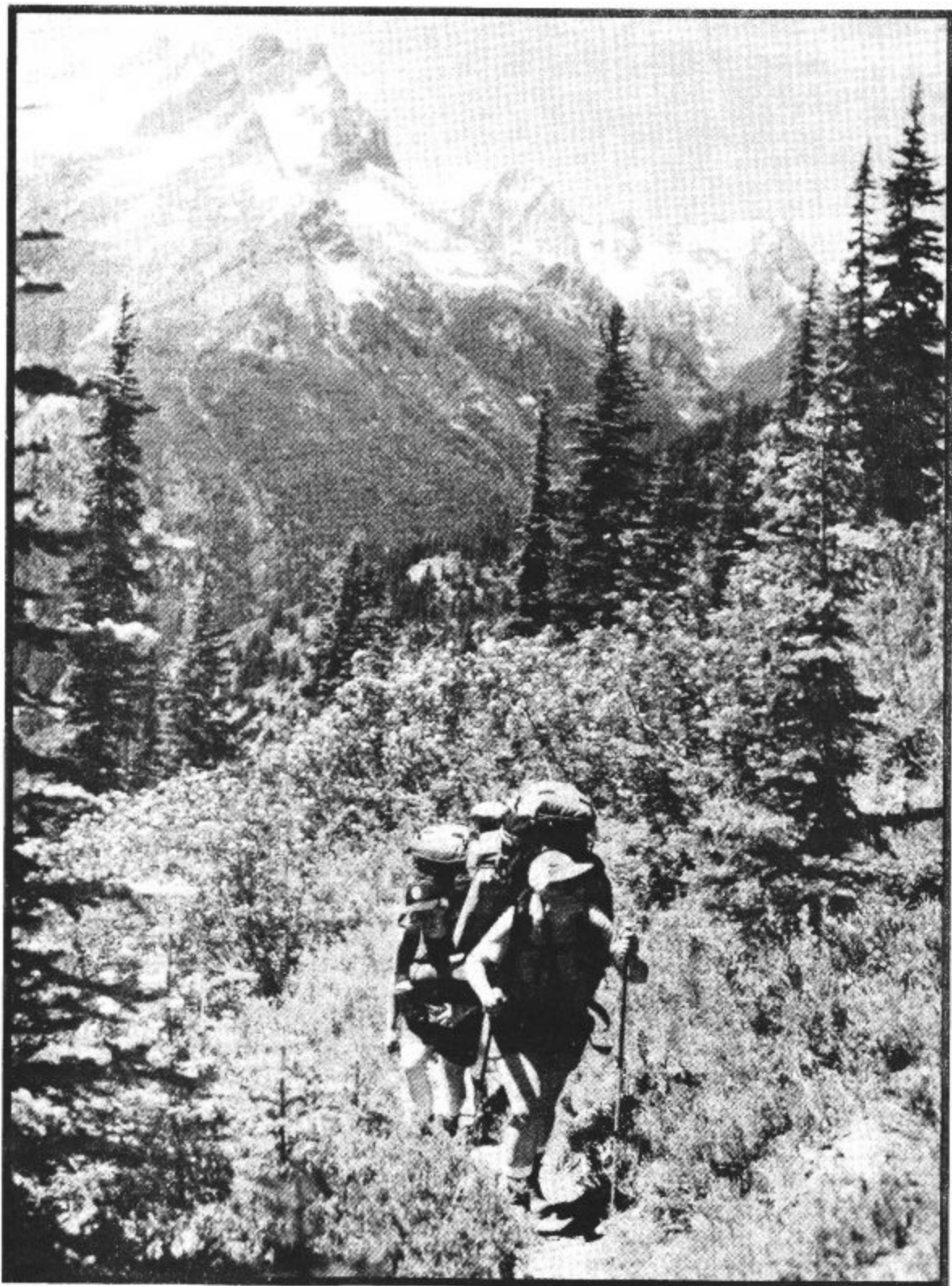


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VOLUME 6, NUMBER 7

RANDOM VIEW—



Ann Marshall

*The summit rocks of Mailbox Peak hold lunchers, nappers, and dogs—and the mailbox.*

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### COVER PHOTO:

Lindy Bakkar, left, and Linda Rostad, on the way to Carne Mountain, Glacier Peak Wilderness, Washington. Photo by Ann Marshall.

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

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

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• • •

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• • •

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# LETTERS to the EDITOR

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

## BLACK BEAR REHAB

I very much appreciate your printing the excerpt about Idaho Black Bear Rehab (see June, page 28).

My parents used to own Redfish Lake Lodge in Stanley, so I grew up in the mountains. I seldom get back in the woods, except to den the bears. It's hard to find a "bear sitter" so vacations are non-existent.

I have worked hard the past two years to encourage and help other states rehab orphaned cubs instead of euthanizing them. When I sent out the plea for help, I didn't expect much to happen. I've kept a very low profile the past eight years and thought that would probably cost the program now when help was so needed.

I knew the people here in Idaho would respond, but the out-of-state response really surprised me. It is so gratifying considering how hard I've worked to save cubs in other states.

Today I received a donation from one

of your readers. Your consideration in printing the plea for help will save some cubs. I'll keep you posted on what is happening with the program.

Sally Maughan  
Idaho Black Bear Rehab  
6097 Arney Lane  
Boise ID 83703

## PENNY WISE AND POUND FOOLISH

Recently I learned that the Forest Service is going to tax us for hiking on our land. They call it the permit system. It is being implemented because the Forest Service claims there is not enough money to care for the trails and roads. They also claim that there isn't enough money to keep the department operating.

I have been hiking for over 40 years. I spend over 200 hours a year working on trails and roads. My group and I

clear trails, removing rocks and brush, diverting standing and running water from trails, and other trail "housekeeping," without supervision. I have adopted several trails on which I work at least three times a year. One is at Snoqualmie Pass and the others are on Mount Si Natural Resource Conservation Area.

In all of my 20+ years of trail maintenance on the Forest Service's Snow Lake Trail, I have seen only one paid ranger. Most of the rangers I have seen were volunteers. So, where is the money going and why is it needed?

Recently, *Signpost* (published by Washington Trails Association) listed trails on which WTA has scheduled volunteer work parties this year. When I was finished reading, I asked myself, "What is the Forest Service doing? Why is it that an agency that owns over one third of Washington needs more money?" They sell timber, heavily tax skiers at all ski areas using Forest Service lands, they tax people to cross-country ski, as well as numerous other fund raising taxations.

So, what can I do about it? I plan to rebel as I hope others do also. As long as there is a fee for hiking on Forest Service lands, I will pay the fee. However, I will no longer lift a hand to clean a trail. ... The 60+ hikes a year I lead ... will no longer include wilderness instruction for new hikers. ... I'm not going to pay to work! ...

What would happen if 100 of us did the same? What will the final outcome be? The minor trails will become neglected. The USFS will have to concentrate on the PCT and other major trails and when they see the fee for hiking is a failure, they will either raise the fee or get rid of it. Government releasing a source of income? Aw, come on. ...

Now the really bad news! It will take 40,000 \$25 permits to cover the volunteer labor provided by 100 people like me. Goes to show that a few people can sure make a huge difference! I'd call the USFS penny wise and pound foolish, wouldn't you?

Robert DeGraw  
Kirkland, Washington

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# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS





REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

## INTRODUCTION

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

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

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



## PENINSULA



### MISERY POINT TO GUILLEMOT COVE (NOAA 18476)

As our group from the Port Orchard Paddle Club prepared to launch from Misery Point boat ramp southwest of Seabeck on Hood Canal (see *Middle Puget Sound Afoot & Afloat* for directions) we took note of the wind. It was blowing from the north and would be at our backs pushing us to our destination. That was great. The rub was that we would have to paddle into it to get back.

Our group of 3 doubles and 8 singles moved right along as we made our way southwest along the eastern shoreline of Hood Canal. The tide was low, around 2 feet, and just starting to come in. In 4 miles we rounded Hood Point and became sheltered from the wind.

Guillemot Cove is named Frenchman's Cove on the NOAA chart and is

about ¾-mile south of Hood Point. It is the site of the Guillemot Cove Nature Reserve—look for a small cabin which is part of the Reserve just south of Boyce Creek.

For information you can call the Fair and Parks Department office at 360-895-3895 (M-F) and to obtain a permit if your group is over 25 people. A sanican is located about ¼-mile inland—follow the road through an old orchard.

After lunch and a look around some of us were anxious to be off, realizing it would be a tough 4¾ miles back to the boat launch once we left the shelter of the cove and went around Hood Point.

As it turned out rounding the Point was the hardest part. Not only did we have to battle wind and waves, but we had to break through an opposing current right at the Point.

One double indicated to Ann and Lesley, who were paddling sweep, that they were going to turn back rather than battle the less-than-fun conditions. As it turned out, back at the Reserve (which is accessible by road), they were able to get a ride to their car and subsequently portaged their kayak to their retrieved car.

One of our newer paddlers in a single was also having some difficulty so Ron and Edna, in their double, hung back to watch over her as the rest of our group made it past the point.


Because of a communication mix-up, we thought Ron and Edna would turn back with the new paddler so our main group inadvertently got separated from them. We later learned that a rudder problem on the single required a make-

shift repair on shore. Ron and Edna and the other paddler made it back to the launch ramp about an hour behind the main group.

Once past the point, the paddling became easier—if paddling into 10+ knot winds with big waves and whitecaps for 4 miles can be called easy. The paddling strength of our group varied and it took around 2¾ hours to make it back to the launch ramp. It was a tired group of paddlers who were happy to finally be back on shore at the takeout.

This paddle provided two lessons in safety. First, when we left the Reserve to head back we had not laid out a good plan. Knowing that conditions would be less than ideal, we should have discussed contingencies before setting out.

And second, once on the water, our group should not have become separated without first positively communicating what the separate groups would be doing.—LGM, Port Orchard, 5/18.

 **THE BROTHERS** (*The Brothers Wilderness; USGS The Brothers*)—The Lena Lake trail 810 is snowfree and well-kept. Brothers trail 821 is a little rough around the edges. Snow covers the last ¼-mile before the camping area. Snow covers most of the camp spots. The trail is mostly snowfree from there until the south couloir deposition zone. Snow of fine step-kicking variety to just below the summit.

We arrived on the summit in time to drive off the four people already there and enjoy the quickly-fading views while we made phone calls to wives

## BACKCOUNTRY NEWS DEADLINE: July 22

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



Larry Smith

A summer ski excursion on the Humes Glacier, Mount Olympus. Circe is on the right; Icarus on the left.

and kids left at home.

While I was content to spend another hour on the summit, others started complaining of cold, lack of views, and the impending threat to ourselves of being driven off the summit as the hordes below neared.

The glissades were great and we hit the trail satisfied! "We deliver!"—Ciel, Jullie, Kim Gee, Mr. B., Merry, Rod, Carrie and The Postman, 5/97.

**SALSBUARY POINT TO POINT NO POINT** (NOAA 18473)—Today was one of those days with very low tides—minus-2 feet in the area we were paddling.

Six boats from the Olympic Paddle Club did a one-way trip from Salsbury Point County Park just north of the Hood Canal bridge around Foulweather Bluff to Point No Point. Distance was 9+ miles.

Wanting to arrive at Foulweather Bluff close to the change in current from ebb to flood for tide rip considerations meant getting there around 2pm. Figuring in a comfortable paddling pace, time for exploration, and time for lunch, we launched at just after 10:30 after setting up cars for a shuttle at the end.

Heading north we explored Coon Bay and stopped at the Nature Conservancy's Foulweather Bluff Wildlife Preserve for lunch. The tide was close to its low point so it meant a long walk from the edge of the sandy beach to the driftwood for a place to sit.

Shortly after 1pm we were back in the

boats, anxious to see what the conditions at Foulweather Bluff were. The current should have been at the last of the ebb but it seemed by swirls in the water that it had already changed, about ½-hour earlier than the current predictions showed. A small tide rip had formed a little offshore from the north-east end of the bluff.

We kept offshore from Skunk Bay to take advantage of the flood, heading on a straight line toward Norwegian Point. Lots of water was moving to cover all the exposed tidelands from the minus tide.

We reached our takeout at the boat launch/marina about ½-mile west of the lighthouse at Point No Point just before 2pm.—LGM, Port Orchard, 5/24.

**SOUTH COASTAL WILDERNESS BEACH** (Olympic Natl Park; USGS Hoh Had, Toileak Pt)—Our Riverdale School (Portland) 7th and 8th grade field studies annual wilderness trip this year went to the South Coastal Wilderness Beach.

We hiked southward from Third Beach to Oil City. Over one inch of rain fell as we hiked to Scott Creek for the night. The next day in showers we went on to Toileak Point, where a minus tide allowed exploring tide pools on the seaward side of the offshore islands. From a distance we observed seal pups hidden in the rocks waiting for their mothers to return.

The hike in sunny weather to Mosquito Creek went fine (thigh deep ford of Goodman Creek), except for Mos-

quito Creek, which was way up, deeply flowing straight into the ocean. We saw no way to wade across at low tide.

The students built a bridge of beach logs. It helps to have a circus elephant or a reasonable equivalent in strength along on the trip! Our students' great engineering feat over the river was totally gone by morning!

We took the extreme low tide route from Mosquito Creek to Hoh Head. However, the short lateral trail from the beach up to the Headland Trail was totally washed out by a mud slide at the base. Not even the circular park service trailhead sign was visible.

We bushwhacked our way up to the main trail using a fixed rope to get through the clay and forest. The delay caused us to miss the tide window to get by Diamond Rock near Oil City. However, no one complained about the 6 hours in the warm sun bathing and sleeping at Jefferson Cove waiting for the tide to start down.

Afterward, we retreated to the Makah Indian Reservation for a fish dinner (at midnight due to the tide delay). We spent the night at the Makah Tribal Council dormitory and then finished up with a tour of the Makah Museum.—Neale Creamer, Portland, 5/97.

**MAKAH TRIBAL COUNCIL DORMITORY**—It is possible to stay overnight at the Tribal Council dormitory located on the old air base near Neah Bay. The rooms sleep two to four persons each and usually two rooms share one bathroom.

The dormitory is very clean and the rates are very reasonable. Availability depends upon the needs of the Tribal Council which uses the dormitory for visiting guests. Thus, you need to call ahead to Deanne Buzzell-Gray at 360-645-2127.

Deanne is very helpful in making arrangements. She can arrange food service for groups and every morning in the dormitory she serves espresso, lattes and all the variations thereon. A nice way to get ready for or finish up trips on the wilderness beaches.—Neale Creamer, Portland, early May/97.

**DUNGENESS SPIT**—We mentioned the new regs in last month's *P&P*, but didn't get it quite right. Now we have a copy of the Final EIS spelling it out.

See map next page.

**Zone 1.** Open to the public year round.

**Zone 2.** On the Strait side, open to the public year round. On the Harbor side, open 5/15 to 9/30 for walkers only; no boats.

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

**Zone 3.** On the Strait side, open to the public year round. On the Harbor and Bay side, the Spit, including Graveyard Spit, is closed to public access year round, by foot and by boat. Boats may approach within 100 yards from shore only between 5/15 and 9/30.

At the lighthouse is a hundred-yard boat landing zone, which may be used by reservation only (360-457-8451).

**Zone 4.** Closed to public access year round.



## MOUNT TOWNSEND

(Buckhorn Wilderness; USGS

Mt Townsend)—Hopped in the old beater and drove two hours to the upper Mount Townsend trail. The rhododendrons in the clearcuts were outstanding, clothing the hillsides in a pink glow.

I know there are a lot of reports about this place, but it truly is a stunning transition from forest to tundra. It is also a very nice workout, gaining 2800 feet in about 4 miles.

The sun never did make a strong presence, and the fog swirled about on the upper slopes. Once in a while, I could see the Canal through the holes in the clouds. The flowers are going to "pop" soon, and a few of the phlox and paintbrushes were adding wonderful splashes of color!

I spent a bit of time in the transitional area between forest and meadow, especially among the remarkable "bonsai" lodgepole pine trees. You have to really hunker down and look closely at the trunks to appreciate the apparently ancient ages of some of these trees.

Some are only ten feet high with a trunk diameter of over two feet! In some cases, the recurved and broken branches have welded together to form bizarre arches and cannonholes in the trunk structure.

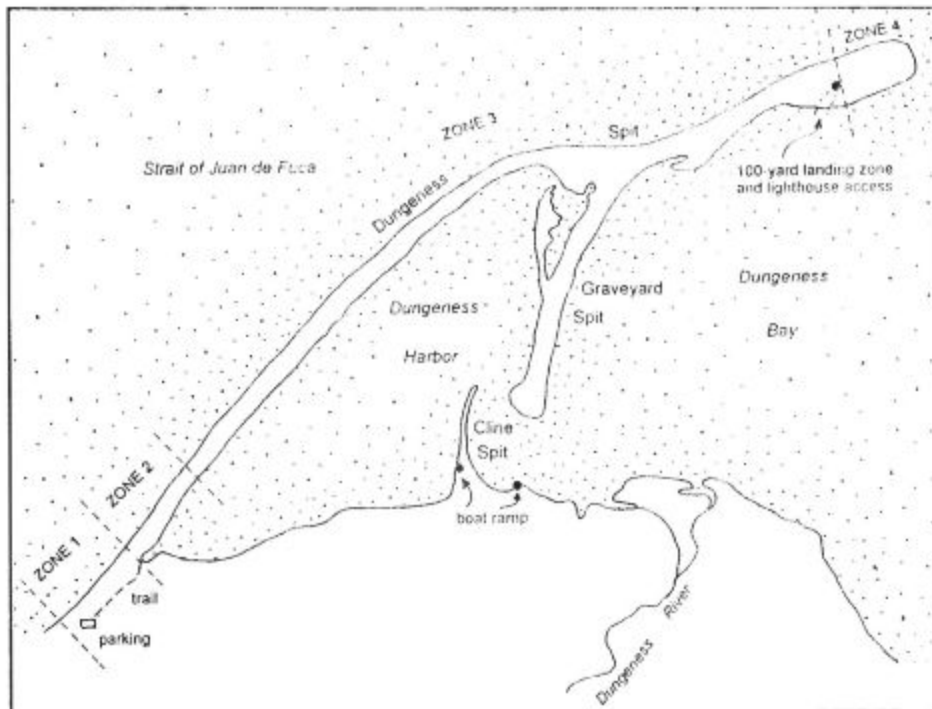
The spirelike subalpine firs have formed some great looking krummholz mats in their upper limit near 6000 feet. The tundra grasses made a great contrast against the deep green growth. You can almost see the fog being sucked up by the foliage! The thread-leaf sandworts are really "kicking in" on the highest slopes.

Also, take the time to get on your stomach and push your cold nose into the mats of smooth Douglasia. You won't be disappointed with the strawberry-cinnamon scent.—Larry Smith, Port Orchard, 6/1.



## LOWER SOUTH FORK SKOKOMISH RIVER

(Olympic Natl Forest; USGS Lightning Pk)—With the snow levels so low this year it took some research to find a trail



that was snowfree where we could bring our dogs. We finally decided on the Lower South Fork of the Skokomish as it is relatively level, and close.

The ranger said the trail had been cleared to the 4-mile mark; beyond it contained numerous downed trees, washouts, and the bridge that crosses the river was tilting at a 20-degree angle and unsafe.

The trail starts up a rather steep hill with a wide tread as this is also a horse trail. Near the top of the hill appears a short cut that has been built but we stayed on the main trail. The trail quickly redescends the hill and crosses a number of small streams. Some larger streams have silted deposits of gravel that left two bridges high and dry. We camped at the 2.5-mile point and decided to do some trail maintenance the next day.

With the dogs packed up we set off and it wasn't long before we were cutting back trees and branches that blocked the trail. There are a number of huge trees that a chainsaw will have to take care of. But we did manage to get 4.5 miles of the small stuff cleared, saving trail crews some work.

One washout along the river will need some rerouting but is easily passable. It's a nice trail that could become crowded in the summer months.—Ralph and Virginia Preston, Tacoma, 5/24-26.



## BLAKE ISLAND (State park; NOAA 18449)

—This overnight trip to Blake was to celebrate trip leader Dede's end to her army career.

Her Reserve weekends could now be turned into paddling weekends!

Six of us set off under threatening skies from just north of the Southworth ferry terminal and headed northeast toward Blake. Only a slight wind was blowing for the easy mile crossing.

An hour after launching we had reached the campground on the northeast corner of the island and were greeted by the seventh member of our group who had paddled over Friday night.

With rain still threatening we quickly unloaded our kayaks and each selected a spot to set up our home for the night. Blake has three camping areas, plus the Cascadia Marine Trail site.

The one by the Village is the most developed and is also the most populated, with a marina, the tour boat dock, and the huge cedar longhouse containing a gift shop, Native American artifacts, and dining area where you can enjoy a salmon dinner and a show of native song, dance and legend. Camper amenities include restrooms, showers (bring quarters), water, and covered cooking areas.

If this is too much for you, then you can camp at the south end of the island. It is the most primitive with just an outhouse and no water. The spot on the northwest side is in between—with water and a restroom.

Sites at each of the spots cost \$5 per night with a limit on the number of people allowed at each site. The Marine Trail site has its own fee/permit requirements.

If you choose to have dinner at the

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS


REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

Village, the cost is \$29.19 for the dinner and show. Sign up in advance on a sheet by the longhouse door. Purchase your dinner tickets before the tour boat docks. That way you can enjoy your clam *hors d'oeuvres* while you watch the boat arrive and not be caught in a long dinner line.

After an enjoyable dinner and show we all gathered back at the cooking shelter for an official celebration of Dede's retirement. A visiting power boater even donated a large bottle of champagne for the occasion!

Chirping birds and sun greeted us the next day. Dark clouds had begun to appear from the southwest over the tree tops so Dede decided it was best to forgo a side trip to Vashon and just head back to Southworth.

Part way through the crossing the squall hit with heavy rain and wind gusts. Fortunately it lasted for only a short while and was gone by the time we reached the takeout, but it provided an example of just how fast conditions can change on the water!—LGM, Port Orchard, 5/31-6/1.

 **LAKE CONSTANCE** (*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Mt Deception, The Brothers*)—Weather forecast was not promising but this was the only day I had to get out this week so off we went. You drive Highway 101 to Dosewallips River road and go about 13.5 miles to Constance Creek.

Trail starts straight up. This steepness doesn't really bother you until you do the downhill part. We were in fog and low clouds most of the day. I love to hike in cool weather. Saw our shadow twice, briefly.


You have to pay attention on the trail or you get off on an "unofficial" trail which leads you to cross-country travel. Basically, the trail follows within sight and sound of the river and in one place, a trickle went down the path.

Did not find snow until the last 400 feet and it was not on the trail. I think that this is one hike that should be listed as a scramble. There are several rocky and steep dirt places where hands, feet and nerve are needed. A group of Boy Scouts had gone in leaving a new yellow nylon rope over the worst part and I gratefully used it as a hand line.

We left the car at 8:30am and returned at 1 pm. We would have taken more time but wanted to beat any rain. Our stop at the lake was brief as a few drops started to fall. The rain stopped as soon as we put on rain gear. There were no new blowdowns. A refreshing change to the trails I've been on this year.

Waterfalls were beautiful, flowers be-

ginning to bloom, moss-covered rocks beside and in Constance Creek. Hikers should be experienced to go on this trail and should have walking stick, ski pole or ice axe for stability on the downhill. Those little pebbles can cause a quicker descent than you want. Not to be done when wet. The roots and rocks are treacherous. It's only a 4-mile round trip but feels like 10.—Edythe, Robert, Aberdeen, 6/6.

 **KILISUT HARBOR** (*NOAA 18471*)—Kilisut Harbor is the long waterway that separates Indian and Marrowstone Islands and is a Klallam name meaning "protected waters." It was from Mystery Bay State Park on Marrowstone that 19 of us from the Olympic Kayak Club set off for a day of paddling in 15 single and 2 double sea kayaks.

We headed north toward the northwest end of Marrowstone and Fort Flagler State Park. The tide was about 3.5 feet and falling quickly—the low would be a minus 1.4 feet at 1:30pm. It's about 2½ miles from the bay to Fort Flagler.

There are no current stations at the entrance to Kilisut Harbor so you need to make a guess at what the currents will be doing. The channel between the two islands narrows and the water can move right along as it was doing today. We quickly covered the remaining distance to Fort Flagler with its assist. Be watchful of power boaters using the channel since they must stay in it to keep from going aground.

Although it was still early, most of us broke out our lunches once we reached shore. The park covers 783 acres and has restrooms, picnic and camping areas, and a small store. There is also a Cascadia Marine Trail campsite along the north shoreline.


The current was still ebbing when we set off for our return trip along the shores of Indian Island so we had to paddle against it for the short crossing. Indian Island is government controlled and no access is allowed except at the south end. The shoreline is undeveloped in contrast to Marrowstone.

We continued south until we were across from Mystery Bay, then made the ¾-mile crossing back to our launch point. Most of our group called it a day, but three of us were reluctant to quit so early. We continued to the south end of the harbor.

The wind was blowing somewhat from the north so we knew we would have an easy trip down but a hard one back. That didn't deter us on such a nice day. Much to our surprise, the wind slacked off for our return and it

was easier than we thought.

After loading up our boats, three hungry paddlers headed for the Chima-cum Cafe which still makes old fashioned milkshakes!—LGM, Port Orchard, 6/8.

 **DUCKABUSH RIVER** (*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Mt Jupiter, The Brothers*)—Don and I lost track of the number of people we met coming and going.

The trail has been cleared of blow-downs for the first 5 miles. After that we counted 12 downed trees in the next mile. There is no snow on the trail.

The interesting thing about this weekend was that we were able to see a new waterfall that has probably been there for centuries.

Coming out of the Duckabush trailhead, turn right and drive up the road for 1 mile. On the right-hand side of the road is where you hike up to see the falls, about a 20-minute walk. We both did it in tennis shoes.


It's called Murbut Falls and it is quite a sight to see. The drop is about 150 feet and at this time of the year it's running full force. As it cascades down the ravine it separates in three places.

The box at the Duck trailhead had the envelopes to mail in your backpacking fee.—Kerry Gilles and Don Abbott, Grays Harbor, 6/7-8.

 **NORTH FORK SKOKOMISH TRAIL** (*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Mt Skokomish*)—This trail is one of my favorites for long distance hiking through spectacular old-growth forests. My partner Heather and I took my parents here. We hiked 5.6 miles to the junction with the Six Ridge trail. Only a handful of hikers and a sunny 70+ degree day contributed to a wonderful experience.

The trail is in great shape—I hope now that user fees have increased, we will be able to spend this money to enrich our recreational opportunities and protect our parks and forests.

Let's put our money where our boots are and make a difference to protect what we cherish the most. Enjoy!—Craig Romano, Seattle, 6/13.

 **BUCKHORN LAKE** (*Buckhorn Wilderness; USGS Tyler Pk. Mt Deception*)—We decided to camp at the trailhead the night before to get an early start since the trailhead is about a 4-hour drive from my home and the trail is 12 miles roundtrip.

Directions to trailhead in *100 Hikes in South Cascades and Olympics* are great. Once you turn onto Louella Road from Highway 101, the roads are well-



# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

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marked and easy to follow. We were on the trail by 5:25am. The weatherman was correct for a change and the day was quite warm.

The trail is really nice up to Tubal Cain campsites. Then you have to boulder-hop across the creek. On the way back, we found a really great crossing that you can step over. It is about 20 to 30 feet upstream. Easy to find on the way back as there is a trail. On the way up, you don't notice it because of all the waytrails to campsites.

Shortly after crossing the creek, we were out of the beautiful forest with giant rhododendrons lining the trail. They were in full bloom (light pink). The trail switchbacks across the meadows to 5300 feet. The trail becomes rocky in places and has two soft-dirt, small-pebble spots to cross. Then at a fork in the trail, you start ups and downs to the lake.

We got off route because of a 10-foot patch of snow near the path down to the lake. It was the only snow we encountered on the hike. We spent 45 minutes bushwhacking several hundred feet up the creek which leads down to Buckhorn because we thought the creek came from the lake rather than being the water source for the lake.

What you have to do is take a less obvious trail that branches left and down about 100 feet to the lake. A couple of camp-robber jays shared our lunch. The only other wild beings were a chipmunk and a single butterfly.

I wished that I had a "flower person" along as even with my wildflower book I was unable to identify much of what I saw. Paintbrush, marsh marigolds, Cascade wallflower, yellow and purple violets, heather, millions of wild strawberries, dandelions, Olympic delphinium, lupine, something purplish that looked like a tiny sweetpea were all blooming in the meadows.

## 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

We were at the car before noon and home by 4pm. It was a wonderful hike. We were all alone until the trip back when we encountered hikers going to the mine sites.—Edythe and Robert, 6/15.



**MOUNT ELLINOR** (USGS Mt Washington)—Bill and I hiked up only to treeline. There was snow over the trail shortly before reaching the treeline and loads of it thereafter.

We stopped at the rocky viewpoint and enjoyed peak-a-boo views of Mount Rainier, Lake Cushman and Hood Canal through the clouds and lots of people glissading down the chute from the summit.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 6/15.



**LOWER LENA LAKE** (Olympic Natl Forest; USGS Mt Washington)—Our friend Sam was in town visiting from Saipan. He hiked with us to Lower Lena Lake.

There were lots of cars at the trailhead and quite a few people camping at the lake. It is 6 miles round trip to the lower lake and the trail climbs about 1100 feet. This is a nice early spring and late fall hike. The lower lake at 1800 feet is snowfree usually from April until November.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 5/25.



**COLONEL BOB TRAIL** (Colonel Bob Wilderness; USGS Quinault Lk East, Colonel Bob)

—The trail to Colonel Bob begins on the South Shore Road, 6 miles from Highway 101. Parking is limited. Trailhead elevation 230 feet. Mulkey shelter elevation 2160 feet. Length 4 miles.

This is a good 8 mile round-trip hike that is peaceful, enjoyable, and still gives you a feeling of getting a good workout. I arrived at Mulkey shelter in 2 hours' time, sweating, out of breath, hungry, and tired.

Since it was raining the whole trip up, I immediately changed into dry clothes, had an hour lunch break, stretched out on one of the bunks and listened to the pitter-patter of the rain on the cedar-shingled roof. In the next hour, I read the newspaper I'd brought along and took notes for this report. I inhaled the fresh smell of the rain in the forest and listened to the whistling of the different birds. Wonderful solitude!

There are three big blowdowns that I had to straddle; others I crawled under and the rest I just followed the path other people made to get around. The one creek crossing can be done by walking the fallen log, or rock hopping.

The undergrowth is sword and maidenhair ferns. Lots of oxalis, three

kinds of berry bushes, boulders covered in moss, transparent slugs, and many purple flowers.

Sign-in sheet and door are lying on the ground at trailhead. Changed clothes one more time at restroom in campground as the rain drenched me coming out as well. It was a warm balmy day so didn't put raingear on.—Kerry Gilles, Westport, 5/30.



**LOWER CHEHALIS RIVER** (USGS Montesano, Aberdeen)

—I drove down to Montesano on Friday evening and stayed with an old canoeing friend.

We shuttled my old beater down to Cosmopolis for the take-out. The dawn was beautiful on Saturday morning as we launched the 16-footer at the fishing ramp in South Montesano. The tide was perfect at high water slack.

We headed upstream for about a mile to the "Hinkannen Banks," an old jack salmon hole that I used to fish as a teenager. It has not changed much over the years, and the same snags are still there, harboring ospreys and kingfishers. We turned around and drifted past the boat launch about 1/2-mile. We snaked left to the Blue Slough.

The banks were beautiful, with many grasses, reeds, and bushes turning a deep shade of green. Otter slides were everywhere, but we did not spot any. I wished I had brought a bird book, because the variety of species is tremendous! The water was surprisingly clear, and we saw a fish flash every once in a while.

Back in the main river, we cruised with the current about 4 miles to the "Harper Slough" near Central Park. The warm sun made us sleepy, and it didn't help that we would do a 360 every once in a while in order to follow the path of birds! We thought we heard someone chopping wood near the main stream, but it turned out to be a pileated woodpecker, banging away on a cedar, high above the muddy banks.

Just before our take-out at Cosmopolis, we were greeted by a tremendous flock of ducks. We also saw the wake of something very large swimming ahead of the canoe, but didn't get a good look before it submerged. I don't think it was Nessie ...

We both enjoyed this very scenic and leisurely trip down a beautiful estuarine environment. The whole area is quite pristine and we will be doing it again. Total travel time was about four hours.



Then I headed for the ...  
**LITCHY CREEK VALLEY** (Olympic Natl Park; USGS Mt Hoquiam)—I bid farewell to my canoeing partner and drove up to the Quin-

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ault Valley to Graves Creek campground, spotting two small herds of elk in the river bottoms. I enjoyed a very nice evening in the tent, and had a deer visit in the middle of the night.

Sunday morning dawned gray and drizzly, but it looked like the ceiling might be at about 2000 feet or so. I walked over to the campground entrance sign, and back toward the ranger station about 100 yards. The very old remnants of the Litchy Creek trail take off from here.

I found the old trail trace angling up the bank, marked by an old "buckout" cut from a downed tree. According to my grandfather, the trail used to be popular in the forties, but was abandoned in the fifties. We did go up the trail in the sixties, and it was full of windfalls. It hadn't changed! It was better not to try to follow the trail.

The route follows the old river terrace about 1/2-mile toward the rising hillside through gigantic firs, cedars, and hemlocks. The understory has been grazed heavily and I could smell a nearby group of elk.

On one of my "plunges" from fallen logs into the depths of a hidden hole, I went down and a grouse went up! Once I caught my breath, I crawled back up to the next group of elevated windfalls. I repeated these actions many times, and I was getting worn out by the time I reached the mountainside!

I continued up the hillside, angling right (west) away from the gorge of Graves Creek. I made a long, rightward arc up and over the prow of the hill, to finally traverse into the Litchy Creek Valley at about 2000 feet elevation.

This beautiful hanging valley is quite level for several miles. The creek was running a bit high from snowmelt, but was absolutely stunning. The clouds were dispersing, and the light was glinting on the rapids.

The snowfields of upper Litchy Creek were shimmering in the sun, inviting me to visit. However, time was a factor, so I turned around at a superb deep plunge pool beneath a 10-foot waterfall. Mr. Water Ouzel was flying in and out from behind the falls. I would bet there was a nest back there.

I decided to go straight over the hillside instead of contouring back the way I entered the valley. This turned out to be a good decision, as I had much better terrain. I descended through a short band of silver fir and followed a great hogsback right on down to rain forest level. I walked the road about a mile back to the campground in a light mist. —Larry Smith, Port Orchard, 6/14-15.

**GRAVES CREEK TRAIL**  
(*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Mt Olson, Mt Hoquiam*)—646 feet at the trailhead to 1880 feet in 3.5 miles.

Jim, Barbara, Bill and I (an Olympians club trip) hiked on the trail until we came to the Success Creek crossing—no bridge. In the 3.5 miles, we went over 40 blowdowns plus 22 other obstacles.

The trail looks to be slowly abandoned. We cleared some of the branches, but a full week of steady work needs to be done. Whitewater rushes furiously through a box canyon walled in by timbered mountainsides. We saw only one campsite and it's almost to the creek.

We ate lunch and talked about how, if we ever come back, would be the best way to cross the creek. An orange marker on a broken tree shows where the trail continues. Lots of different trees to name and luxuriant undergrowth to see. Description in *Olympic Mountains Trail Guide* by Robert L. Wood, page 225.—Kerry Gilles, Westport, 6/15.

**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 3-year campfire ban is in effect now from Wedding Rocks to Yellow Banks.

The ban is supposed to enhance the vegetation project underway at Sand Point, and will apply year-round.

**HOH LAKE TRAIL**—Probably will not open this year. The trail was wiped out for 200 feet by a slide that left debris and hundreds of trees down. Crews may not be able to rebuild that section this year.—Ranger, 6/18.

**HOH RIVER**—Trail crew has been up the Hoh and cut out all the downed trees. Snow begins about a mile past Elk Lake. The Martin Creek bridge is out. Hikers can get across, but ease and safety of crossing depends on weather and time of day.—Ranger, 6/18.

**DOSEWALLIPS**—The High Bridge on the West Fork is now open. Snow begins between Diamond and Honeymoon Meadows. A dangerously tilted footlog in that vicinity will be fixed by the trail crew by early July.

On Main Fork, snow begins just past Bear Camp.—Ranger, 6/18.

**STAIRCASE**—The North Fork trail is snowfree to Two Bear camp. The crew has cleared downed trees as far as

Seven Stream.

At Flapjack Lakes, half the campsites are snowfree. Trail to Gladys Divide is 70% snowcovered.—Ranger, 6/18.

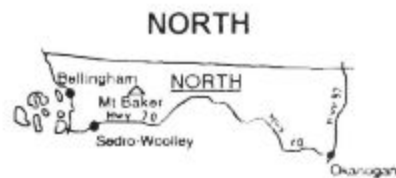
**SOL DUC**—The bridge over Sol Duc falls at 1 mile from the trailhead is being replaced. Trail will be open only to the bridge until repair is complete, probably sometime in July.—Ranger, 6/15.

**GRAYWOLF RIVER**—Slides at 4 and 4.5 miles. Footlog at Slab Camp trail is out.—Ranger, 6/3.

**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 Staliding Creek and Three Prime bridges are also scheduled for replacement in the fall.—Ranger, 6/15.

**ROYAL LAKE**—5 to 8 feet of snow at the lake; 15 feet in upper basin.—Ranger, 6/20.



**CUTTHROAT PASS** (*Okanogan Natl Forest; USGS Washington Pass*)—The first trip of the year up the North Cascades Highway is the symbolic start of the year's second ski season for me.

This year Tom and I parked at the blinking "No standing or parking/Next eleven miles" sign at Rainy Pass, and set out trying to stay northbound on the Crest Trail. Even when we were not quite on the trail we still had easy going on top of the deep snowpack, including in the trees.

After a few hours of travel we entered the open regions around Cutthroat Pass. There are many enjoyable and moderate slopes in this area, but even though it was still early in the day warm overnight temperatures had left the snow very soft.

The usual consolidation of the snowpack in April/May had yet to occur. There was plenty of evidence of wet loose slides, but the approach to the pass is not exposed, and the slopes above the pass are too low-angle to pose a hazard.

We idled for lunch on the top of the ridge, looking north toward Tower Mountain, Golden Horn, and Snowy Lakes. This area was the site of my introduction to fickle Northwest mountain weather a few years (okay, decades)

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ago, where as 12-year-old novice Boy Scouts we caught a foot of snow overnight on August 22nd. I have had my hat and gloves in my pack ever since.

To finish our tour we plowed the slush down toward Cutthroat Lake, our weight far back and our knees ruddering the mush. Once at the lake we glide-waxed our skis and cruised out to the highway, coming out at the blinking sign's partner, this one facing the opposite direction.

We stuck out a thumb and in just a few minutes we were sharing a scenic fresh-air ride over Washington Pass in the back of a pickup with a remarkably friendly and excited Rottweiler.—Peter Krystad, Seattle, 5/10.



## EAST BANK BAKER LAKE

(Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Welker Pk)—What to do on a beautiful sunny Sunday with 130 inches of snow on the ground at Paradise?

After taking the Iron Goat Trail out of Skykomish the weekend before, this Sunday my brother and I followed the east bank of Baker Lake on the imaginatively named "East Bank Trail." It was a very nice early season trip.

The trail follows near the lakeshore, but usually stays 50 to 150 feet above it. Trees prevent clear views of the lake, but there are plenty of glimpses of water and high mountains.

The trailhead is about 1½ miles beyond the Baker dam (on the same road that leads to the Watson Lakes trailhead). The trail touches the shore at two campgrounds: Anderson Point at about 2 miles and Maple Grove at a bit less than 4 miles. From the shore are very nice views of Baker and Shuksan across the lake.

The forest itself resembles rainforest, with a few old growth trees and lots of moss and pretty creeks, especially in the first 3 miles. The trail has been recently brushed and maintained for most of the way to Maple Grove and is generally in excellent shape, although a slide at about .75-mile blocks horse travel.

The book says that the trail ends about a mile beyond Maple Grove, but we followed it for an estimated 2.75 miles before we turned around just beyond the point where Baker Lake turns east. There were no views up the east end of the lake, but the trail continues.

(I understand that there have been plans to connect this trail with the Baker River trail. Perhaps that project is completed, allowing a one way hike from Baker River to Baker dam. Check with the ranger station to confirm.)

This was a pleasant hike, but it is no



Ann Marshall

Karen Sykes, left, and Kathe Stanness on the bridge over Ruby Creek, North Cascades National Park.

wilderness. The sound of motor boats on the lake is a constant companion at least as far as Maple Grove, and there are occasional motor boats beyond.

That remark is only intended as an observation, not a criticism. The folks in the boats have to have someplace for recreation, too. Just don't expect stillness and solitude on this hike.—Alan and Dave Sherbrooke, Seattle, 5/18.



## EAST BANK ROSS LAKE

(North Cascades Natl Park; USGS Ross Dam, Pumpkin Mtn, Mt Logan)—Although I have known Karen Sykes for years, we had never hiked together until she suggested this ladies' outing for Memorial Day weekend.

We picked up Kathe Stanness on the way north, got our permit at Marblemount, and drove to the trailhead at Panther Creek, 8 miles east of Thunder Arm, for a late start. The trail first drops 200 feet to cross Ruby Creek on a bridge, then gently meanders along the shoreline for about 3 miles to Hidden Hand Camp.

There are only three sites at Hidden Hand. We were the third party to arrive and took the last one. It was a viewless, dismal, dark and sloping spot with barely enough space to set up our two small tents. We hiked down to the lake shore to see the water and the sun.

Kathe found a warm spot to nap on a rock while Karen and I continued about ¾-mile to a sandy point where we could see across the lake to Green Point and Ross Lake Resort. The lake was

still quite low so we had a wide beach to walk on.

After dinner the cool, damp weather sent us early to our tents, where we fought gravity on the sloping ground, and listened to rain on the flies.

In the morning the rain stopped and we set out with day packs for a walk north on the East Bank trail. At a rock outcrop on the north side of the horse pasture, we came on a large patch of death camas and chocolate lilies. Along the trail we saw many calypso orchids and more wild ginger in bloom than we had ever seen anywhere before. This turned out to be a super early-season flower walk.

Although several creeks were high we were able to rock-hop over them until we came to Roland Creek, which was knee-deep and fast. This was 4.2 miles from camp. Kathe said she was not interested in fording a knee-deep icewater torrent. She would turn back here, and meet us back in camp.

Karen and I forded in bare feet, and continued to Rainbow Point, 6.5 miles from camp, sometimes through beautiful forest, sometimes with views out to the lake. At Rainbow Point we dropped to the beach for lunch, finding a spot out of the wind where we could take in the view of the lake.

About 2pm we headed back to camp, arriving about 4:15 in a gentle rain. The rain turned to a fine mist through the evening, again sending us to our tents soon after dinner.

In the morning we packed up our wet tents and headed back to the car.—Ann Marshall, Port Orchard, 5/24-26.

## NORTH CASCADES NATL. PARK

—Permits are required for overnight stays in the backcountry. Call 360-873-4590 x37 or 39.

Thornton Creek road is open to trailhead and in fair shape. Road is steep and narrow. Trail to lakes is snowbound.

Cascade River road is closed at 12.7 miles (Hard Creek) until July, for repairs. Road to Hidden Lakes trailhead is blocked by large downed trees at 2.5 miles; patchy snow beyond trailhead and solid snow beyond 4000 feet.

Beaver Loop has a huge avalanche 2.5 miles past Big Beaver Camp—1000 feet of trail obscured by debris and downed trees. Snow level at Beaver Pass is 2500 feet. Snow level on Desolation Peak is 5000 feet, many downed trees. Parking area is plowed at Easy Pass; 3 to 4 feet of snow at trailhead.—Ranger, 6/10.

METHOW VALLEY—509-996-4000. Andrew Creek trail snowfree 5 to

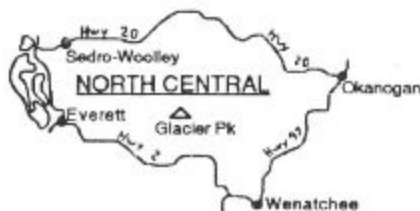
# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

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6 miles. Cedar Creek trail snowfree to Cedar Falls. Chewuch trail snowfree for 6 to 7 miles. Driveway Butte snowfree first 3 miles. Lake Creek trail is snowfree to lake and cleared of downed trees except for one big one. Robinson Pass trail snowfree for 2 to 3 miles; patchy beyond.

Crater Creek trail snowfree 1 mile. Eagle Lake trail snowfree and cleared of downed trees for 4 miles. East Fork Buttermilk snowfree 2 miles. Martin Creek trail is snowfree and cleared of downed trees for 2½ miles. Creek crossing at 1 mile is about knee deep. —Ranger, 6/13.

## NORTH CENTRAL



## BOULDER RIVER (Boulder River Wilderness; USGS Meadow Mtn)

—At mile post 41 on the Arlington-to-Darrington road, turn right and go about 3.2 miles to the road's end. Park and start.

The once-great graveled road is being overgrown by salmonberries, devils club and other trail-hiding greenery. Along the road/trail, you will pass deep woods below, high rock cliffs on your left and places where the old cedar logs are rotting away leaving holes through which you can see the river below.

Soon, you will reach an apex in the trail. It then starts down to the river and the first falls. Soon the rumble turns to thunder and you are faced with a grand water display that fans from its outrush at the top. Two trails go to the river so photogs can try to capture the grandeur of that watery lace.

The trail winds in and around trees of magnificent stature. The trail has many camel humps and tadpole puddles. Countless blowdowns can be seen from the trail. Some even obstruct its never-ending jaunt through trilliums, bleeding hearts and other spring colors.

Unfortunately, the river is usually too swift to cross at 4 miles so hikers set up camp at the end of the trail. Our first time here 10 years ago, the trail was not as good as it is now. This trip we didn't make it to the end because we spent quite some time clearing overgrowing brush and limbs.

One tree crashed a foot log. We

cleared the branches making it easier to get through. Another foot log was destroyed, but the new tree makes a better foot log. The two really bad places were where groups of trees are across the trail. The branches were like jail bars. You had to slither your pack through then crawl between the vertical bars.

We cut them off and cleared the trail. An older couple stopped us and ask who we were associated with, what club? Our reply was that we feel that if we use a trail, it is our responsibility to help keep it up. They thanked us and went on.—Wanderbuns and Shortstop, 5/97.



## NORTH FORK SKYKOMISH RIVER (Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Blanca Lk)

—The road is snowfree up to the Quartz Creek bridge. The washed out part just past the Blanca Lake trailhead has been nicely graveled.

We parked in a wide spot on the curve about .1-mile from the bridge. Because of the snow on the West Cady Ridge trail, we decided to walk the road. Much of the road is clear to the end. The washouts on the road just past the West Cady Ridge trailhead have not been repaired since last spring. A high clearance vehicle will be needed until it is repaired.

Snow covered the North Fork Skykomish River trail from the start. Route finding was a challenge, even for our three dogs. I fell through the snow several times. At Pass Creek, we dropped down to the flats and had lunch by the river. Our new puppy, Sammy, and our old dog, King, slept while Steve and I read for a while in the sun. Jenny waited patiently for us to get going again.

Our tracks out were not easy to follow. We were the only ones in the area, which was a nice treat for a weekend hike.—Linda Rostad, Redmond, 6/7.



## ROCK MOUNTAIN (Wenatchee Natl Forest; USGS Mt Howard)

—Elaine Maxwell and I were desperate to get out into the mountains. I wanted flowers and sun, Elaine wanted a summit.

We drove over Stevens Pass to the Rock Mountain trailhead (9 miles east of Stevens Pass) and set out on the trail. Since ticks are prevalent on Rock Mountain this time of the year I experimented with lavender oil. It's supposed to repel flies and mosquitoes, and I hoped it might work on ticks. Even if it didn't, I'd smell good.

I let Elaine go ahead of me (she is training for climbs) and we began to ascend the endless switchbacks through

open pine forest and wildflowers. The views started almost immediately, and so did the memories of other trips when I was in better shape than I am now.

I may be middle-aged, but the flowers were young and full of sweetness—Indian paintbrush, lupine and phlox. There were a few downed trees over the trail, but no significant problems. Farther up the trail we ran into trilliums and glacier lilies which meant, of course, we'd be hitting the snow soon. We got to snow just where the switchbacks end and the summit ridge of Rock Mountain comes slowly into view.

We left the trail and took the scramble route over easy rock and snow along the ridgeline that approaches Rock Lake. We stopped for a break on an island of rocks about 400 feet below the summit ridge. I had a cold and told Elaine I was going to call it a day. I felt lousy and I'd been to the summit several times before.

I got out the thermos of coffee, settled back on my pack and watched the resolute Elaine climb the steep snow to the ridge and disappear.

Well, after a snack and coffee I felt better and followed after her. She was just beginning to descend when she saw me coming, so we both went to the summit for a snack.

The summit is bare of snow but covered with lady bugs. The ridge, however, is heavily corniced. We met four young ski mountaineers who skied off the summit ridge into the bowl below. It was fun to watch them—they were such good skiers!

Finally we brushed the lady bugs off our packs and began to head down the trail into late afternoon sun. By the time we got back to the car Elaine had picked up one tick; I had none. Was it the lavender oil or mere luck of the draw?

In any event, with or without lavender oil or other repellent, watch out for ticks and take an ice axe if you are going to the summit in the near future.—Karen Sykes, Seattle, 6/10.



## GOAT FLAT TRAILHEAD (Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Meadow Mtn)

—At 13.8 miles from the Mountain Loop Highway, and the "Y" with road 4150, we routed a stream off the road and filled in the deep gully it made. It was deep enough to stop our four-wheel-drive. Sure took a lot of shoveling, rock totin', and careful driving once the project was done.

We continued past milepost 14 another .8-mile before snow stopped us. From there we walked to about ¼-mile from the trailhead. There was lots of

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snow in the shadow of the mountains and trees. Didn't make it to the trailhead because our digging made us late and an enormous rain squall dampened our fancy. It suddenly became quite cold also.

While it was clear, we enjoyed viewing Three Fingers and other snowladen peaks.

Notice the enclosed pictures of the log across the road. I am sending them hoping that you will print them. I want the Forest Service to know that many of us do volunteer work without supervision and we don't get free passes like those people working on the Iron Goat Trail.

Went back two weeks later to check on snowmelt. The road was clear to the trailhead. The trail was a virtual stream for the first mile, and was snowbound about half of that mile. We made it up to the first ridge, but trail at the end of the first ridge was snowbound. —Shortstop, the Driver, and Wanderbuns, 5/31 & 6/14.

**STEHEKIN**—Shuttle bus service runs daily from Stehekin Landing to High Bridge. Service may be extended to Bridge Creek by 7/1.

Reservations are recommended if you plan to go beyond High Bridge. Call 360-856-5700, x340, then 14.

For Lake Chelan boat information, call 509-682-2224. For Chelan Airways information, call 509-682-5555.

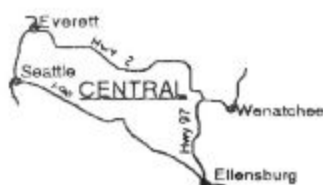
**Purple Creek** trail is snowfree for 3 miles, with a hazardous creek crossing at 2 miles. **Devore Creek** trail is snowfree for ½-mile.—Ranger, 6/12.

**ENTIAT DIST**—509-784-1511. The **Entiat road** is snowfree to about Spruce Grove campground. The snow has finally begun to melt and bugs are out in force.—Ranger, 6/15.

**LAKE WENATCHEE DIST**—509-763-3103. Expect heavy log truck traffic and long traffic delays 7 days a week on **Entiat Ridge road 52** for a couple of weeks. **Little Wenatchee road 65** is closed just past the junction with road 67. **Chiwawa road 62** is drivable to the end of the pavement (Chikamin Flats). **White River road 64** is drivable to 1 mile beyond Tall Timber Ranch.

**Dirtyface trail** is snowfree except for the last mile. **Merritt Lake trail** is maintained for 2 miles from the trailhead. Snow is about 4 feet deep from there to the lake. Most other trails are still snowcovered.—Ranger, 6/15.

## CENTRAL



**MOUNT PERSIS** (private land; USGS Index)—As winter recedes from the mountains, some of you rejoice. And some of us seek higher ground. I sought higher ground on Persis. The weather was off and on rain at the trailhead. But both the dog and I were waterproof, so we kept going.

Despite the overabundance of rain there was plenty of snow starting at the ridgeline and continuing to the summit. Two and a half hours from the truck we were sitting on top eating lunch. Suddenly the rain changed to snow! I thought I'd died and gone to heaven!

We sat there enjoying the swirling fog and snow for 30 minutes. Then I put on my skis and my Siberian and I headed down, as indirectly as possible.

I was able to stay on my skis for an hour before running out of snow.

Now Persis really isn't worth it for most backcountry ski bums to haul their gear up. The runs aren't really challenging. But there is a lot of area to run over, and it's kind of a fun place to go.

Snow depth in the meadows is 4 to 6 feet (8 to 10 in the woods). On top only about 20 inches remain, which made getting down tricky in a couple of places.

The road is still drivable with a 4x4. Or beater with high clearance. The trail is well defined with only a few blowdowns to deal with.—David MacFarlane, Lake Stevens, 6/5.



## PCT, Stevens Pass South

(Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Stevens Pass)—As a skier this is the almost-record-snow year I've been waiting for since 1971-72. As a hiker this big snowpack represents a 2 to 6 week delay in accessing most Cascade mountain trails.

The ski lifts stopped six weeks ago with 8 to 15 feet of snow still on the ground at 3000 to 4000 feet. My solution has been to keep on skiing till the snow melts. Spring snow in June is just as good as spring snow in April, but far fewer people are using it.

We got a late start after a "mostly cloudy with scattered showers in the mountains and foothills" weather forecast. The weather improved as we drove up the west side of the pass and we had a mostly sunny day. Arriving at noon temperature was about 45 with little wind.

My son Richard and I started up the Promenade ski trail which parallels the PCT south. At the end of Promenade the Tye Mill chairlift goes straight up to the ridge line at about a 35 degree



**BEFORE ...** a log blocks the road to the Goat Flat trailhead, but a hiker and his friend set to work ...



**AFTER ...** the road is clear enough to drive carefully through.

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angle. The PCT switchbacks up (great huckleberries here in September) and the Tye Mill ski trail curves around to the southwest and then back to the southeast meeting the PCT at the ridge top at the top chair lift terminal.

We skied up Tye Mill admiring two massive spring avalanche tracks. On top we had lunch with a family of marmots. Two other skiers arrived during lunch. Nobody else (skier, snowshoer or hiker) came up to enjoy the spectacular view of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness peaks to the south.

And, ah, the descent! I rented the latest super-sidecut telemark skis and boots from Marmot Mountain Works. They were very good indeed, far superior to my own touring skis. Heavy wet late spring snow was no problem for these "Atomic Tour Lite" skis. They made easy parallel turns down slopes that I would struggle to get down on my own skis.

Come on up—the snow is still good and it will be around for many weeks yet. 1 to 2 foot base at 4050 feet. 3 to 6 foot base in woods and on ski runs. Heather Ridge on the north side of the pass is partly melted out up to about 4500 feet.

Distance 3 miles, base 4050 feet, top 5200 feet, 3 hours total trip time.—Robert Michelson, Seattle, 6/7.

 **MERCER ISLAND** (*USGS Mercer Island*)—As our leader Tom noted, we didn't need to figure tides and currents for this freshwater trip, but we did need to think about boat traffic and winds on Lake Washington.

The trip was to circumnavigate Mercer Island—a distance of around 13¾ miles. Our group of four launched from Enatai Park which is directly under the east end of the I-90 bridge on the mainland side.

To reach it, exit I-90 on the Bellevue Way North exit, turn left on 113th Avenue SE which becomes SE 34th Street. Go to the end, then turn left on 108th Avenue SE, go under the I-90 bridge, then turn right into the parking lot.

This is a new facility which also houses the Bellevue Canoe and Kayak Center. You can rent canoes and kayaks here and also sign up for lessons. As it turned out the Center was just setting up for business today and was expecting two 10-person Voyageur canoes to be delivered in the afternoon. For more information call 425-637-8838.


By 10am we had our gear packed and set out in our sea kayaks. Tom opted to go counterclockwise because of winds forecasted for later in the day

that were supposed to come up from the southwest.

This is strictly urban paddling with most of the shoreline taken up by fancy homes. There are several developed parks along the way. We stopped at Groveland Park roughly two-thirds of the way down the west side for lunch.

There are also a number of street ends just south of the I-90 bridge on the west side where you could stop to stretch your legs. There are no facilities at these street ends and they were not shown on our maps. Perhaps a map of only Mercer Island might show them.

The winds and rain showers predicted never materialized so we had a very relaxed and enjoyable paddle. By shortly before 4pm we were back at Enatai Park preparing to reenter the world of fast moving traffic on I-90.—LGM, Port Orchard, 6/5.

 **GOAT MOUNTAIN** (*Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS Lake Phillipa*)—Unseasonably warm weather greeted John, Jeff and me as we drove up the North Fork Snoqualmie River road.

After crossing Lennox Creek, the road splits, with the right branch paralleling the creek. We drove 1.7 miles up this branch, until we were halted by snow. Goat Mountain, a **Home Court 100** peak (see *P&P, July 1995, page 22*), lies between the Lennox Creek and Sunday Creek drainages—tributaries of the North Fork.

We hiked on the road for .7-mile, whereafter a valley to the south opened up and the first of two unnamed streams (shown on map) empties into Lennox Creek. A past reconnaissance informed us of a logjam at this point.

We were glad to have located the jam, the crux of the trip, as we wanted no part in wading the rushing meltwater of the swollen creek. Having crossed safely, we discussed our route choices.

One possibility would be to bisect the unnamed creeks and ascend directly south to the summit up some steep and open slopes. The hot weather and heavy spring snowpack beckoned for a more prudent, avalanche-safe route, so we opted for the northeast ridge.

We were not alone on this route: along the way, John came across some bear tracks; later on, ironically, we walked past a partial skeleton of a mountain goat.

We meandered through old growth timber, reaching significant snow near 2800 feet and attaining the ridge (4200 feet), where we got a view of Dog Mountain and Canoe Peak to the east. The sun bore down on us as we fol-

lowed the ridge upward and traded leads through the softening snow.


The ridge laid back at 4900 feet and we strapped on our snowshoes for the traverse. Our route choice proved to be wise as we noticed the avalanche debris strewn below us. The ridge thinned considerably, but was not troublesome.

At the summit block, we ascended south, avoiding the summit cornices, then climbed the easy summit ridge to the top (5580 feet).

The sky was clear and the view littered with peaks as we sat and ate our lunch. While John and Jeff engaged in an enthusiastic game of "Name That Summit," I directed my binoculars through the saddle of Twin Peaks and saw the unmistakable image of ... the Kingdome!

I quickly repositioned myself and instead scanned the imposing rocky ramparts of the north side of Garfield. Ahh, much better!

3600 feet elevation gain, 4½ hours up, 2½ hours down.—Eric Keeler, Seattle, 5/10.

 **MIDDLE FORK SNOQUALMIE RIVER** (*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Lk Phillipa*)—Shortstop and I decided to cross the bridge into the longest mud hole in the northwest. It lived up to Larry Trammell's write-up in the June issue of *P&P* (page 26) in every way.

He left out that bicycles are not permitted on that trail. A blue sign showing a bike with a crossed-out circle on it is on the trailhead bulletin board.

The mud was so bad that we just plodded through it. What is the answer to the mud? Boardwalks? Gravel? Trail closures during the rainy season? Rubber boot rentals at the trailhead? A place to wash your feet at the end of the hike? I don't know but I can say that gravel does not work. They tried it in several places but the wet clay has eaten the gravel.

Not to be critical of the hard work that went into constructing the trail, but there was little effort made to capture the awe of the big wall. No effort was made to place people in areas where they could observe the grandeur of peaks to the north. And I felt that the trail did a lot of unnecessary meandering through a forest that did not need all us people in it.

Now for the good stuff. The secret of the river crossing is not to go left, but go right after crossing the bridge.

There is the beauty—a nice rustic trail, and a sand bar along the river where you can stretch a blanket out on the sand and old Sol can burn your

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epiderm layers. There are plenty of niches with room for many.

It isn't a long hike to the end of the sand bar and a noisy little pool with a steep rock backdrop. It is a place to eat and dig your toes into the sand. I would surmise that you won't go hungry either, as you can always eat the "sand-which-is" there.

So don't do what is left, do what's right and enjoy the south side of the river. Try it! You'll be impressed. We did and "Mikey liked it."—Wanderbuns and Shortstop, Kirkland, 5/26.

**MIDDLE FORK SNOQUALMIE RIVER** (*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Lk Phillippa*)—Over the past six weeks, I have hiked most of the Middle Fork trail and want to complement the people responsible for raising the quality of hiking in this very important wilderness region. The first stretch from the new trailhead to the Dingford Creek bridge and trailhead was a fabulous early season hike in this snowbound year. This trail is great for all, including families and children.

The second stretch to Goldmeyer Hot Springs is much less traveled. The ford

of what I believe is Wildcat Creek is do-able if you are willing to wade. I declined to try the ford of the confluence of Goat and Burntboot Creeks just before Goldmeyer Hot Springs due to fast and deep water.

Let me put in a plug for the trail up to Snow Lake from the Middle Fork Trail. Even though it is in the *100 Hikes* book, when I hiked it two weeks ago, there was no one on the trail at all. This trail, growing over, needs traffic!

I got within a mile of Snow Lake when stopped by snow at 3400 feet. The little cirque is beautiful as is the waterfall down from Snow Lake. I will return to complete this one.

The third stretch from Goldmeyer to the end is for the experienced hiker only. The drive from the new trailhead is very rough.

The ford to Goldmeyer Hot Springs from the right fork road at 4.2 miles from Dingford Creek is through fast deep water. A rope installed by weekend campers would help some, but not me with a young Australian shepherd that hates water.

The old footlog is out. Reach a new logjam downriver from a very faint tread that starts about 30 feet "down

river" from the parking area at the right fork. The bottom is a scramble. The logs require concentration. Once across, find a very faint footpath that stays close to the river, crossing logs and going through brush, until reaching the trail near the Middle Fork ford.

From Goldmeyer north, the trail and river are beautiful; however, the trail is overgrown in places, with numerous logs to crawl over and under.

Just beyond what appeared to be the end of the trail across from the end of the road, a lot of trail work has been done, extending the trail another mile or so until it comes to an abrupt end by the river, which at that point is completely uncrossable. A curiosity on this stretch was a pipe spouting water into a yucky polyethylene pool of mineral water.—Chuck Pettis and Workin' Dog Blue, Seattle, 6/8.

**SNOQUALMIE MOUNTAIN** (*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Snoqualmie Pass*)—This was not a great overall tour, but it was interesting. I started at the Sahalee ski slope on the Alpentel road and walked frozen boot tracks back into the woods.



An aerial view west over Mount Shuksan with Mount Baker in the background. Watercolor by Dee Molenaar

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Once in Commonwealth Basin the snow softened a bit. I put my skis and skins on and traversed around the foot of Guye peak and then up the slope toward the Guye-Snoqualmie saddle.

The slope got steep enough, and snow rotten enough, that I put the skis back on my pack and postholed until the slope eased off. There was much evidence that avalanches had both started and run in among the deep timber on this slope at some point this winter.

Once at the saddle I headed along Cave Ridge and started up the southwest shoulder. Again the going got too steep (and narrow) so I stowed the skis again and hiked to the summit, unhappy at the prospects of skiing the narrow shoulder, and (undoubtedly) sideslipping through the forest below the saddle.

After a nice lunch with good views I decided to just ski the chute leading from the false summit into the main basin to the south instead of trying to follow the shoulder back down. This wide chute doglegged left above rocks and a moat but was not overly steep. Once in the basin the skiing was great, cruising down various bumps and humps.

At 5400 feet I stopped at the point where I would need to traverse southwest back to the shoulder to avoid cliffs below, and considered how I would evaluate my day if this was all the good turns I would get. I chose to gamble a little more effort.

The skins went back on and I ascended northeast toward the "snow dome" between Snoqualmie and Lundin Peak. From this point I could see a safe route by reversing the approach to Lundin Peak all the way to the Commonwealth Basin floor, clearly a cleaner alternative than my approach via Cave Ridge. Or I could follow the nice randonee tracks heading directly down the slope into who knows where.

Violating one of my principles of safe backcountry skiing: "Thou shall not descend unknown slopes, especially in cliff-ridden terrain," I followed the tracks. It was a very nicely pitched run with some delicate side-slipping midway to work through a series of moats.

Three-quarters of the way to the floor the tracks escaped left to avoid more cliffs. The final trek out through the big timber in the afternoon warmth was great, and too soon I was back at my car.—Peter Krystad, Seattle, 5/18.



## FIRST KENDALL KNOB

(Wenatchee Natl Forest; USGS Snoqualmie Pass)—See *Cross Country Ski Tours 2* by Kirkendall & Spring. A very good intermediate tour on a beautiful warm near-clear day.

The trail starts at the Gold Creek Sno-park just across the I-90 interchange from Hyak. Two feet of snow at the Sno-park increased to about 4 feet in the woods at ½-mile and about 8 to 10 feet at the summit.

Good views after about a mile; great views from 2 miles on, and at the top is a 360 panorama of Cascade peaks, with Mount Rainier on the south horizon and all four Snoqualmie Pass ski areas below.

After taking many photos I had a long lunch in the shade of an alpine fir. 60 degrees in the shade but much warmer in the sun on the trail. I wore two layers of sunglasses and a hat with brim and still thought it was extremely bright.

I encountered nine other skiers (why no snowshoes?). Just shy of 2 miles, a large log blocks the trail; you can take your skis off to climb over or wiggle under on your belly.

Typical spring corn snow, no ice. Base 2700 feet; top 4400 feet. 7 miles round trip, 2½ hours up, 1½ hours down.—Robert Michelson, Seattle, 5/10.



## WILDHORSE TRAIL (Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS

Mt Howard, Chiwaukum Mtns)—Whitepine road in good shape to trail-head—just one car on Sunday.

First 2½ miles on Whitepine trail had more blowdowns than usual and one irritating avalanche section but do-able. At the junction the Wildhorse trail heads up for about 2½ miles to 5000 feet, then contours (the Whitepine trail goes a short way to the washed-out bridge—it'll be weeks before you can ford this.)

There was some snow near junction and then at about 4700 feet. I camped at 5½ miles (5000 feet) at a nice spot. Great views looking south and west—very snowy. At least five kinds of birds singing. Weather was cloudy but warm. The main trail was mostly snow beyond here so in the morning I headed up the Deadhorse Pass trail—not on map—to a basin at 5600 feet. This was mostly snow. Then off-trail on ridge to the north (no snow here) and east on ridge to about 6300 feet. The clouds were lowering so I headed home from here.

This makes an excellent June trip, definitely a "wilderness experience." I hardly ever see anyone. Be prepared for many tributaries to hop across or ford this time of year. Saw a few orchids in the valley.—Ron Rugg, Seattle, 6/15-16.



## IRON MOUNTAIN AND MILLER PEAK (Wenatchee

Natl Forest; USGS Blewett)—Close-up views into seldom seen Negro Creek valley, big views of the Stuart Range,

and an overnight stay on a high shoulder of Miller Peak highlighted this two day trip.

By walking the connecting ridge between Iron and Miller, Janet Stanek and I were able to make a grand circuit of the North Shaser Creek drainage. A good deal of the trip was road walking, as the North Shaser area is dedicated to multiple use (read: open to motor bikes and ATVs). On a gorgeous weekend, however, we only encountered one group of two ATV riders on Saturday, and one group of three motorcyclists on Sunday.

In addition to many quiet miles of road walking, we traveled cross-country on a mostly snowfree ridge, and hiked a few miles of the County Line Trail. This is a trail that deserves to be more famous. Views are outstanding, since much of its length is at or above timberline along the Wenatchee Mountains.

A gate barring access to vehicles wider than 40 inches at the mouth of the North Shaser Creek (2700 feet) discourages casual access for walkers headed for the ridge tops. We needed three-plus hours to reach the summit of Iron. A few additional hours were needed to reach the Wenatchee Mountains ridge crest and a high camp at about 6000 feet. Snowbanks were available to melt for water, but later in the summer this ridge would be totally dry.

Sunday morning we made the short trek from camp to the summit of Miller. After a morning of peak gazing, we headed south on the County Line Trail. In my opinion, motorcycles should be restricted from backcountry trails, but we noticed on this trail that some of the switchbacks have been site-hardened with cinder blocks to accommodate motorized use. Many switchbacks on a logging road helped ease our descent to North Shaser Creek and a closing of our loop trip.

Hikers wanting to summit on Miller this time of year might want a shorter, less strenuous venture beginning from near the Blewett Pass area. We encountered a few dayhikers doing that trip on Sunday.—Charlie Hickenbottom, Wenatchee, 6/7-8.



## STAFFORD CREEK (Wenatchee Natl Forest; USGS Enchantment Lks)

—In the first mile, two re-routes high above the creek bypass all the washouts of the last few years. There were a few easy blowdowns and lots of flowers past 2 miles.

We camped at a nice spot at 4400 feet except for the loud snowmelt-filled creek. We had to shout to be heard. We explored up the slopes in the sun until 9. It was only 35 degrees that night.



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The next day we followed the trail with patchy, then mostly, snow in the shady area between 4800 feet and the junction at 5000 feet. From here to 5500 feet was mostly clear. Then we lost the trail in 2 to 4 feet of solid snow so headed straight up to the camping meadow at 5700 feet.

I was so enamored with a snowfree island including a marginal tent site that I scampered back down to 4400 feet, packed up, and lugged the gear back up. It was well worth the work. We had a delightful evening listening to many birds instead of the crashing river.


I went alone up to Navaho Pass on 2 to 5 feet of snow but the pass and ridges were snowfree. Great views of the Stuart Range and snowy Earl in the twilight.

On Tuesday we explored west of the pass, admiring the views, flowers and aesthetic trees. Then leisurely back to the car at 6. Saw only four dayhikers on Sunday, and two on Tuesday.—Ron Rugg, Seattle, 6/8-10.


 **TRONSON RIDGE** (*Wenatchee Natl Forest; USGS Tiptop*)—Reached from Highway 97, Five-Mile road 7224 is in good shape to trailhead with a nice car-camp site with wide views.

Followed trail to junction with Red Hill trail (2+ miles). Flowers in full bloom—a botanist's delight. Trail is interesting in that it travels through several different habitat types showing different plant associations from moist forest to dry and rocky.

Views of Stuart Range and all of Mount Rainier made this a spectacular hike while the high Cascades were still cloaked in snow. (Tronson Ridge and Red Hill trails are open to motorcycles after 6/15.)—LUVS2HIKE, Leavenworth, 6/10.

 **RED HILL TRAIL 1223** (*Wenatchee Natl Forest; USGS Tiptop*)—Can be access from Tronson Ridge trail or from Mission Creek/Dry Creek road south of Cashmere. Trail is open and in excellent shape. Flowers in peak of bloom.

Red Hill itself must be named for the stately, old-growth, red-barked ponderosa pines on its park-like plateau top. Lots of high views out to distant high peaks. This trail is a ridge-walk much of the way and well worth a trip to see it.—LUVS2HIKE, Leavenworth, 6/7.

 **RED DEVIL TRAIL** (*Wenatchee Natl Forest; USGS Tiptop*)—Accessed from Mission Creek/Sand Creek road 7104. This newer trail

leaves the Red Hill trail and travels through stately old-growth forest, up and over two ridges, to connect with the Devil's Gulch trail in about 4 miles.

If two vehicles are used, a hiking party can do a through-route on this quite easily since Devils Gulch trailhead on road 7100 is only a few miles from the Red Hill trailhead.

Views out to Sheep Mountain and Horselake Mountain. Many beautiful forest flowers along this trail.—LUVS2HIKE, Leavenworth, 6/8.

**LEAVENWORTH DIST**—509-548-6977. Icicle road is snowfree to the end. Eightmile road is open only to Eightmile trailhead. It is closed beyond this point because the bridge is unsafe. People going to Stuart Lake must walk from the Eightmile trailhead, about a mile.

The Snow Lakes trail is snowfree for 4.5 miles. There are some washouts and trees across the trail. Only two campsites are snowfree and the lakes are 95% snow covered.

On the Colchuck Lake trail is a large slide just before the junction with Stuart Lake trail. At the creek crossing, the footlog has washed away. Expect many downed trees and some patchy snow. Colchuck Lake is mostly melted out. Aasgard Pass is snow-covered.

Ingalls Creek trail is snowfree for about 6 miles. Several debris slides and some trail damage from meltwater. Icicle Creek trail has patchy snow for about 4.5 miles; snowcovered by 7 miles.—Ranger, 6/17.

**ENCHANTMENTS**—Reservations are full for the season for the Enchantment core area. Some space still remains at Snow, Colchuck, Stuart, Eightmile and Caroline Lakes.

Permits are required for overnight use from 6/15 to 10/15. Reservations can be made up to 180 days in advance of the trip date. To make reservations call 888-953-7677. The fee is \$1 per person per day. VISA or Mastercard accepted; checks must be received within 5 calendar days of making the reservation.

When making a reservation, have trip itinerary ready including trip dates (also alternate dates), destinations, entry point, and number in group (maximum size is 8 in Enchantments).

25% of the daily quota is saved for "day of use." These daily quota permits are available through a lottery system at the Leavenworth Ranger Station beginning at 7:45am every day of the week.—Ranger, 6/3.

**CLE ELUM DIST**—509-674-4411  
Snow line is about 4000 to 5000 feet. Due to late snowmelt, no trails have been maintained. Crews are just now able to get to lower portions of trails to begin work. Ticks are out.

Here's a partial road listing. Swauk Pass road 9716 is open to the 9712 junction. Old Blewett road 7320 is open to the summit. Iron Creek road 9714 is open to road-end and trailhead. North Fork Teanaway road 9737 is open to Eldorado Creek. Jungle Creek road 9701 open to end.

French Cabin road 4308 open to the basin. Corral Creek road 4305 open to top of Sasse Ridge. Fish Lake road 4330 open to Fortune Creek. Little Sac road 4315 open about 2 miles. Cooper Lake road 4600 open to Pete Lake trailhead. Call the ranger station to check on the road you plan to travel.

Salmon la Sac campground will be closed all of '97 for extensive water and sewer system repair.

Trails: The Waptus River trail has been cleared of downed trees to the wilderness boundary; snow still on the ground beyond.

Jolly Mountain trail maintained first mile. Stafford Creek trail maintained

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first mile. Iron-Bear trail has been brush and cleared from the road 9714 side to the junction with Teanaway Ridge. Johnson-Medra trail is maintained first 1.5 miles to first creek crossing; deep snow beyond. Teanaway Ridge trail maintained to Iron-Bear junction. —Ranger, 6/3.

## SOUTH CENTRAL



**HYAK SUMMIT from Silver Fir** (*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Snoqualmie Pass*)—Start from the Ski Acres Cross-Country Center on Snoqualmie Pass. From the base of the Silver Fir chairlift head east on the Hyak crossover trail. After 2/3 of a mile or so at the junction with Creek trail (now in Hyak ski area) turn right uphill on Creek.

Follow Creek uphill south and then east to the top of Hyak. This was not a California day: it was overcast with southwest winds, rain showers, and temperature 45 degrees. Cool enough for jackets and gloves. Skiing with my son and one friend I had a hard time keeping up.

I arrived last at the summit in time to talk to the only other skier we saw, a white-haired man in his 70s who was doing a much longer tour than we were. After a brief wet lunch on the porch of the Ski Patrol Hut we descended.

About 1 foot of snow at the base of Silver Fir became 2 to 3 feet in the woods on the crossover trail. We had to take off our skis to get over a 5-foot snow bank on one of the bridges. Upper mountain snow depth is 3 to 4 feet. A couple of bare spots on lower creek but there was lots of room to go around them. Wet corn snow was the prevailing condition with lots of fir needles as a coating in the woods.

Base 2800 feet. Top 3800 feet. About 4 miles round trip. 1½ hours up, 45 minutes down. —Robert Michelson, Seattle, 5/24.

**CAMP MUIR** (*Mt Rainier Natl Park; USGS Mt Rainier East*)—Troop 64 camped at Cougar Rock at Mount Rainier at the end of May. Eight of us tried to hike to Camp

Muir. The rain began to fall on us as we drove into the Paradise parking lot at 7am. While we put on rain gear, Mr. Wolff commented on the dark, angry clouds to the west.

I wanted to pretend they weren't there. If I didn't know the area well I would have been more conservative. But if I had known then that they were from the weather system that probably caused the funnel cloud in Tacoma that day, I think I might have turned around right then and headed for camp!

The rain hit us harder as we started up the snow slope out of the parking lot, following the flagged route. Other groups were out there too, so we were not alone in our craziness.

When the rain became a heavy pelting deluge, we took refuge in some trees. There we decided to divide into two groups. Tim, Steve, Ryan and Doug would turn back to go with the rest of the troop on a hike lower down. Camp Muir was no longer a possibility. The hike was becoming an ordeal. And some of the group did not really have appropriate clothing and gear for a miserable-weather mountain hike.

Brian, Fred, Aaron and I decided to go as high as we could get safely. I was hoping to climb up through the clouds and be in bright sunshine, as happens on some days. But not this day.

We could hear people shouting in the distance, but visibility was not good enough to see what was happening. Was a party in trouble? Was someone lost? We could not tell. As we got above Panorama Point, though, we looked down and could see a large group of Mountaineers. I think they must have been doing crevasse rescue practice.

We pressed on in the continuing rain. The boys learned how to kick steps in snow and hike at a slow and steady pace. They also learned how to plunge-step—going down a slope by stepping with their heels and leaning forward.

Just above the sign indicating Pebble Creek, we turned back. I knew the higher we got in elevation, the stronger the winds would be. As it was, the wind and rain were creating ice sheets on the snow.

On top of that, I noticed that Aaron's pack zipper was broken and his gear was unprotected. Fred helped him put his things in a plastic bag, but just stopping for a few minutes we began to get cold. We would have to keep moving to stay warm. It was time to head back. We quickly descended.

Back at Cougar Rock hot drinks and dry clothes waited for us. Camp Muir will wait for us too, on another day. —Lindy Bakkar, Lynnwood, 5/31.

**FOSS PEAK** (*Rainier Natl Park; USGS Mt Rainier East, Tatoosh Lks*)—A convivial group of 12 left the 4350-foot Snow Lake trailhead at 8:40am. A few avalanche lilies were in bloom at the trailhead. The trail was snowfree for the first 15 feet.

Left trail within a hundred feet to head directly for the notch leading to Snow Lake. After the notch held high to swing around the ridge and head straight up Unicorn Creek. Deep snow makes this route easier than in summer when a great deal of boulder hopping on unstable talus is required.

Topped the 6200-foot ridge at noon for a brief rest, oohs and ahhs. To 6524-foot summit at 1pm for an extended lunch. Great views in all directions; Mount Adams especially bright.

Left summit about 2:10 for a series of spectacularly long glissades to Snow Lake. Arrived trailhead at 4:30 following a brief period where conviviality turned to rowdiness and a snowball fight. Good meal at Rainier Overland restaurant about a mile east of Ashford. —Paul G. Schaufler, Olympia, 6/14.

**WAHPENAYO PEAK** (*Rainier Natl Park; USGS Wahpenayo Pk*)—Joined two friends for their third attempt. Left Longmire, 2800 feet at 8am. Trail mostly bare to around 4000 feet. Trail obscure at times, easy to lose on snow. About 50% bare from here to the end of the main trail at approximately 5000 feet.

From that point mostly on snow but some very slippery, wet, dead beargrass and unstable talus to 5520-foot saddle between Chutla and Wahpenayo. Arrive there about 11:20. Most of the huge cornices that were so apparent earlier have smoothed out so the best route was completely on snow on the north edge of the ridge. Several steep pitches require kicking steps and provide lots of experience in self belay. Arrive 6230-foot summit at 12:45.

Mat cushion phlox in bloom. Weather change in offing. Spectacular clouds, including lenticulars over Rainier which was obscured at times. Adams, Hood, St. Helens all visible, stiff but warm breeze. Left summit at 1:30, more kick-steps and self belay necessary for safe descent. Arrive at Longmire at 4:15. Three was the magic number Paul G. Schaufler, Olympia, 6/15.

**MOUNT WOW** (*Rainier Natl Park; USGS Mt. Wow*)—Party of six assembled at West Side Road barrier at 7:30am. Barrier is still at winter location just off the road to Longmire. Hike up the road about ½ mile. Leave

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

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road at about 2440 feet elevation and scramble up cutbank just south of the second live stream. This is the first major drainage.

The route is essentially straight up the fall line with a gain of near one foot vertical for every two feet horizontal, a knuckle dragger. At 9am and 3550 feet pass a calypso orchid (false lady slipper, *Calypso bulbosa*), a welcome sight in this bleak landscape.

At 4000 feet and 9:35am shift from slick dirt and litter slope to snow chute. Snow is firm and steps kick in easily. On snow the rest of the ascent. Arrive Lake Allen at 10:20. 10 foot drifts here, very little open water, recent but not fresh bear tracks. A very dramatic setting with cliffs looming to the west.

Short break then across lake to north shore and up westerly under trees parallel to a chute. Head for saddle just south of summit. Cross slopes well spread out; ominous long horizontal cracks in snow above. At 11:05 there is a light wet snow drizzle and visibility drops to about 200 feet.

At 12:05 we summit, about 6000 feet depending on the map. Very little wind and some radiant heat from the sun occasionally seeps through the fog. Visibility still about 200 feet.

Leave summit about 12:45. Drop rapidly, at 2:05 spot first trillium and several more calypsos soon after. The wet footing is very treacherous, lots of tumbles and tree hugging.

On road at 2:45 and back to cars at 3:15. Wet day, constant drizzle and tree drip but lack of wind and fairly warm temperature made it tolerable.—Paul G. Schaufler, Olympia, 5/24.

**PINNACLE PEAK** (*Rainier Natl Park; USGS Mt Rainier East*)—Few will be surprised to learn that as of this date the trail to Pinnacle Peak saddle is under several feet of snow. Limited parking at Reflection Lakes.

After a pleasant ascent in steadily improving weather (even a glimpse of Rainier's summit) this group of 9 down-climbed to the notch between Pinnacle and The Castle for a series of enervating glissades almost all the way to the parking lot. A 6-hour round trip.—Paul G. Schaufler, Olympia, 6/7.

**WEST MANASTASH RIDGE** (*Dept of Wildlife; USGS Hudson Creek, Manastash Creek*)—See hike 27, from *55 Hikes in Central Washington*.

This is a wonderful late spring hike! It's on one of those partly forested ridges that run up into the east slopes of the Cascades.

We walked up a jeep track ("Shell Rock Rd.") on a cool, sunny, perfect Sunday, through pines and lupine, to open meadows of grass and flowers—dry grass, and flowers among the crumbling basalt chunks. In the driest and rockiest parts (and there were many such) were huge drifts of bitterroot flowers, their extravagant pink blossoms looking entirely out of place in the wastes.

We saw no one else, neither wheeled or walking, except three deer, who moved cautiously away on thin stick legs as we approached.

Book instructions need revision: Dammon Road is now signed Umtanum Road. All the rest is correct.—Peg Ferm, Monroe, 6/8.

**RAINIER NATL PARK**—Approximately 1350 feet of road from the Carbon River entrance to Ipsut campground washed out during the '96 winter floods. The area will remain closed throughout '97 to cars, but you can park at the entrance and hike or bike to Ipsut.

The Longmire and Paradise Inns are open for the season. Stevens Canyon, Chinook Pass, Cayuse Pass and White River campground roads are open. Mowich Lake and Sunrise roads may open 7/3.

Wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips and can be obtained at offices throughout the park and the Forest Service office in Enumclaw.

Climbers must pay a fee of \$15 per person per climb (\$25 annual permit). Independent climbing groups must obtain a permit before attempting a summit climb.—Ranger, 6/18.

**MOWICH ROAD**—This is the only entrance to Mount Rainier National Park where entrance fees have not been charged in the past. That will change this year with the planned 7/3 opening of the road, when entrance fees will be charged.

An honor system fee collection station will be installed at the Paul Peak trailhead, 1/2-mile inside the park boundary on the Mowich Lake road. Motorists will be required to stop and deposit the entrance fee (\$10 per vehicle; \$5 per person on bicycles or foot).

The road opening may be delayed by heavy snow.—Ranger, 6/18.

**WHITE RIVER DIST**—360-825-6585. Snow level is about 5300 feet. Crystal Mountain will begin summer operation on 6/27. The Summit House will be open for lunch.

Greenwater road 70 remains closed at 7 miles to all car traffic; will be re-

constructed by this fall.

Corral Pass road 7174 closed by snow. Huckleberry Creek road 73 is open about 9 miles, with 3 feet of snow on road before Eleanor Creek crossing. West Fork White River road 74 drivable 9 miles in from Highway 410.

The 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 east is also hampered because the bridge on Viola Creek is out.—Ranger, 6/16.

**NACHES DIST**—509-653-2205. Trailheads are opening up, and generally trails below 4000 feet are accessible, although there is a big difference in slopes with a south or north exposure.

The PCT at Chinook Pass is under 20 feet of snow in some spots and may not be snowfree until late July or August.

The Naches District has enlisted ten local vendors to sell Trail Park passes: Cascade Licensing (Union Gap), Slims Market (Naches), Get-Away Sports (Rimrock Retreat), Whistlin' Jack (Cliffdell), Chinook Pass Outfitters (Bumping), BB&M Sports (Richland),

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Mountain Sports (Yakima), Wapiti Woollies (Greenwater), Silver Beach (Rimrock Lake) and Home and Sport (Goldendale)—Ranger, 6/10.

## SOUTH



**DOG MOUNTAIN** (*Gifford Pinchot Natl Forest; USGS Mt Defiance*)—Bill and I hiked the new trail to Dog Mountain for the first time. It is called the Augspuriger trail. It is a little longer than old trail. It was a nice route for this hot day because the trail is in the forest and shade nearly the entire route. The trade-off, however, is no view of the gorge and no wind which usually offsets the heat from the sun on the old trail. We went up Augspuriger and came down the old Dog Mountain trail. I think I might do it just the opposite next time.

There must have been 80 to 100 cars at the trailhead, located right off Highway 14 and visible from the highway.

Heading up the trail we ran into a wedding party heading down. The bridesmaids had wreaths of flowers in their hair and were wearing shorts and t-shirts. The bride and groom had on matching t-shirts that said "Just Married" on the front. The bride had a flower wreath in her hair and also had

ribbons and flowers wound around her hiking stick. It was a fun and unusual sight, on a hiking trail!

We were a little early for the wildflowers which are fabulous on this trail. The famous balsamroots were not open yet.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 5/10.

**DOG MOUNTAIN** (*Gifford Pinchot Natl Forest; USGS Mt Defiance*)—Dog Mountain is as popular for Portlanders as Mount Si is for Seattleites.

There are three ways up, which disperses the crowds, but the summit resembles a street fair with everyone milling around and talking.

I counted 150 cars at the trailhead. Of course, the sun was out and Memorial Day is the peak time for the balsamroot that covers the upper part of the mountain.

You'll gain about 900 feet a mile for 3 to 3½ miles whichever route you choose. There is a newly re-opened trail at 2½ miles up the westerly route. This trail is signed "Augspuriger Mtn, 4.7 miles." A ranger said that Augspuriger is wooded, but a bald knob nearby called "Little Augspuriger" has "the best views in the Columbia Gorge."—John Walenta, Seattle, 5/26.

**TRAPPER CREEK TRAIL 192** (*Trapper Creek Wilderness; USGS Bare Mtn*)—The Trapper Creek Wilderness is both an excellent choice for early season hiking and for avoiding crowds. My partner Heather and I enjoyed a full day of hiking on a wonderful June day with the entire Wilderness area for ourselves.

We chose trail 192 and followed it for about 5 miles to its crossing of

Trapper Creek. This trail starts out well graded and maintained through a wonderful old-growth forest. From its junction with trail 132 it is maintained primarily by the Mazamas of Portland. Although the tread narrows from this point, the trail is in excellent shape and is a pleasure to hike.

The trail is virtually free of storm debris and snowfree. It passes by ancient firs and cedars and crosses several beautiful tributaries of Trapper Creek.

The trail travels through the heart of the Wilderness, which protects one of the very few unmolested watersheds remaining in the Pinchot. Lots of other hiking options radiate from this trail. Enjoy!—Craig Romano, Seattle, 6/6.

**LEWIS RIVER TRAIL 31** (*Gifford Pinchot Natl Forest; USGS Burnt Pk*)—A fine choice for early season snowfree hiking. However, last year's storms have left some damage that requires a little negotiating.

Heather and I began our hike from the southern terminus near Curley Creek Falls on road 9039, 1 mile off road 90. The trail is wide and wonderfully graded allowing for less concentration on footing and more on your surroundings. The river is always nearby and there are groves of ancient trees to traverse. Some giant cedar sentinels mark the way as well.

About ½-mile beyond the intact log shelter is the first of two very large landslides to traverse. Flagging marks the way. Just beyond is the second landslide, which is not as easy to cross. You must climb over a massive logjam of giant hemlocks, firs and cedars. The destruction is impressive. We followed the trail for another 2 miles beyond this point with no further obstructions.

We did this hike on a beautiful Saturday—just a handful of mountain bikers were also out. They were courteous—far less of a nuisance than hikers who let their mutts run free.

Be sure to do the ½-mile sidetrip to Curley Creek Falls before you return home. The falls plummet through a neat natural arch. Enjoy!—Craig Romano, Seattle, 6/7.

**SOUTH COLDWATER TRAIL 211** (*St Helens NVM; USGS Spirit Lk West*)—The weather was questionable for hiking so we decided to head south and east to take the Spirit Lake Memorial Highway to see the new Johnston Ridge Observatory. We stopped at the Castle Rock visitor center to purchase a pass good for three days in the Volcanic Monument.

The Johnston Ridge Observatory, just



Virginia Preston

Mount Rainier from Summit Lake; Bearhead Mountain on left. Clearwater Wilderness.

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

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opened May 17, is located 51 miles from I-5. It is beautiful, with a large topographical map with lights showing the mud and lava flow on the mountain and also stirring personal illustrated accounts by people who were in the area and survived the blast.

We drove back down the road to do a hike on the South Coldwater trail which begins right off the main road and is well marked. Traveling east from the Coldwater Visitor Center to the Johnston Observatory, the trailhead is on the left side of the road after the turnout to Coldwater Lake and the Hummocks trail.

The South Coldwater trail climbs steadily to a ridge with a great view of Coldwater Lake, St. Helens and surrounding peaks. As we headed up the ridge we encountered a female deer who seemed to be disturbed that we were in the area.

She paced for a few minutes before fleeing. Soon we found out why. A tiny fawn was lying down with its legs tucked under it, nearly on the trail. We diverted our path so as not to add to the fright of the baby deer.

This trail is 3.1 miles long before linking up with the Coldwater trail and later the Boundary trail. We hiked about 2 to 2½ miles to a place beyond where some logging equipment was laid to rest in the blast. After a stop for a snack, we headed back down and were relieved to see the fawn had gotten up on its little legs and was gone.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 6/7.

**MT ADAMS & WIND RIVER DISTRICTS**—The Wind River highway is now open to the Lone Butte area, with about 2 feet of snow remaining, and some bare patches.

This is poison oak and tick season.—Ranger, 6/4.

**ST HELENS NVM**—All of the main roads are open and snowfree. Some roads, like road 99, have some winter damage. Road 99 is open to Windy Ridge.

Fees required for many areas in the Monument. Call 360-247-3900. For climbing permits and info, call 360-247-3961.—Ranger, 6/4.

**GENERAL ROADS**—Road 2160 to Walupt Lake is snowfree 3 miles. Cispus road 23 is open to milepost 31 on the Randle side; to the junction with road 8810 on the south side, with snow in between.

Silver Star road 41 is washed out at McKinley Ridge. Canyon Creek road 54 is closed 7 miles east of Chelatchie

by snow and slide; on the Wind River side open 11 miles.

Sheep Creek road 5601 is open to snow line. Carson-Guler road 60 is closed by a slide. Panther Creek road 65 is plowed to milepost 12. Road 8040 to the Mount Adams south climb approach is open to Wicky Creek shelter.

Merrill Lake road 81 is open. Ape Cave road 8303 is open. Lewis River road 90 is open east to the junction with road 23.—Ranger, 6/4.

**GENERAL TRAILS**—These trails are snowfree: PCT from Gorge to road 68; Dog Mountain; Bishop Ridge; Blue Lake (snow near lake); Grassy Knoll; Lower Falls Creek; Siouxon (walk in on road 54); Trapper Creek; Truman Trail (snowfree beyond big snowdrift at trailhead).—Ranger, 6/4.

## ARIZONA



### BRIGHT ANGEL TRAIL

(Grand Canyon National Park)—Shannon and I flew into Phoenix for some sun therapy. Leaving a hard cold rain at Sea-Tac we found 80-degree heat at Sky Harbor at ten in the evening. We enjoyed it on the patio of a cheap but clean old motel on the strip near the airport. In the morning we made the 4-hour drive to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, with a stop in Flagstaff for groceries.

I had sent my permit request in two weeks after the Backcountry Reservations Office began accepting April trip

requests, and did not get any of my three chosen itineraries involving the Bright Angel Trail.

Since I added a note that if my choices could not be met to please give me a permit for two nights anywhere below the rim, we got a permit for an "at-large" area east of the South Kaibab Trail.

When we checked in at the Backcountry Office the ranger would not tell us if water was available at the seasonal creek in this area, explaining that it was against park policy to disclose the status of seasonal water sources.

However he did tell us he had a cancellation for a spot at the bottom of the canyon for two nights, so we gladly switched to the sure thing. This permit cost \$36—\$20 for a one-time annual administrative fee plus \$4 per person/ per night (getting the car into the Park was another \$20).

The Bright Angel Trail leaves right from the main village and for the first few miles is crowded with panting tourists as it descends steeply into the canyon. The temperature quickly rose from a breezy and cool low-60s at the rim to a comfortable mid-70s.

The trail itself requires one's attention, with many protruding rocks polished by all the traffic. The hiking is unique for the ridge and peak-oriented Northwest hiker. The farther you go the more constrained your view becomes, as the rim eats up the edges of the sky above you. However the view out across the Canyon is always stunning.

At five miles (and 2400 feet of descent) we reached the pleasant oasis of



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7/97

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

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Indian Gardens. There is a campground here, set amid old cottonwoods. We enjoyed a late lunch propped against a big trunk. From here the trail crosses the Tonto Platform and begins its descent into the Inner Gorge.

Since we got a late start we were walking this section in the late afternoon, and thus saw no other people. The trail winds down into a very narrow side canyon, and the quiet, the increasing heat, the echo of a falling pebble, and the growing shadows made it a time to just walk and think.

At 7.5 miles from the Rim we reached the Colorado River, brown and running strong. Through some misunderstanding Shannon thought the campground was here, while in fact we had another 2 miles along the river to go.

She plopped on a rock and proclaimed this point: "The Corner of Bitter Disappointment." We pushed on, having to gain a bit of elevation to round a point (our only uphill steps of the day), and then slogged through a section of fine sand, a dirty trick at this point in the walk.

Finally we reached the huge suspension bridge and crossed to the north

side and the alluvial fan formed by Bright Angel Creek. At dusk we claimed the next-to-last available spot (of 31) in the campground, ate dinner in the dark, and retired our throbbing knees for the night.

Our rest day was just that. We visited Phantom Ranch, which appeared to be an ideal spot for a visit for the less-strenuously inclined. Small cabins or bunks are available for rent, and there is a canteen that serves meals.

I was quite disappointed to learn that one may purchase cold beverages at the bottom of the Grand Canyon. My disappointment was due entirely to my complete lack of pocket cash.

The entire area around Bright Angel Campground and Phantom Ranch is most pleasant—a rushing creek, stands of cottonwoods, and riparian habitat. During our entire stay a pleasant warm breeze blessed us. For the remainder of the day we lay in the sun and read books on the "beach" along the Colorado, waded in the creek, and generally acted like we were on vacation. From the Inner Gorge one can see the Rim only from certain spots. Nothing but receding layers of towering cliffs in all

directions.

Standing at the Colorado one does feel the "big hole" effect, especially as we laced our boots in the morning. It is really nice down there, but will one kill oneself getting back to the car?

We were on the trail by 6am and a half-dozen groups beat us out. Our plan was to take it easy to Indian Gardens, so that we would be as fresh as possible for the final grind. The Inner Gorge kept us in the shade most of the morning, and we made Indian Gardens by 9:30. Another long rest and big lunch here set us up for the finish. It just was not that hard.

There are two well-sited rest stations with piped-in water 3 and 1.5 miles from the Rim. The trail is well-graded and we just plugged our way out for a total of 9.5 miles, a 4400-foot gain, and four quarts of water apiece.

We blasted back to Phoenix, waited 3 hours for a delayed flight, and were back in the hard cold rain at Sea-Tac before we knew it.—Peter Krystad, Seattle, 4/17-19.

## 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.

**FOUND**—At The Brothers camp in Olympics in late May, a fuel bottle and pump. Identify to claim. Call Dave at 352-752-9214 (Tacoma).

**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**—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**—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 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.

**FREE**—A reader no longer has room to store magazines. Would anyone like a set of Pack & Paddle, Volumes 1 through 4 (1992-1996)? Arrange to pick up or pay for postage and they're yours. Call the P&P office, 360-871-1862.

**FREE**—A collection of old Signposts. I part with them reluctantly as they include many photos and write-ups of

wonderful places my brother and I have hiked over the years. What I have on hand are issues from February 1980 through August 1993.

Call Bob, 206-522-1990 (Seattle) and arrange for pick-up, first come, first served.

**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 Mercervud Community Center, 7:30pm. For information, call George Bucher, 206-821-5752 (Kirkland).

## BOOKS

**BACKCOUNTRY ALMANAC.** The Mountaineers, 800-553-4453. 1997. \$5.95.

This little book is a handy reference for current regulations in Washington's Forests and Parks. It's inexpensive and designed to be replaced every year. It covers 31 specific areas in the state with information on climate, campgrounds, emergency contacts, regulations, and guidebooks.

The "Quick Reference Guide" and "Other Useful Information" chapters give readers a wealth of facts and resources to use for trip planning.

Unfortunately, due to the requirements of printing books, this one contains no details of the Trail Park permits or Olympic National Park's backcountry fees. Other than that, it's a good reference.

**HOT SHOWERS, SOFT BEDS, AND DAYHIKES IN THE NORTH CASCADES,** by Sally O'Neal Coates. Wilderness Press, 800-443-7227. 1997. \$13.95.

For this book, "North Cascades" means anything north of I-90, a huge area to cover. The author divides the book into nine geographical areas, such as Mountain Loop Highway, Leavenworth, and so on. There is no attempt to make this a complete guide listing every motel and trail; rather, it gives a selection of accommodations and outings in each region.

Each section lists several dayhikes the author has enjoyed—and she tells you which ones didn't impress her, as well. Lodging and restaurants are listed, with addresses and phones, and descriptions of their facilities.

For those who don't backpack, this is a very useful book. It's also handy for backpackers who get rained out and want a dry place for the night.

Sally O'Neal Coates lives in Richland and has also written a book on bicycling.

**A COMPLETE GUIDE TO MOUNT ST HELENS NATIONAL VOLCANIC MONUMENT,** by Clint Vielbig. The Mountaineers, 800-553-4453. 1997. \$12.95.

This is the most up-to-date guide for the NVM, covering every trail and including much information on scenic drives and points of interest.

For backpackers, an interesting section is the dozen or so pages devoted to describing the

Loowit Trail, for which little information exists otherwise.

Information on the latest permits and fees is included, which is helpful for climbers and auto tourers alike.

Klindt Vielbig lives in Portland and is also the author of *Cross-Country Ski Routes: Oregon* which covers winter use of the St. Helens region.

**BACKCOUNTRY BEAR BASICS,** by Dave Smith. The Mountaineers, 800-553-4453. 1997. \$10.95.

Subtitled "the definitive guide to avoiding unpleasant encounters," this is a practical guide to traveling and camping safely in bear country. It is brief (108 pages), succinct, easy to read, and written by a naturalist who likes bears.

The author has wide experience in bear country, including Yellowstone, Glacier, Denali, and Glacier Bay National Parks.

He "translates" bear behavior into easily understood language, and suggests ways for humans to use that behavior—in ways like body movement, eye contact, and voice—to defuse scary situations with bears.

The differences between black and grizzly bears are discussed, and the author avoids quoting from



research papers with graphic language in all but a couple of places. I didn't get too queasy, and you probably won't either. I learned a lot.

**WALKING SOUTHEAST ALASKA,** by Andromeda Romano-Lax. Wilderness Press, 800-443-7227. 1997. \$13.95.

So you're taking the ferry up the Inside Passage—what a great vacation! But what do you do when you get to one of the coastal towns?

This book describes dozens of outings on foot from easy strolls through town to wilderness hikes. The author covers eight towns: Ketchikan, Wrangell, Petersburg, Juneau, Tenakee Springs, Sitka, Haines and Skagway, all reached by the Alaska ferry. (Of course, you can fly, too. Roads go only to Haines and Skagway.)

Excellent maps by the author and lots of information on points of interest and natural history make this a wonderful guide. I wish Lee and I had had this book on our trip to Sitka not long ago—we'll definitely take it on our next visit to Southeast Alaska.

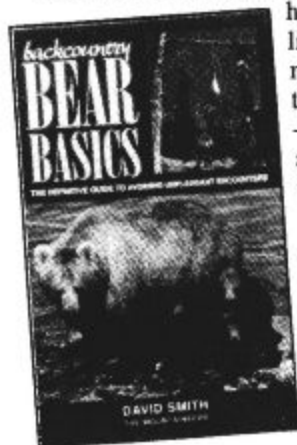
**EARLY HIKING IN THE OLYMPICS, 1922-1942,** by Paul Crews. Peanut Butter Publishing, 226 2nd Ave W, Seattle WA 98119. 1996. \$14.95.

Paul Crews is a P&P reader. He now lives in Anchorage but grew up in Bremerton and spent his early years hiking, climbing and skiing in the Olympics.

In this book of marvelous reminiscences, Paul starts with three of his early trips, which took place less than 25 years after the O'Neil and Press expeditions. His descriptions of the scenery, road conditions, logging, and camping of that age are fascinating reading to those of us who will never know the land as it was.

He continues with stories of Scouting, climbing expeditions with friends, and building the ski cabin at Flapjack Lakes. In the early '40s the group was scattered by the demands of World War II.

The book can be ordered directly from the publisher at the address above, or call Peanut Butter Publishing at 206-281-5965 to order by phone.



KAREN SYKES

# Olympic Loop

—FIVE DAYS OF ADVENTURE WITH TROOP 70—

Some readers may be familiar by now with Troop 70's year-round adventures which often take place in the Olympics. These trips are usually full of humorous mishaps and catastrophe. The person responsible for these adventures is John the Scoutmaster, my spouse.

Indeed these outings become more and more of a challenge to us as we get older and the scouts get bigger and stronger! John is a good salesman when it comes to selling mountain escapades to the boys but even he finds it difficult to compete with baseball and family vacations as many of the boys enter their teens.

This outing produced only three boys who were available to meet this challenging cross-country trek (done by John himself when he was a Boy Scout some forty years ago).

We piled into Happy Car and arrived at Staircase on a very hot day, July 30, 1996. We began our hike on the North Fork Skokomish River trail. The first day would be easy, but long—Nine Stream was to be our first camp.

Sean and Matt were eager to gain their merit badges, and planned to hike the additional mileage required to make it a 20-mile day. Willie, who was newer to the troop, didn't feel he was quite ready to try a 20-miler.

John and I started out ahead, instructing the Scouts to meet us at the bridge just past Big Log camp. Shortly after leaving Staircase the trail goes through the Beaver Creek Burn of a few years ago—today this made for a hot hike. I stopped frequently to graze on thimbleberries.

We paused briefly at the Flapjack trail junction, about 4 miles from the car, before hiking on to the Six Ridge junction which branches to the left. The bridge here seemed a good place to wait. While we waited we read the graffiti carved into the bridge.

Finally the boys arrived—hot and tired. Sean was recovering from a bout of food poisoning but determined to persevere. After a rest we continued,

passing Camp Pleasant and reaching Nine Stream at 9.6 miles. There is one good campsite at Nine Stream. A little farther is a seemingly abandoned toilet with a couple of additional campsites nearby carved out of the hillside.

John reached camp first and was lounging in his lawn chair when the boys arrived a couple of hours later. The boys were tired, but youth is resilient—after a brief rest Matt and Sean wanted to claim their merit badge.

John told them to hike back down the trail to the bridge just before the Six Ridge junction bridge and back to camp. How would they prove they had accomplished this? John told them to read the graffiti on the bridge and then to tell him who loved Cindy! Three hours and fifteen minutes later they returned with the news that ED LOVES CINDY!



*We would be retracing the route John had hiked some 40 years ago.*

On day two we woke to a sunny, beautiful morning. John and I were up early, wanting to beat the heat as we had a steep climb ahead of us to First Divide. From Nine Stream the trail is level as it winds through old growth forest before it starts to climb doggedly toward First Divide through flower-filled meadows.

The trail passes Two Bear camp (named thus because in 1924 the crew foreman working on the trail saw two bears above them every morning as they worked on the trail). However, we didn't see any bears.

We reached First Divide and settled down for what we expected to be a long wait, as Sean hadn't recovered all his strength. We had climbed about 2600 feet and were tired, but what a scenic place to recuperate.

We wandered up to First Divide to look down into Home Sweet Home and visit with a young hiker who had hiked up to First Divide from Staircase in one day. We also talked with an Australian man coming up from the Duckabush.

Finally the boys came and soon we were on our way again, hiking on the Mount Hopper waytrail, (which begins a few feet below the Divide). We were getting into rougher terrain but a Ranger had told us the day before that the Mount Hopper waytrail had been cleared out by a work crew.

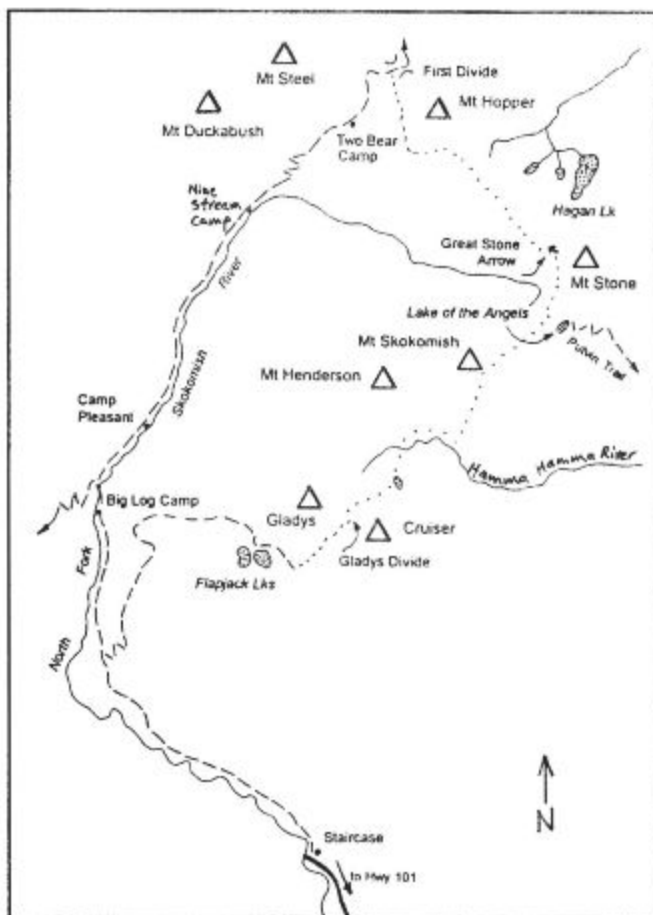
Even so, it had numerous ups and downs as it meandered vaguely, eventually reaching a pass which looks down into a basin. This was a lovely spot and probably not visited often.

Now we were forced to rely on John's memory. Forty-some years ago John, his Scoutmaster and troop had scrambled to a high point above Lake Hagan (where John wanted to camp).

John's memory is excellent but we were a little unsure how to proceed to this spot. Should we go along the top of the ridge or should we drop below? The answer wasn't obvious. There were dim way-trails, but the route across the top seemed rough so we dropped below the

Karen Sykes





ridge and began sidehilling (one of my least favorite activities).

We had to stay together now since we were off-trail but it was impossible to go fast. We sidehilled through an old burn interspersed with clumps of flowers—a beautiful, eerie spot but I was too tired to appreciate it. A couple of hundred feet below the ridge we encountered very steep terrain, charred timber, flowers, vegetation, loose rocks—and no trace of a trail.

Finally John said we had to go straight up to the ridge, that the traverse was getting too difficult.

"Are you serious?" I asked.

I could not believe that I had to go UP when I could hardly move at all. Sean forged ahead, having recovered from his illness, Matt at his heels (Sean says his rapid recovery was due to Cheerios).

John was soon out of sight. Willie and I stumbled along behind. We were hot, exhausted and dirty from climbing through the charred timber. Finally I could see the top of the ridge and Matt waiting near the top. Sean and Matt said that John had gone ahead to find a campsite. It looked like Hagan Lake was out of the question.

We continued to the top of the ridge and easier going, but John was nowhere in sight. Soon, Shawn and Matt were out of sight as well. Willie and I shouted to no avail. Where were they?

Suddenly John's head popped up from behind a rock, and he pointed the way toward our bivouac site—which turned out to be a spectacular place. We had climbed 3600 feet in the heat with full packs. Even John was tired!

After a rest we began to appreciate our camp. We were on a shoulder of Mount Hopper with our very own tarn and a snowfield from which we got our water. We were surrounded by meadows full of magenta paintbrush and the last of the season's avalanche lilies, not to mention the peaks all around us. We

stayed up for sunset photography before sinking into a grateful sleep.

On the third morning we woke to another sunny day. How much longer would the good weather hold? A weather forecast earlier in the week predicted drizzle, perhaps showers, Friday through Sunday. It was Thursday

and the skies were without clouds. We crossed our fingers.

Packing up, we started out with no sign of a trail except for bits and pieces of tread we could see in the distance. We began by side-hilling a steep meadow lush with flowers. After a half mile or so of this unpleasant side-hilling we could see a way-trail below us. Somehow we had missed it.

John surmised that the old way-trail he remembered was lower and that we had been too high on the side of the mountain. This lower trail looked to be in reasonable shape, probably due to elk traffic, we guessed. This was easy going compared to the day before.

We couldn't see a way-trail but this all looked familiar to John. After a snack, we dropped a bit to a pass above Hagan Lake. It looked like an easy descent to the lake (on the north side of Mount Stone), but John wanted to continue.

John made a brief foray into the trees to see if he could locate the firewood he had stashed forty years ago, but no trace of it remained.

Just before we were ready to leave I noticed a large arrow made of rocks at the pass so I called out for the others to come look. Later we did some research and discovered that this is the Great Stone Arrow. Apparently many years ago someone created this arrow which points west in the direction of Mount Hopper. This pass is also referred to as Lost Arrow Pass.

From the Great Stone Arrow the route crosses talus slopes on the western side of Mount Stone, then climbs to another pass overlooking Lake of the



Camp near Mount Skokomish.



Karen Sykes

Willie and his raft.

Angels. We started too high on the shoulder of Stone and ended up having to drop to the way-trail (by then I was calling them "wail-trails").

This route was in good shape until just before the end where it inexplicably shot up a slippery slope of loose rock, tangled trees, and wet vegetation. I managed to get stuck between a rock and a tree branch and had to be rescued by Matt and Sean.

After this tussle we finally emerged onto the ridge top with a view down to Lake of the Angels and close-up views of Mount Stone and Mount Skokomish. We were enjoying the view when suddenly a mountain goat burst through the flowers and headed right for us. The goat was followed by a baby, and then more goats appeared as if from nowhere.

We figured seeing the goats was our reward for the trials and tribulations of the early morning hours. None of the goats was tagged. We followed the trail over toward Skokomish, climbing southwesterly on ridges and benches and snow to the shoulder of the peak. The snow we encountered was good for step kicking, not too icy.

We continued to the snowfield on the southeast side, and a lake that has formed there. This made a broad, attractive area for a camp with enough of a breeze to keep most of the bugs away. If we had had the energy we could have climbed Skokomish by ascending rock and brush to the summit, but I've climbed it before and knew it involved a lot of sidehilling.

Instead we took advantage of the warm sun to wash our clothes and dry them. Later in the afternoon we saw the first cirrus clouds swirling over Skokomish. We watched a little apprehensively, hoping that the weather people

were wrong about the bad weather that was supposed to come in.

The boys attempted to make a raft (Willie bribed Sean and Matt with candy), working very diligently at lashing fallen trees and branches together, but for all their efforts the maiden voyage never took place. John volunteered to be the first to man the raft but it sank rapidly under his weight and the project was abandoned.

By the time we retired to our tents the sky was overcast but we were hopeful it wouldn't rain. Shortly after midnight I heard the first drops hit the tent.

By morning it was raining and blowing very hard and very cold. We looked out the tent at one point and saw the rain turning to snow. We lay in our tents for a while listening to the wind and rain.

We hollered over to the boys to see how they were faring—they said they were cold and wet and wanted to go home. Going home also sounded good to me. I thought we should consider packing up and retreating down the Putvin Trail but John thought we should hold tight until the worst of the storm had passed.

John also had a very strong desire to descend into the Hamma Hamma Box Canyon and then ascend to an unnamed lake just beneath Gladys-Henderson Pass as he and his old Scoutmaster had done. This would all be cross-country and very rough going. That was bad enough but to attempt this in the rain seemed utter madness. So we waited.

Finally the rain stopped. It was windy enough that we could dry our tents while we ate breakfast. Then we continued John's dream of repeating his hike of many years ago.

John remembered an old path that dropped from our tarn into the Box Canyon. As it turned out only a few vague pieces of this ancient way-trail remained. We dropped 1500 feet straight down on wet vegetation and loose rock to the bottom of the box canyon.

We are willing to bet that this canyon is seldom visited by anyone—it's simply too hard to get in or out of. At one point we were actually duck-walking down, or crouching down through a streambed with a canopy of slide alder

over it. Willie said this was the best part.

We crossed a very wet meadow toward the worst part of the trip, a 700-foot ascent of brush and slide alder to the lake below the divide—no trail at all. My only consolation at this point was that we could see Cruiser and the Gladys-Henderson divide so at least we knew where we were and couldn't get lost.

It was still very cold and we kept our raingear on as we took our final break before battling our way through the tangle of slide alder and briars. This was not fun. We got stuck several times, slipped and fell, groaned and fought our way up through this inhospitable terrain.

Finally the way relented a bit and we ascended mossy boulders and finally reached the lake. From the lake it would only be another 600 or 700 feet to the pass and TRUE TRAIL.

We set up camp at the lake, licked our wounds, and enjoyed hot bowls of soup. We looked back at the way we had come, amazed we had done it.

On our fifth day we got up early for our last cross-country ascent to true trail. The ascent on boulders to Gladys Pass was a mere walk in the park compared to what we had climbed the day before. When we reached Gladys Pass I wanted to kiss the trail, I was so glad to see it.

The rest of the route was easy but long. The Gladys trail descends to Flapjack Lakes and it is another 4 miles down to the North Fork Skokomish River trailhead.

At Flapjack Lakes we met the same Ranger we had met on our first day—she was impressed with our ability to complete the trip. (We were too). It was good weather for hiking out to the car—sunny and cool. We were very happy to see Happy Car.

This is a trip we won't forget for a long time. There were struggles and there were triumphs and there were so many rewards—the beauty, the solitude, the goats, the flowers, and the peace of the Olympics.

John wants to do it again in about 30 years but we'll be in our 80s then and I don't think I could face that Box Canyon again!

△

*Karen Sykes, of Seattle, is a member of The Mountainers and writes a hiking column for the Seattle P-I.*

ANN MARSHALL

# Mailbox Peak

—A GREAT TRAIL WITH AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE—

At 4841 feet, Mailbox Peak is not one of the giants of the Cascades. But with a trailhead at 800 feet, and a summit elevation of 4841 feet, it offers a close-in steep hike for training, and open meadows at the top for views.

Harvey Manning, in *Hiking the Mountains to Sound Greenway*, credits *Pack & Paddle* reader Sally Pfeiffer with the first published use of the name that, while unofficial, has definitely stuck.

So who would haul a heavy, old-fashioned mailbox to the top of this peak? According to Tom Prohl, caretaker of the Lutheran camp at the foot of the peak, it was Carl Heine who took the mailbox up in the early '60s.

Carl was the first chairman of the camp when it opened in 1956; he worked as a postman—there's the connection! Folks who participated in camp activities would frequently hike part-way up to a clearing, where a cross, now deteriorated, had been erected, Tom told *Pack & Paddle*. These folks also did the early trail maintenance to keep the route open.

The route up Mailbox Peak is not all on public land, nor is it in any way protected. Most of the land is owned by

the Department of Natural Resources. But part of the trail goes through land owned by Champion, including the upper meadows and summit.

Although I was told by a Weyerhaeuser employee that Champion and DNR were in the process of a land exchange involving this property, I was unable to get any other details before press time.

Survey tape and paint on tree trunks indicate logging plans are in the works for Mailbox Peak.

To reach the trailhead, take Edgewick Road exit 34 from I-90. Drive north past the truck stop and turn right on the Middle Fork road. At the Lutheran camp stay left, drive to the end of the blacktop, and park on the left.

Across the road is a yellow gate on an old logging road. Walk up this road, go around the gate, and trudge up the way just about ¼-mile. Watch for a toothbrush stuck into the roadside on the left—this is the trailhead marker.

This toothbrush was left by Bill Sunderland, who heard from a friend that a toothbrush traditionally marked the trailhead. When Bill first visited the peak, the original toothbrush was missing, so he donated his own.

A few feet into the forest, you'll see a sign—"4841"—nailed onto a tree. If the toothbrush is missing, the sign is your confirmation that this is the right path.

The trail does not start steeply; in fact, the first ¼-mile or so along the forest floor through ferns is a pleasant walk. Although Harvey gives the round-trip distance as 12 miles, I'm more inclined to say the distance is 7 miles round-trip.

Warren Jones, will you please run your measuring wheel up this trail so we know for sure?

When the trail starts to climb, it gains elevation rapidly. At about 4000 feet the trees thin and views begin. Curiously, our group found trilliums—a woodland flower—blooming in the upper meadows with the paintbrush, completely exposed.

The mailbox, perched on the summit

rocks, holds a small zip-lock bag with a few notes and a copy of *Green Eggs and Ham*. The book is being used as a summit register, with visitors signing their names on the pages.

*Green Eggs and Ham* has been there about a year. It is a tribute to "Green Eggs and Pam," the nickname of the Green Team in the BOEALPS climbing class last year. Pam Kaiser was one of the instructors of that team, and Bill Sunderland, who left the book, was one of the students.

I was told that the zip-lock bag should be stuffed with notes dating back 30 years, but either we were too busy looking at *Green Eggs*, or the old notes are missing, because we didn't see them.

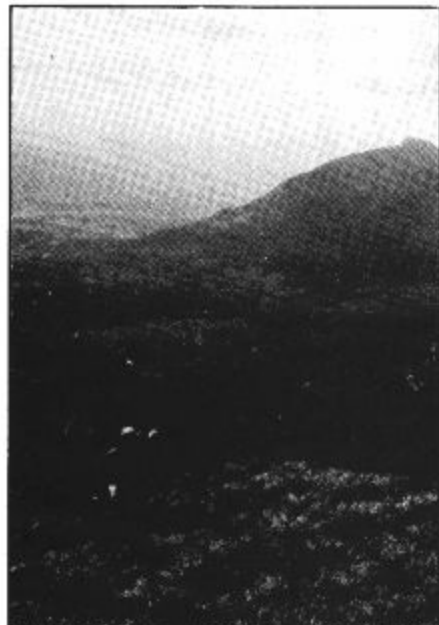
The only difficult part of staying on the route might be where the path disappears when it ascends a rock slide (angle up and right to the open meadows). If you're not deterred by the rock slide or the elevation gain, give this trail a try. Who knows how much longer it will be here? △

*Ann Marshall, of Port Orchard, is the editor of Pack & Paddle.*



The mailbox of Mailbox Peak. Inside is the current summit register—a copy of *Green Eggs and Ham*.

Ann Marshall



Hikers head down the steep summit meadows, with Mount Si and the Snoqualmie valley in view.

Ann Marshall

LEE MCKEE

## Urban Paddling: Through the Locks

—BALLARD TO CARKEEK PARK—

This is a roughly 8-mile round trip which combines lake and salt water paddling with a trip through the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks in Seattle. On June 7, five of us in one double and three single sea kayaks set off from the boat launch ramp at the end of 14th Ave NW. The ramp is just east of the Ballard Bridge and has a porta-potty.

Ann and I had never been through the locks in a kayak so we looked forward to the experience. On the water we paddled under the Ballard Bridge which was in the process of opening and closing for a passing sailboat. Water droplets sprinkled down on us from the shaking bridge deck—remnants from an earlier shower.

This portion of the lake is lined with a mixture of moored boats of all shapes and sizes. It can be a very busy waterway so we stayed alert for boat traffic.

Before long we approached the locks. There are two—a large one and a small one. As you approach them, look for the entry lights. There is one for each lock. As you approach from the lake side, the small lock is on the left and the large lock is on the right.

A red light means stay back; it changes to green when the lock is available for entry. Wooden guide piers outside the locks are available for boats to tie up to while waiting so they don't drift.

There is a pecking order for lock entry. Government and commercial vessels take precedence over recreational ones and will be directed to proceed first. After that it is generally first come-first served.

Pay attention to the directions given through a loudspeaker. The lock attendants will tell you when to enter. Both going and returning, our group of kayakers were told to enter last. It is important that the lock attendant knows that you are waiting since a kayak can be hidden by large sail and power boats.

On our way out that wasn't a problem since we were first in line waiting. On our return we were tucked in behind several large sailboats. When the locks were available for entry, the lock attendant began directing boats at the head of the line to enter.

The skipper of the boat we were waiting behind suggested we paddle up to the front after several boats had moved in so the attendant would be sure to see us. I'm not sure what the protocol is for this situation. Just stay alert and be friendly since everyone is anxious to enter and some may have been waiting a long time for their turn.

Other pointers are:

- Be prepared to wait. The locks handle only so many boats at a time and you may have to wait for a cycle or two.

- Have a length of rope with you to loop around the bollard on the wall if you are directed to tie up to it.

- Pay attention to the directions given by the attendants. They are controlling the entire operation.

- Be prepared to inhale exhaust fumes from adjacent boats. If their skippers are kind they may shut off their engines if you ask nicely, but they are under no obligation to do so. In fact it is my experience that boaters are generally reluctant to turn off their means of propulsion when they are on the water.

- Stay alert as the locks fill or drain since currents form during these operations.

Once through the locks we headed toward Shilshole Bay, the current helping to carry us along. Paul, our Mountaineer trip leader, had mentioned that the main channel can get rough depend-

ing on current and wind conditions.

Today it looked peaceful, but we kept close to the north shore of the channel to sightsee anyway.

At the mouth of the channel a long north-south breakwater separates the Sound from Shilshole Bay Marina. You can paddle either inside or outside the breakwater. Paddling inside means you are protected from whatever wind waves may be occurring on the Sound and it gives you a chance to see *lots* of fancy boats. We chose this route.

But be careful. Boats leaving the slips won't be expecting you and may not see you. Ann and I had to go into emergency reverse in our double at one point to avoid a departing boat.

Once past the marina we rounded Meadow Point and headed northeast along the shoreline to Carkeek Park. It's about 1½ miles from the Point. You can tell you're there when you see a pedestrian overpass over the railroad tracks. The park has restrooms and picnic areas on the upland side of the railroad tracks. We opted for driftlogs on the beach for our lunch stop.

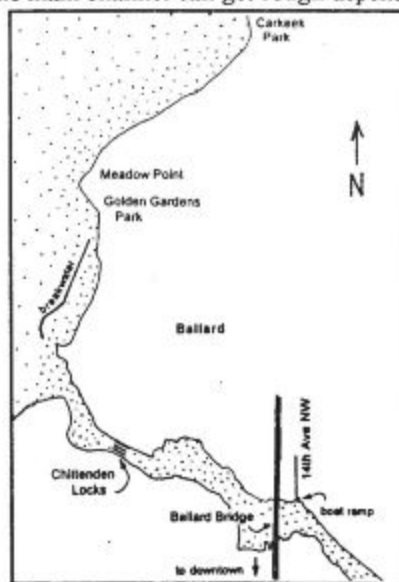
After lunch it was back in our boats for the return trip. There was some wind blowing from the north causing a little wave action and helping push us along. Back at the locks, we had a bit of a wait before we were able to pass—this is to be expected on summer afternoons.

I was later told by another paddler their group had to wait for four raising and lowering cycles on a busy afternoon before they were able to enter. Another paddler told me his group was the only one in the lock on the day they went through. So be prepared for anything!

A pamphlet called "Guidelines for Boaters" is available free from the Chittenden Locks visitor center. You can stop by and pick one up, or they will mail it to you if you call 206-783-7059. It includes a discussion of equipment and procedures for "locking through."

△

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



# PANORAMA

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

**TRAIL PARK PERMITS**—First the permits were late arriving from the printer. Then there was a problem with a contract. The Forest Service seems to be struggling to get this going, but assured *Pack & Paddle* that the program was bound to get under way any day now.

The Trail Park permit system requires hikers to display the permits in their car windows when they park at or within ¼-mile of trailheads. The permit costs \$25 for a year and is valid in participating National Forests in Washington and Oregon (Olympic, Wenatchee, Okanogan, Baker-Snoqualmie, Siuslaw, Willamette, Deschutes and Wallowa-Whitman).

Gary Paull, of the Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, said he expected the permits would be ready to go by the last week in June or first week of July.

According to the Quilcene Ranger District, Trail Park passes have arrived at their office and will be required on Olympic National Forest trails starting on July 7.

Watch your daily news source for details, as no other information was available when *P&P* went to press. For your shopping convenience, the Forest Service will distribute a coupon for mail-in purchase of the permits.

**ROSS LAKE RESORT EXPANDS**—Tom Barnett of Ross Lake Resort told *Pack & Paddle* recently that the resort has added some new cabins.

The new facilities are spacious, two-story cabins with lofts that will sleep up to eight in more elegance and comfort than the old bunkrooms (which are still available).

The new cabins have big windows and lots of light, says Tom, and have full kitchens with dishwashers and microwaves. They are also on floats, like the rest of this unique resort.

For current information on resort facilities, call or write:

**Ross Lake Resort**  
Rockport WA 98283  
206-386-4437 (Seattle number).

**PCT**—Here are a couple of news items about the PCT:

• Scott Williamson is attempting another yo-yo hike of the PCT this year. He started at Campo in mid-April and is planning to hike to Manning Park, turn around, and go all the way back to

Campo. Last year he was able to make it as far as the southern Sierra on his return trip before bad weather ended the trip.

• PCT hikers who sign the register at the Cabazon post office will get a free lunch—just ask for a coupon, good for a sandwich and soda at the country store. The Cabazon Chamber of Commerce will pick up the tab for 1997, as a gesture of welcome to the PCT hikers who come through their community.

For more information on the PCT, contact:

**PCT Association**  
5325 Elkhorn Blvd #256  
Sacramento CA 95842.

**WILDFLOWER WALKS**—The Mount Baker-Snoqualmie and Olympic National Forests are again presenting their summer-long program "Celebrating Wildflowers."

If you've ever wanted to learn about the abundant floral displays in the mountains, you can sign up for some free activities.

- July 6: Mount Townsend. Meet at Quilcene post office at 9:30.
- July 12: Iron Goat Trail. No sign-up. Meet at trailhead at 10am.
- July 16 & 19: Suntop Lookout. Sign-up required: 360-825-6585.
- July 26: Mount Ellinor. Call for details: 360-877-5254.

These are just a few of the many activities scheduled. Pick up a "Celebrating Wildflowers" brochure at your local ranger station.

**SNOQUALMIE PASS**—The Wilderness Society has released a list of ten "most threatened wild areas" in the nation. At the top of the list is the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Also on the list is the Okefenokee Swamp, Adirondack Park, and the Boundary Waters—as well as our own Snoqualmie Pass.

The Pass made the list because road-building through the checkerboard ownership is destroying needed wildlife habitat.

**WHITE PASS EXPANSION**—The Forest Service is analyzing the proposed action by White Pass Company to expand downhill skiing into Pigtail Basin, an area between the current permit area and Hogback Basin to the

southwest.

Because the proposed action is significant, it requires an Environmental Impact Statement. Public input from a workshop on March 13 and letters from the public have been analyzed and additional alternatives are being developed. A review of the alternatives is scheduled for 10am on June 28 at the White Pass ski lodge.

Any questions about the project should be directed to District Ranger Jim Pena at the Naches Ranger Station, 509-653-2205.

**OLYMPIC GOATS**—In mid-June, Olympic National Park announced that a panel of experts will be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to review scientific information about the mountain goats.

"This review is a key element in responding to concerns raised by Congressman Norm Dicks and others about the Park's proposed goat management program," said Park Superintendent David Morris.

Up to 12 independent scientists will examine all mountain goat research done to date, including history of goats on the Olympic Peninsula and the effects of goats on soils, vegetation, and natural processes. They are expected to present their findings to the Secretary of the Interior within 18 months. The public will have an opportunity to review and comment on these findings.

The current environmental impact statement process will be suspended until the scientific review is completed.

**NEW PARK**—A former 6000-acre ranch in the Columbia Gorge was acquired by Washington's Department of Natural Resources in 1993. DNR turned over 3100 acres to State Parks, and is managing the remaining land as a natural preserve.

The new Dalles Mountain State Park is now open for day-use. Drive .4-mile east of The Dalles bridge on Highway 14, then turn north on a gravel road to park headquarters.

**METHOW VALLEY**—For those of you on the Internet, the Mazama Country Inn keeps an updated file of hiking conditions: [www.mazama-inn.com/trails](http://www.mazama-inn.com/trails).

# REST STOP

EQUIPMENT, RECIPES, TIPS

**PLANT BOOK**—While searching the library for information on ferns (my new passion this year) I found a wonderful book! It's *Mountain Plants of the Pacific Northwest*, by Ronald J. Taylor and George W. Douglas (Mountain Press Publishing Company).

This is without a doubt the best book describing local plants I have ever seen. How have I missed it before? The only problem is that it's heavy.

Check it out!—*Mystery Hiker, Granite Falls.*

**PEDOMETERS**—A reader wants to know: Does anyone have experience with pedometers? Are they reliable? Can you recommend a brand?

Phone or send info to the *P&P* office and we'll forward it to our reader, and also share it with everyone on this page.

**YUCKY SKIS**—Another reader says: "We're still skiing in May and—this year—June. What is that greenish-brown stuff that sticks to our skis? It looks like pollen or resin. It's so hard we can't scrape it off with our fingernails, and have had to use white gas to remove it.

"When it builds up every ¼-mile, it sure slows our progress. Surely others must have experienced this with late-season skiing. What do you do?"

**DISCOVERY OF A DIFFERENT SORT**—I love to explore. Whenever my friends and I summit a mountain with connecting ridges to other peaks, I usually scramble around trying to explore all the wild places I can reach while there is still time—while everyone else is resting.

This last outing I was given a new experience. It was only my second hike this season, so my hiking muscles were not ready for extra exploring efforts. I found a comfortable spot among the summit rocks to lean back against my pack and absorb the peace.

Indeed—I relaxed to the point that I started to dream. Sometime later, Linda's voice jolted me out of my reverie, letting us know it was time to leave.

The discovery came on Monday, though, when I went back to my hectic job in a high school attendance office. I found I was feeling an unaccustomed sense of renewal. I had no idea that deep relaxation on a mountain top had such potent restorative power. The sen-

sation of peace while gazing into the hazy distance stayed with me, even as the stress of my job continued in the usual way. I could cope better!

I am sure I will still explore instead of resting on many of my future trips. But I now know there is value in deeply relaxing in wild, beautiful places.—*Lindy Bakkar, Lynnwood.*

**HEATER MEALS**—In a recent issue of *Pack & Paddle* (April, page 30), you asked for comments about "Heater Meals." I believe that this refers to a fairly large boxed food product with an included heating system to warm the food before consumption. They are made by HeaterMeals, Inc. of Cincinnati, Ohio 45246; 800-503-4483.

This line of long-term-storage-without-refrigeration food products is fairly broad with a number of different items: Salisbury steak, turkey breast, chicken, and others. The box is fairly bulky at 8½ x 6 x 2 inches and is required for heating the food, so it does not lend itself to repackaging for carrying in a pack. The box weighs about 1¼ pounds with the food item, heater, 2 ounces of water in a plastic envelope for the heater, and accessory packet with plastic fork and knife, paper napkin, and salt and pepper.

I have found all of the food items I have tried to be fairly palatable. While they are not gourmet quality, they are a nice change from my common tuna/potato flake/dried vegetable mixture.

The "heater" system seems to use technology similar to that found in the Grabber/Mycoal warmer packets. While the warmer packets use the moisture in the air to run the chemical reaction which produces that gentle heat, the 2-ounce water packet is to be poured into the tray holding the chemical heater for the meal. This is supposed to provide a rapid warming of the food item.

So far, I have not had any of the heaters perform as described on the box. The chemical heaters in the samples I

have purchased are in a porous envelope (looks like Tyvek to me) which does not keep the moisture in the air away from the chemicals. Over a period of time, the chemicals seem to do their job very slowly. Then when you pour in the 2-ounce water packet (specifically labeled not for drinking purposes), not much happens.

I ran some tests at home and was very glad that the microwave oven was at hand to bring the food up to a comfortably consumable temperature. One of the heater packets did get warm. With the current packaging method, the warning on the box—"It's gonna get hot!"—seems superfluous. Perhaps if they put the chemical packet inside a plastic envelope . . .

For backpacking, due to the size and lack of heating, I do not recommend them.—*Ralph Javins, Bothell.*

**PONCHOS VS. RAINCOATS**—Ponchos are great as rainwear while hiking on trails—they provide good ventilation, and if they are long enough in back, they also protect your pack. Ponchos are also inexpensive and make a good choice for someone just getting into hiking.

Ponchos, however, tend to blow in wind, and therefore lose some of their protection, especially in high country without protection of the forest. A poncho can also limit your view of your feet while scrambling, and you can trip over it while making vertical steps.

Raincoats and rainpants are a better combination for scrambling and travel above treeline.

**LOG CROSSINGS**—When faced with crossing a slippery log, try taking off your boots and tip-toeing in your wool socks. The fiber will tend to resist slipping and give you more traction—but this works only with wool, not synthetic fibers.

**MOSQUITOES**—Because of the slow melt of the deep snowpack, we can expect a bumper crop of mosquitoes. Remember to carry repellent.

If the infestation this year is severe, you might also want to investigate some of the new lightweight head nets, and plan to pack lightweight, long-sleeved shirts and pants rather than rely on chemicals that may or may not keep you comfortably bug-free.

## READERS!

This magazine is written  
by YOU—Your contributions  
are wanted!

Send us trail reports, recipes for  
hiking and paddling, a review of  
your newest (or oldest) piece of  
gear, a safety tip, or just tell us  
what's on your mind.

# EDITOR'S JOURNAL



On the abandoned trail from Dollar Watch Mountain to Deception Pass, Pasayten Wilderness.

**FROM THE MAILBOX**—"Even if we can't be on the trail ourselves, we are transported there monthly by all the reports."—*Arlington*.

"Excellent work! My regards to Yellow Cat."—*Zillah*.

"Many thanks for the enjoyment you continue to spread with your unique publication. It continues to keep alive the great days we've experienced in the past on our Northwest trails, and even sparks hopes for future trips!"—*Seattle*.

"Thanks for a great magazine. Fluffy Grey Cat meows to Yellow Cat."—*Kent*.

"Though I'm not able to do much hiking lately and my backpacking days are over, I really enjoy P&P. Brings back great memories of places I've been to."—*Bellevue*.

"... a great way to stay current on trail conditions!"—*Bremerton*.

**TICK AT ROSS LAKE**—When Karen Sykes and I stopped for lunch along the East Bank Ross Lake trail at the end of May, we took off our packs and sat on a log out of the wind.

I stretched, ran my hands through my hair and around my neck. I brushed at a piece of bark or something that was stuck on the back of my neck. It didn't come off. I grabbed it and yanked. Ouch! It was really stuck on but came off with a hard pull.

A tick! I threw it into the rocks and sand at my feet, then realized I should save it, but couldn't find it again.

At least it hadn't been completely

embedded. We had gone through so much wet brush that it could have come from anywhere along the trail. Karen even thought I might have picked it up the day before as we were hiking in, since ticks usually "wander around" for awhile before selecting a lunch site.

The site of the bite was red and swollen and very sore for a couple of days. At home, I called Dr. Frandsen who said that was normal, and not to worry unless it became infected. He also said the chance getting of Lyme disease west of the Cascades is very small.

Although I have encountered many ticks over the years, I have been bitten only once before.

**TICKS IN GENERAL**—Any low elevation trail is potential tick habitat in the spring, especially a brushy trail.

Reports are beginning to come in through Forest Service reports that ticks this year are especially numerous. Although the east slope of the Cascades is known for ticks, don't be surprised to find them anywhere, even in the Olympics. Ticks lie in wait on brush and grass and attach themselves to any warm-blooded creature that walks by.

**SAUK MOUNTAIN POTTERY**—On the way back from Ross Lake, Karen, Kathe and I stopped at the little pottery shop near Concrete. We were greeted by two large, friendly dogs. Steve Murray is the potter; he's been there since 1976.

He explained that he uses a wood-fired kiln and fuels it with cedar scraps from local mills. There aren't many local mills left, however, and when they all disappear he'll have to find another source for kiln fuel.

Many of his designs are mountain scenes, which appealed to us. We all found something to take home and were escorted out by the dogs.

**DEGREES OF SCARED**—When the story of our women's group trip to Glacier Peak appeared in the May issue (page 20), Manita showed it to a friend of hers.

The friend commented that no one in the story admitted they were ever scared. Manita replied that *she* had been scared, most of the time—but *she* hadn't kept a journal and therefore hadn't contributed her views to the story.

Manita brought this up when we all

got together again, and wondered why no one admitted to being afraid. Linda, Lindy and I (the authors of the story) looked at each other blankly. Gee, we said, we couldn't recall a spot where we had been scared.

Well, Manita wanted to know, what *had* we felt, then? We all conferred: exhilarated, mostly, also calm, focused and determined. At times we also felt uncertain (route-finding in the dark), impatient (at the wind), disappointed (turning back from the summit), and antsy (storm-bound in the tent).

**MORE DEGREES OF SCARED**—Yellow Cat says phooey on all this mountaineering stuff—*she* is scared of the UPS truck.

**HOME FROM TIBET**—Reader Don Beavon has returned from his successful trip to climb Cho Oyo in Tibet.

He writes, "Our team returned from Tibet via Kathmandu after a very successful trip. Six out of ten of us summited on Cho Oyo with three of us, including me, doing so without supplemental oxygen."

"The 26,902-foot (8201m) peak was one of the coldest I've ever been on and although it snowed just about every afternoon, most mornings dawned clear and beautiful. Strong winds later in the day were our nemesis but were avoided (usually) by hunkering down by mid-afternoon."

"On summit day it took us about 6 hours of climbing to top out from our high camp at 25,000 feet. Afternoon clouds and winds of 60mph closed in as we summited at about 1230. A huge summit snowdome made it difficult (along with deteriorating weather) for us to find our descent route."

"Fortunately we dropped below the clouds capping the summit after several hundred feet of downclimbing."

"I shouldn't leave out our Nepalese Sherpas: of our four climbing Sherpas, three summited and for two of them it was their first 8000-meter summit."

And Don wrote all this on a 4"x6" postcard!

See you in the backcountry,

Ann Marshall



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