tec**  
PO Box 8057  
Trenton NJ 08650  
800-257-9080.

**BOOKS**—The summer '97 catalog for Adventurous Traveler Bookstore is out. It lists hundreds of titles for guidebooks and how-to books, for many sports, all over the world.

Call for a catalog: 800-282-3963 (or email: [books@atbook.com](mailto:books@atbook.com)).

## more on CAMERAS *see May, page 24*

**SUNNY 16**—Please explain: what is the "sunny 16" rule?—*Peg Fern, Monroe.*

I think I can make a brief explanation. Basically, the rule says that if your subject is in bright sun on snow or sand, your *f*-stop is 16. For every drop in available light, your *f*-stop opens by one stop.

Here's a little chart:

*f*/16 bright sun; sand or snow  
*f*/11 bright sun; average subjects  
*f*/8 cloudy bright; no shadows  
*f*/5.6 overcast or open shade

This is essentially the same chart that is printed on the inside of many Kodak film boxes.

I had always set the basic shutter speed at 1/125, but Paul Schaufler has explained to me that you set the length of exposure for the reciprocal of the film speed. For example, if your film

speed is 64, set the shutter speed for 1/60, the closest shutter speed to the film speed. If your film speed is 400, your shutter speed would be 1/500. Close enough, says Paul.

And if you're unsure, bracket. Bracketing means to take one photo about where you think the proper exposure is. Then take another that's one stop overexposed, and a third that's one stop underexposed.

My father always said, "Take lots of photos. Film is cheap."—*AM.*

**PENTAX SHUTTER BUTTON**—The Pentax Zoom 90WR is one of the best cameras I have used. It has one minor problem—the rubber cover for the shutter button comes off occasionally. If you use the wrong glue to reset it, the case will become damaged.

Diana had to have the cover reglued

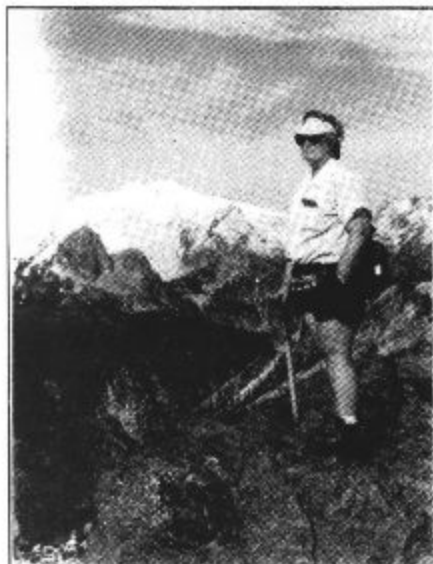
twice, but I finally fixed it permanently with plastic electrical tape. To keep it from sticking to the plunger, I put a small circle of tape behind the cover tape to make a non-stick area. The shutter release is now totally waterproof and operates without flaw.

If you've got one of these cameras, consider putting the tape on now. If that rubber loosens, water will get into the camera and ruin it. Good shooting.—*Robert DeGraw, Kirkland.*

**DIGITAL CAMERA**—Tried out an Epson digital camera on a recent trip. It gives so-so image quality. Need to wait until the price comes down on the better quality cameras.

It is a very lightweight camera, about 6 ounces. Holds 65 images! It was fun to get home and view the images immediately.—*Larry Smith, Port Orchard.*

# EDITOR'S JOURNAL



Mount Daniel, from a high point above Paddy-Go-Easy Pass, Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

**FROM THE MAIL BOX**—"I truly enjoy your magazine. The trip reports are invaluable."—*Olympia*.

"Would like to see more trail reports—particularly longer articles on routes not covered in guide books."—*Seattle*.

"Would like to see more early season trail and road access reports from the managing agencies."—*Seattle*.

"I can't walk the trails or climb any more, but your publication is the next best thing."—*Grayland*.

"Thanks so much for all of the work you both do in keeping the magazine current and helpful."—*Wenatchee*.

"Your format of using ordinary people writing trip reports in plain words mixed with interesting and informative articles hits just the right chords with me."—*Greenwater*.

"Would like to see more stories about Yellow Cat."—*Bremerton*.

**TRAVELS**—In early May I took a vacation, flying to Jacksonville Beach, Florida, to visit my son Marshall and his family, including granddaughter Talyn, who is now 2. Blue skies, 80 degrees, and palm trees.

Then I stopped in Fort Worth, Texas, to visit my daughter and son-in-law, Amber and Andy. Just before I arrived they had taken in a tiny abandoned puppy who was still trying to learn the household routine (like sleeping through the night). Blue skies, 80 degrees and wildflowers on the prairie.

It was great to visit the kids, but it sure was nice to fly in across the Cascades and back to cloudy skies, 55 degrees, and big evergreens.

**KAYAK SURFING**—I was an interested observer at Lee's kayak surf class in mid-May (see page 24). His instructor Cathy Chute took 4th in the kayak surf competition in Santa Cruz.

I didn't even know there *was* such a thing as a kayak surf competition, but she explained that it's a big sport.

After watching the class, I can see how it would attract people. It looks like a lot of fun, kind of like alpine skiing. Maybe I'll have to give this class a try myself.

**TRAIL MAINTENANCE**—Here at *Pack & Paddle* Headquarters we've been doing our own trail maintenance. After the winter storms brought down a couple of trees on our woodland path, we sent out a trail crew to clean things up.

Yellow Cat, as trail boss, and Lee, as crew, spent a couple of weeks with the chain saw, wheelbarrow, and other tools clearing our trail system. Lee discovered a new trillium blooming on the beginning of the trail.

YC enjoys walking this route with us and is glad to have it in good shape again.

**PAUL CREWS**—One of our subscribers from far-away Alaska was in town recently, and I was lucky enough to meet him briefly when he stopped by.

Paul Crews has written a book called



Lucky the Cat, of Mercer Island, with his favorite magazine.

Jack Merrill

## Quote of the month:

The weight of your pack increases in direct proportion to the amount of food you consume from it. If you run out of food, the pack weight goes on increasing anyway.—*Jim Drannan, from the Peninsula Wilderness Club newsletter.*

*Early Hiking in the Olympics, 1922-1942*, which we'll tell you about in the next issue.

Paul himself is quite an interesting person. He and his friends were the founders of the Bremerton Ski Cruisers and, after he moved to Anchorage, Paul founded the Alaska Mountaineering Club.

Dee Molenaar wrote the foreword for Paul's book. Dee and Paul met on Mount McKinley in 1960, when climbers gathered to rescue the John Day/Whittaker party.

Paul still has ties to the Olympics (his daughter lives in Sequim) and he has returned to hike and climb every August for the last several years.

**ON THE TRAIL**—It is always fun to meet *Pack & Paddle* subscribers. On May 17, about 1000 feet below the summit of Mailbox Peak, I stepped off the trail to let a faster group go by.

They turned out to be several members of the Cuneo family: brothers Douglas and Terence, their mom Linda, and Terence's wife Kari. Two dogs accompanied them on foot, while a third snoozed in Terence's pack. They recognized me because I wear a sun visor that says "Pack & Paddle" on it, and we visited for several minutes.

They continued to the summit, and when our group of six gals reached the top, we spent about an hour talking with them. Nice folks; I'm glad I got to meet them.

See you in the backcountry.

Ann Marshall

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*How many maps does it take to cover—*

- 2,300 square miles of eastern North Cascades Mountains?
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**"THE NORTH CASCADES EAST"** pictorial relief map is the **ONE**. After a complete review and revision, where needed, Dick Pargeter has just reintroduced this unique Cascades map.

**"THE NORTH CASCADES EAST"** isn't a copy of a USGS contour map, so don't plan to count contour lines. It is a 22 1/2" x 24" oblique angle illustration rendered by illustrator Pargeter in full color from many air photos (for facial features of peaks) and USGS maps, then printed right here in Kent, Washington, U.S.A.

**"THE NORTH CASCADES EAST"** has an alphanumeric index so you can locate 214 peaks, 120 lakes and 145 named streams.

See this region in its **BIG PICTURE**, "airman's view" from Newhalem to near Mazama, and from British Columbia to Holden Village and Miners Ridge—The heart of the American Alps!

This map is for dreaming and planning, and for trail travel only. If you're walking off trail, use with 7.5 or 15 minute\* USGS type topos. And use common sense and experience.

\*Note: It takes all or parts of 16 USGS 15 minute topo maps at \$3.00 each to cover this 2,300 square miles!

Why not ask your present map retailer to let **you** choose which map, or system of maps that fits **your** personal needs and/or skill level? **You** are the customer, make sure **you** have a choice. Happy hiking!

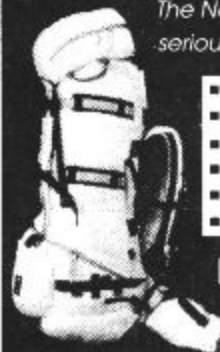
*Found at a few (of the best—offering you a choice) map, book and sporting goods retailers hereabouts, in addition to those along the Cascades and Olympic Highways.*

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