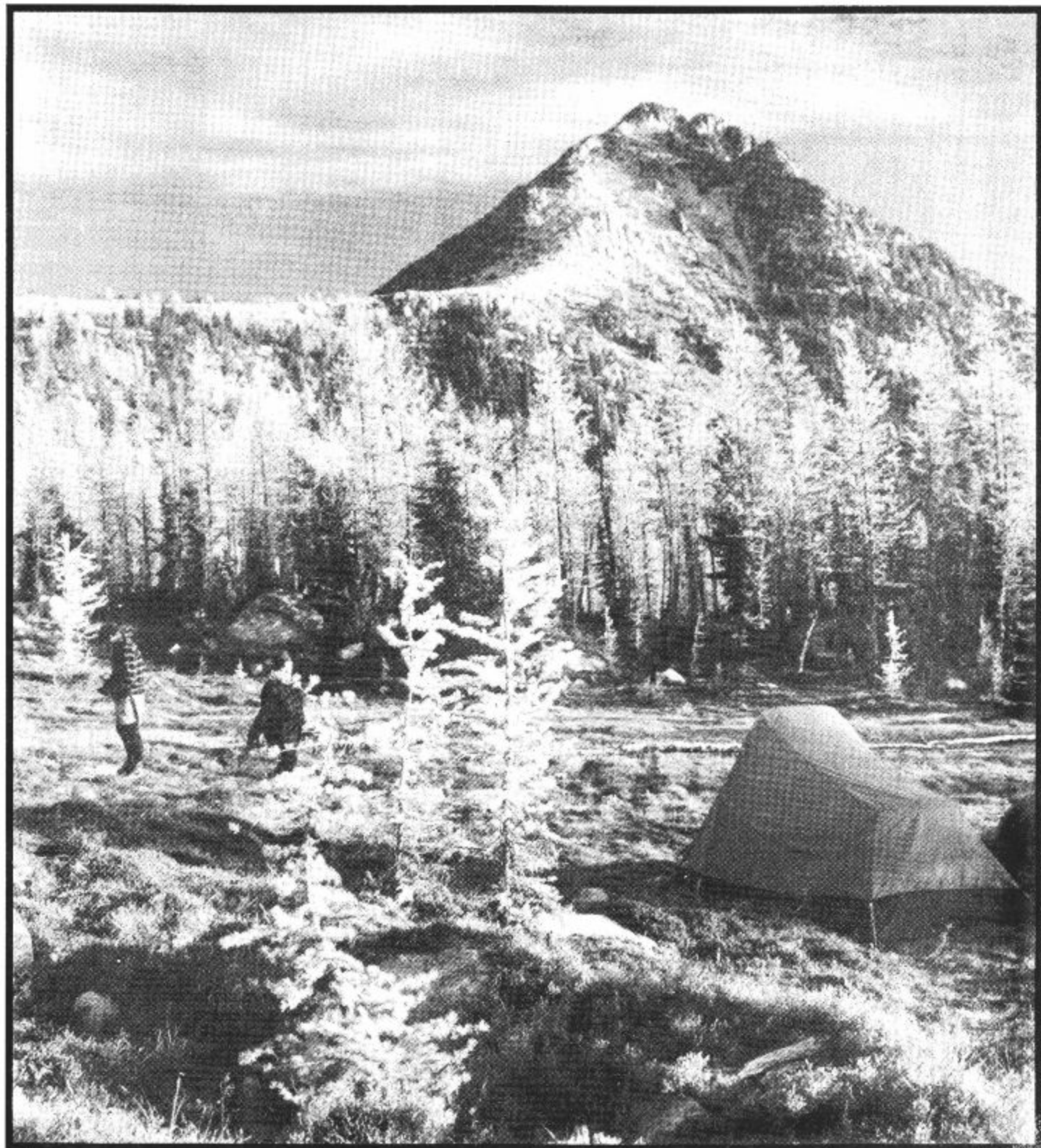


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# Pack & Paddle®

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 10

RANDOM VIEW—



Jane Habegger

Cole Creveling, 5, enjoys the view of Spirit Lake and Mount St Helens on the Harmony Trail.

## Features

- 22 TWO EASY TRAILS AT GLACIER  
Susan Wineke
- 23 AVALANCHE ON MOUNT ADAMS  
Darryl Lloyd
- 24 ENCHANTMENTS FROM SNOW LAKES  
Mark & Jill Owen
- 25 HOW TO GET HELP IN THE BACKCOUNTRY  
Debby Riehl
- 26 FROM THE MYSTICAL HOH  
TO MIGHTY OLYMPUS  
Ed Agius
- 27 MORE ON WATER TREATMENT
- 28 AN UNEXPECTED NIGHT OUT  
Val from Edmonds

## Departments

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

### COVER PHOTO:

Among the golden larches, Gary and SB set up camp in the 7200-foot basin below Peepsight Mountain. Pasayten Wilderness, Washington. Photo by Ann Marshall.

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Amber Bone  
Louise Marshall



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# LETTERS to the EDITOR

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

## THE PRIVVY POETIZER

It was neatly printed on the wall of the second privvy across from the Group Camp at Lower Lena Lake: a long, lyrical speech from one of the King Henry plays by Shakespeare, something heroic which whisked the reader out of the earthy (and odiferous) present into a world where princes entertained the gods.

I was delighted and inspired. Why not provide other bits of poesy to adorn the walls of these necessary shelters, including the promised new composting toilets, which will surely deserve a special tribute?

How about this (more Shakespeare):

Sweet are the uses of adversity,  
which, like the toad, ugly and  
venomous,  
Wears yet a precious jewel in his  
head;  
And this our life exempt from public  
haunt,  
Finds tongues in trees, books in the  
running brooks,  
Sermons in stones, and good in  
everything.

What is wanted, I think, is not just simple verse, but more an aid to meditation, something to read over several times while pondering its meaning.

This is one of my favorites, from a play called "The Lady's Not For Burning" by Christopher Fry:

Out here is a sky so gentle  
Five stars are ventured on it.  
I can see  
The sky's pale belly glowing and  
growing big,  
Soon to deliver the moon.  
And I can see

A glittering smear, the snail-trail of  
the sun  
Where it crawled with its golden  
shell into the hills.

A darkening land sunken into  
prayer:  
Lucidly in dewdrops of one syllable,  
Nunc dimittis, I see twilight,  
madam.

Here's an oldie but goodie. If you,  
like me, never knew who wrote it, I'll  
tell you—Ella Wheeler Wilcox:

Laugh, and the world laughs  
with you;  
Weep, and you weep alone,  
For the sad old earth must borrow  
its mirth,  
But has trouble enough of its own.  
Sing, and the hills will answer;  
Sigh, it is lost on the air,  
The echoes bound to a joyful sound,  
But shrink from voicing care.

Then we might want a bit of whimsy,  
always to be found in the poems A.A.  
Milne wrote for his son Christopher  
Robin:

A lion has a tail,  
And so has an elephant, and so has  
a whale,  
And so has a crocodile, and so has  
a quail—  
They've all got tails but me.

If I had sixpence I would buy one;  
I'd say to the shopman, "Let me try  
one;"

I'd say to the elephant, "This is my  
one."

They'd all come round to see.

Then I'd say to the lion, "Why,  
you've got a tail!"

And so does the elephant, and so

has the whale!  
And, look! There's a crocodile! He's  
got a tail!  
You've all got tails like me!"

My idea is to type up some great poems like these, laminate them for dampness control, and liven up those campground necessities for all who care to use the time spent in them to best advantage.

If you find one waiting for you next summer, remember you read about the Privvy Poetizer first in *Pack & Paddle*.

Mary Watson  
Gig Harbor, Washington

## A LITTLE OLD TO BE CLIMBING? NO WAY!

Earlier this season, after spending several hours climbing on Stawamus Chief at Squamish, I decided to hustle up the backside for extra exercise. As I did I saw two climbers descending, the second of whom was hunched over a bit with a rope draped over his shoulders.

I figured at the time that these guys must have hiked a ways in order to get away from the swarm of rock jocks in the Squamish area.

As I got a little closer I thought, "Hmmm, that second guy looks a little old to be climbing." And as I was about to nod and say hello I looked more closely at the older fellow and with a bit of excitement said, "Hey, Fred Beckey!"

After a nice conversation, I headed on up the steep trail trying to figure out where the old Guru had been climbing. As I reached the summit area it dawned on me that he hadn't been climbing on some obscure cliff, but instead had climbed one of the larger routes on the Chief from bottom to top! He was now simply walking down the backside.

I shook my head when I thought of Beckey pulling off a longer technical route while much of the younger crew below yoyo-ed up and down short bolted roadside cliffs all day long, often without ever placing a single piece of protection.

I've regretted ever since not having had my photo taken with my long-time hero.

Don Beavon  
Edmonds, 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.

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

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



## PENINSULA



### DOSEWALLIPS to STAIRCASE (Olympic Natl Park;

USGS The Brothers, Mt Steel, Mt Skokomish)—Each year we try to get in a backpack trip to the Olympics where we have hiked and climbed for 30 years. Our plan this year was to go up the Dosewallips and out Staircase.

In deference to my advanced age (71), Joe suggested that I lighten my load and he would carry all of our group gear, which suited me fine. I promptly put group gear out of my mind and concentrated on taking an ounce here and an ounce there out of my pack, whittling it down to 35 pounds.

**Day 1:** We arrived at Staircase, changed into hiking clothes, and loaded packs into Kerry's car, only to be shocked by Joe's asking me, "Did you bring your tent?"

Panic ensued. I didn't know I was supposed to bring the tent. Joe had forgotten to tell me he planned to use my tent for us because it is about half the weight of his.

So, we piled everything back into my car, and Joe drove Kerry, Don, and me to the Dosewallips trailhead, and he



Trail sign in Olympic National Park.

went back to Olympia for the tent. The bugs being particularly bad, we knew we would never survive 5 nights out without it. We left the trailhead at 11am and figured Joe would catch us about 7pm.

The two long ups, one from the High Bridge across the Dosewallips and the other up from Diamond Meadows, really take their toll in the middle of a hot day. I was dragging by the time the 9 miles to the LaCrosse Pass trail where we camped for the night were over. I was glad when at 7:15 Joe arriv-

ed with our tent.

**Day 2:** Our goal for the day was O'Neil Pass, 13 miles distant. The problem is that you climb to Anderson Pass and promptly drop 2000 feet to the O'Neil Pass trail, and then climb 2000

### BACKCOUNTRY NEWS DEADLINE: October 21

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

feet back up to O'Neil Pass.

Kerry had gone ahead to pick campsites after waiting patiently for me most of the day. I had been stopping every half-hour to rest and drink, and rounding the last ridge was exceedingly grateful to see her waving from O'Neil Pass. Water was close by and after several hot drinks, I decided to forego dinner and went to bed.

The views had been tremendous and the wildflowers were at their prime. Joe and Don loitered behind looking through binoculars for wildlife, spotting several bears.

**Day 3:** Layover day! After a leisurely breakfast, we hiked down to Marmot Lake and up to Hart Lake. More bears at Hart Lake. The young folks hiked down to Lake LaCrosse, but I elected to go back to camp and take a nap.

**Day 4:** We got an early start because once again we are going to lose altitude and then regain it. We dropped down to Upper Duckabush Camp, crossing the Duckabush in our water shoes. At the Upper Duckabush the bark has almost covered the sign on the Witness Tree; only about 2 inches remain.

After resting and eating, we began the trek uphill to Home Sweet Home. I

must be getting in shape because this climb up was easier. The meadow was gorgeous with wildflowers, and I spied some blue gentian, which never photographs well.

Airing our feet and drying the dew from the tents, enjoying the sun, it was a very relaxing lunch. And the 500 feet up to First Divide went very well. We camped on a flat spot up above First Divide, with great views. Now I am beginning to enjoy and not work so hard, because it is downhill from here to Staircase.

**Day 5:** Downhill? Not necessarily. At Fisher's Pass, I elected to loll in the sun while they climbed Mount Hopper. I reveled in the solitude and the beauty, admiring the wanderings of Crazy Creek below me and wondering if I was looking at the side of Mount Stone I had climbed.

When my party returned, we trudged back to camp, ate an early dinner, packed up and hiked down the interminable switchbacks to Nine Stream Camp, where we camped by the Skokomish.

**Day 6:** We packed up, leaving about 8, and made the 9.6 miles out to Staircase by noon ... to be greeted by a flat tire.

Fortunately, there was air in the spare, and Don changed it in no time. We retrieved Kerry's car at the Dosewallips, and made it to The Hungry Bear in Brinnon for a late breakfast.

Forty-eight miles and about 8400 feet elevation gain reminds me that I must work harder before *next* summer.—Olive, Kerry, Don & Joe, Olympia & Grays Harbor, 8/12-17.

## ▲ DABOB BAY (NOAA 18458)—

Our group with two double kayaks went looking for a day paddle on Hood Canal over Labor Day weekend.

We launched at the Point Whitney Shellfish Lab. Travel a short distance north of Brinnon on Highway 101, then turn east at the plainly signed junction and follow the paved road to the lab.

You'll find a delightful spot to launch—gently sloping gravel beach with small launch ramp, parking lot adjacent, and the good folks from Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife even provide restrooms

with flush toilets and hot water in the sinks.

From the launch, you look north to the tip of the Bolton Peninsula. Quilcene Bay is to the left, northern Dabob Bay to the right. We paddled across to the peninsula then coasted up its east side into upper Dabob Bay.

On an incoming tide, we enjoyed clear, calm water as we explored near shore waters. About halfway up the east side of the peninsula, Broad Spit juts out from the bluffs. Although the *Washington Public Shore Guide* shows this as public, a prominent sign on the spit says the book is in error. We chose to obey the sign and paddled on.

The north end of the Bay is the mouth of Tarboo Creek, which flows into a lovely estuary dominated by extremely large sandspits. We wound our way between the spits and into the creek mouth a short distance until blocked by a fallen tree. This works at high tide. Otherwise, it appears you'd see many acres of tide flats in oyster cultivation.

We cruised along the prominent long spit on the east side of the bay, reading the sign announcing that DNR manages much of this as a natural area preserve. We then had a quiet paddle back along our route to the launch point. We saw very little boat traffic in the bay on a sunny Sunday afternoon, and only two personal watercraft. Recommended!—Cleve Pinnix, Olympia, 8/31.

## ▲ BLAKE ISLAND (NOAA 18449)—

Six of us in two doubles and two singles headed for an overnight at Blake Island State Park.

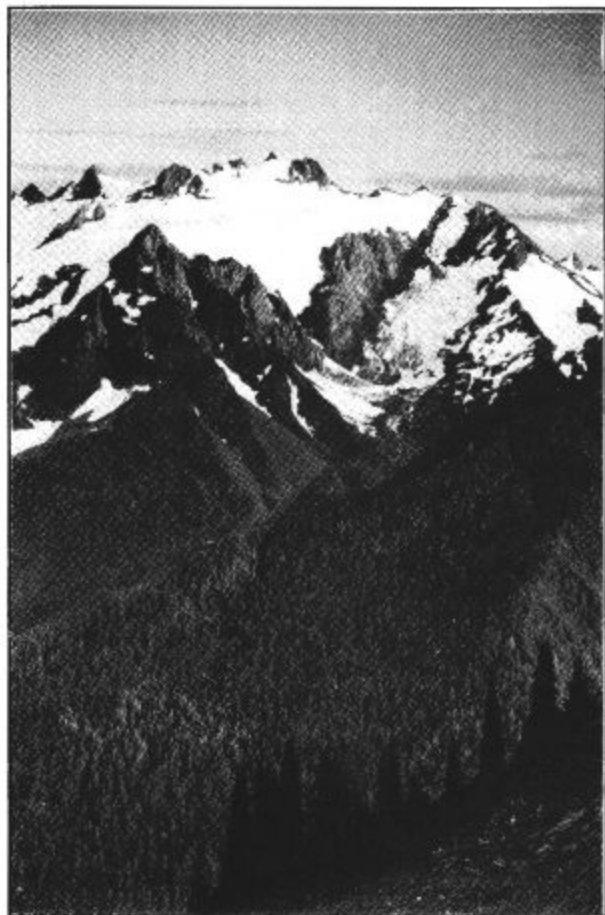
Lee and I practiced compass navigation on the way over, and partly around the north side, managing to stay pretty close to where we thought we should.

On this weekday after Labor Day, we got our pick of the campsites by Tillicum Village, had time for a walk, and then went to Tillicum Village for the salmon dinner and native dances.

After a leisurely breakfast the next morning, we headed for the mainland about 11am. At the south end of the island we drifted in the shallows on the outgoing current to admire the starfish, crabs and other fascinating and colorful denizens. This is a neat spot to lean over the side of your boat (strap your glasses on and don't tip over!) and quietly observe.—Ann Marshall, 9/2-3.

## ▲ HOH RIVER (Olympic Natl Park; USGS Mt Tom, Owl Mtn)—

Thanks to my friend Ann for going along with my idea of a backpack trip. I had not done any backpacking for many years and wanted to



Mount Olympus from Cat Basin.

Don Paulson

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

go with someone who has done a lot of it. I chose the Hoh because I had wanted to go there for a long time and thought it would be easy to hike.

We got to the trailhead about 12:30. Just after we started a rabbit darted across the trail. It was very pretty in the rainforest. We got to Five Mile Island where there is a very nice and fairly big camping area. We camped right next to the river bed and except for the mosquitoes it was great. [Ed. Note: I had assured Diana that we wouldn't have to worry about mosquitoes, but they were pretty bad.] We had a relaxing evening of dinner and reading.

Sunday morning I got up late and had a leisurely breakfast. It was great to have no time pressure. We didn't have to be anywhere at any time; there was no phone, no TV and no people with demands.

About 10:30 we set out for a day hike. It was a glorious day with many rewards. We saw several trees that had just split off and fallen. It just amazes me that this can happen to these huge trees. We also saw seven salmon 2 to 3 feet long trying to make their way up the river. We watched them for about ½-hour, and they didn't get very far.

There were "nurse logs" everywhere, and even though they all look the same, I noticed that a lot of them were actually different. They all have moss and trees, but some have more than others, or some have different kinds of mosses and other greenery.

We also saw two downy woodpeckers. One was within 10 feet of us as we watched it pluck tidbits from a snag. We also heard a bugling elk, but didn't see any. We reached the Olympic Guard Station about 2pm, had our lunch by the river and rested.

While relaxing back at camp, we heard a rustle behind us. Ann thought it was elk and I thought bear. We were surprised when two squirrels came dashing out. They were quite entertaining, chasing each other around the trees for several minutes. While we ate dinner a bald eagle flew over the river and landed in a tree across from us. Then as soon as it got dark, bats came out and flew around in front of us. With so many things to see and so many things happening I started to wonder what might happen next!

Monday morning over breakfast we spotted two kingfishers. As I sat I realized what a wonderful weekend it had been. We had great weather and a view of the "silver forest" caused by the Hoh Lake burn in the '80s, and Bogachiel Peak and the High Divide. On our way back out to the trailhead we saw bright

orange fungus growing on a log. Another hiker told us he'd heard they were edible and smelled like apricots. We decided not to risk it and just enjoyed them for their beauty.—Diana Cripe, Port Orchard, 9/6-8.



## ENCHANTED VALLEY

(Olympic Natl Park; USGS Mt Hoquiam, Mt Olson, Chimney Pk)—Not a cloud in the sky as we left the Graves Creek parking lot half full of vehicles for an overnight backpack to Pyrites Creek and quick walk to see Enchanted Valley.

The hiking books aren't kidding about the beauty nor are they underestimating the continuous ups and downs of the well-worn trail! About ½-mile past Pony Bridge we stopped for snacks at a beautiful campsite next to the Quinault. We decided we'd save this site for next summer and ventured on.

Two snack-stops later and getting quite hot, we cruised past O'Neil Creek (taken), looked down at Noname (three tents), and finally settled in a grassy area with a firer and sitting logs surrounded by alders, with the East Fork a hundred feet away.

It was after four, so we set up camp and headed for Enchanted Valley. About a mile from the Chalet we surprised a lone fawn, very tame.

Spectacular is one way to describe Enchanted Valley. The sun was shining on Mount Anderson when we reached the Chalet. A dozen waterfalls were cascading down the north cliffs. What a sight! But it was getting late, so we took off back down the trail.

Just past Pyrites camp where a Scout troop was enjoying the evening, we ran right into a herd of forty elk, bulls, cows and babies! We waited anxiously for them to move off our/their trail and up the hillside. Finally we made it back to camp as it was getting dark. We had dinner and crashed.

By morning the sky had clouded up. We broke camp after breakfast and blasted off back down the trail. It was raining by the time we dragged ourselves up out of the canyon from Pony Bridge. Raingear backpackers and hikers were passing us every few minutes. What's a little rain?

Twenty-six miles in two days was a bit too much for the feet. Next time we'll do 7, make camp at noon and relax on the riverbank, play dominoes and work on our tans.—Jack & Kristin, Westport, 8/19-20.



## GIG HARBOR TO SOUTHWORTH

(NOAA 18448)—The starting point for this one-way

paddle was the Randall Drive boat launch (see *South Puget Sound Afoot and Afloat* for directions) at the north-east end of Gig Harbor.

With Ann providing the shuttle service, Ron and I were launched by 9:10 and on our way. Predicted current at the Gig Harbor entrance was .6K flood, but there was no real indication of any current. There was also hardly any other boat traffic on this Tuesday morning.

Turning north we entered Colvos Passage. The skies were clear offering good views to the southeast into Commencement Bay with Mount Rainier in the distance. By 10am we spotted the sign marking the south boundary of Sunrise Beach County Park and pulled ashore to stretch our legs. If you follow a foot path leading inland you'll find a Porta-Potty near the parking lot.

After a short break we were on the water again and by 11 were rounding Point Richmond. We basically followed the shoreline to allow "beachcombing." At Maplewood we spotted a doe walking the shore with two young ones in tow. This is a developed area, and it surprised me to see the deer walking there. Except for on Blake Island, I think this is the first time I have seen deer walking the shore during one of my Puget Sound paddles.

We considered crossing the passage to Vashon Island, stopping at Lisabuela Park (site of a Marine Trail campsite) for lunch and then making our way along Vashon's shore, cutting over to Southworth at the northern end of Vashon.

A northerly wind was starting to pick up and discretion won out. Instead, we continued along the Kitsap side of the passage and shortly after noon reached Olalla where we stopped for lunch. This is not what you would call a scenic spot, but there is an outhouse at the boat ramp and a small store where you can buy goodies if you're so inclined.

Just after 12:30 we were back in the water for the last leg of the trip. The wind had created some wave action with a smattering of whitecaps out in the middle of the passage. A short time later it died, and the water was once more calm.

At 2:50 we reached our takeout at the street-end on the north side of the Southworth ferry dock. Total distance for this one-way trip was about 13.5 nautical miles and we averaged just over 2¾ knots.—LGM, Port Orchard, 9/9.



## MOOSE, GRAND LAKES

(Olympic Natl Park; USGS Maiden Pk)—We headed north as soon as I got off work Friday afternoon. It is

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

a 150-mile, 4-hour drive from my house to the end of the road at Obstruction Point.

We reached the end of the road at 9pm. It was foggy and had recently rained. We slept in the car at the trailhead and were on the trail at 6:20am. It was 27 degrees and cars were covered with frost.

The previous day's rain had frozen into little crystals on the dirt trail. Mindful of the fact that I broke my leg exactly 5 years ago to the day on slippery grass, I took my ski poles off my pack and used them. We started out dressed warmly and did not take jackets and wind pants off until we started down into the basin above the lakes. There was not a breath of wind until we were 30 minutes from the car on the return trip. Lillian Ridge trail can be a disagreeable place to be when the weather is bad.

The bugs are gone. There are only two small step-over blowdowns on the trail. Marmots are building new winter homes and fresh mounds of dirt are heaped in the trail in several places.

We had peanut butter sandwiches for my "birthday breakfast" at 8:30 at Moose Lake, 5100 feet. It had warmed to 35 degrees. The grass was frozen with ice crystals and logs were slick. We wandered around Moose Lake up toward Gladys Lake. Then back we went to ¼-mile from the Moose Lake intersection and down to Grand Lake at 4750 feet. Got the obligatory photo and off we went.

The book lists this as 300 feet elevation gain on the way in and 1800 feet on the way out. It is a bit more than that due to some ups and downs. This is a great trail but not something to do in snow due to the steepness in places in the basin. On the way back down the Obstruction Point road, we saw several marmots sunning themselves on the warm rocks and three fat bucks with

antlers still in velvet, lying in the grass enjoying the sun. Trail scale: 5.—  
Edythe and Robert, Aberdeen, 9/6.



## LENA LAKES (Olympic Natl Forest & Park; USGS Mt

Washington, The Brothers)—For those who have experienced Lower Lena Lake only in season and/or on weekends, let me suggest that you plan now to spend a day or two there during the week soon after Labor Day next year.

We five backpacking grannies (ages 53 to 71) hiked in on Wednesday, spent two nights in a deserted campground and used the day in between to pant, haul and sweat our way up to Upper Lena—without packs, of course.

This whole area is incredibly beautiful. The old growth forest is breathtaking and the views of The Brothers and beyond from 3500+ feet elevation are truly Olympian. The National Forest and National Park Services work side by side to keep the wilderness feeling in spite of its high use.

When we arrived at Upper Lena we found the revegetation crew awaiting the arrival of a goodly number of Sierra Club and other volunteers from all over the country to continue that fine project started in 1995.

As for our own stay, it was idyllic. The weather was mostly clear and cool, the silence sublime, the campsites clean with no evidence of vandal-type desecration. What a wonderful gift this easily accessed area of true wilderness is to us all!—Mary Watson, Gig Harbor, 9/3-5.



## GRAND VALLEY (Olympic Natl Park; USGS Maiden Pk)

—As I wedged in among the overflowing vehicles at Obstruction Point I remarked, "The last time I was here my car was the only one." That "last time" was 1957. This time the Colonel joined me for a nostalgic mid-August return to my all-time favorite stomping grounds—upper Grand Valley.

We selected the Badger Valley route to Moose Lake (4.8 miles). This trail is a mile farther than the more popular Lillian Ridge route. It also requires an additional 700 feet of elevation loss and regain plus a brief dip into the timber away from the views. That brief dip was extended into an overnight stay due to a late start and confusing detour instructions near a washed-out bridge on Grand Creek.

The next morning after a 40-year absence, a small black bear and half a dozen deer welcomed me back to Moose Lake. During the '50s visitors trampled Grand and Moose Lake surroundings to death scrounging firewood. But one

would never know it now.

The restored vegetation and cleanliness of this basin enhance its grandeur—a tribute to the Park's revegetation efforts and good management.

When the frost melted the following morning we began a 2-mile dayhike to Grand Pass. Another bear, larger and more nervous, met us near Gladys Lake. The expanding views provide drama during the final push to Grand Pass (6450 feet) and the additional five-minute walk to Grandview Peak. But one must wait until the final steps onto the gentle 6700-foot summit to receive the full impact of the mountain splendor. Rainier, Baker and Olympus punctuate the 360-degree sweep.

As we packed up the final morning, lightning, thunder and rain ended three days of perfect weather. We managed, however, to complete our hike along Lillian Ridge in a soothing rain with the great views only partially obscured.

It is obvious that the crowds have discovered this area, though the Grand Pass climax may be a little out of range for most dayhikers. Our 13-mile loop included about 4300 feet of elevation gain and 3900 feet loss. Some of the best the Olympics has to offer is packed into this relatively short hike.—Henry Wyborney, Cheney, 8/17-20.



## GRAY WOLF PASS (Olympic Natl Park; USGS Maiden Pk, Wellesley Pk, Mt Deception, The Brothers)

—I left the Deer Park trailhead at 6:10am in a dense fog.

The trail plunges down to the crossing of the Gray Wolf River at Three Forks and the start of the climb to the pass. The trail is maintained until the junction with Cedar Lake. Between the junction and the pass, 17 trees are down but no problems.

The trail crosses Gray Wolf River on good log bridges several times. I forded the last crossing, as the log was small and wet. The water was extremely cold but not much more than ankle high. Views are limited until about the 5500-foot level.

It is about 14 miles to the pass. The upper meadows had flowers, a noisy spectacular waterfall, and two pretty tarns. The wind was very strong and surprisingly cold so I did not linger at the pass. The views are incredible, almost as good as the views from Del Monte ridge above Constance Pass.

From the pass, it is a simple 12.7-mile hike down to Dosewallips trailhead. I was out to meet my husband at 8:30. We then drove back to my car at Deer Park and after a few stops we were at home by 3am.—LAS, Olympia, 8/14.

### 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



# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

**ANDERSON PASS** (*Olympic Natl Park; USGS Mt Hoquiam, Mt Olson, Chimney Pk, Mt Steel, The Brothers*)—I left Olympia at 3:40am and started the trail at Graves Creek at 6:20am.

I had always wanted to hike the Enchanted Valley. The valley is beautiful and the river is very pretty with incredible shades of blue. Giant trees draped in moss and a virtually dry trail added to the hike. There are huge snow patches across the valley from the Chalet and waterfalls that drop thousands of feet.

I had good weather until Anderson Pass at about 18 miles. The 10.5-mile hike to Dosewallips trailhead is an easy walk down. I was at the trailhead at 8:20pm.

I met 89 people on the trail, not counting people sifting by tents or otherwise off the trail. It is a popular place. I started down the road and met my husband about 9pm.

We were supposed to drive around and pick up my car at Lake Quinault. His car had other plans. We called our childcare provider to pick us up in Shelton. We arrived home about 11pm with one car in Shelton and the other at Graves Creek. Our neighbors loaned us their car to retrieve mine and our other car was towed in for repairs.

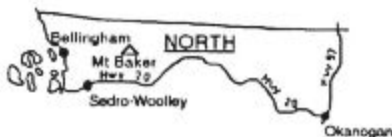
It still was a nice hike and I promised my spouse I would not ask him to come and pick me up again this year.—LAS, Olympia, 8/22.

**HOOD CANAL BRIDGE**—You can check on Hood Canal bridge closures before leaving home by calling 800-419-9085. The recording has information on closures due to weather, submarines, etc.

**BEACH FIRE BAN**—A 3-year campfire ban is in effect from Wedding Rocks to Yellow Banks.

**NORTH FORK QUINAULT**—Bridges on upper trail are out. Low Divide is inaccessible from this side until repair is complete, sometime in '98.—Ranger, 9/19.

NORTH



**HANNEGAN to BIG BEAVER** (*North Cascades Natl Park; USGS Mt Sefrit, Copper Mtn, Mt Redoubt, Mt Challenger, Mt Prophet,*

*Pumpkin Mtn*)—Despite heat and intense flies, my son Miles, my brother Steve (from Leavenworth) and I hiked to Hannegan Pass in great spirits, happy to be on the trail at last.

We met several day parties who were coming down, including two guys with a dog who said they had been snowboarding down Ruth. We were able to see their tracks through binoculars the next day. On the way up we had terrific views of Sefrit, Shuksan and Ruth.

We had the most beautiful campsite near Boundary. However one of the locals, a rather brave grouse, challenged me on the trail while I was returning from the toilet! Tail fanned out, chest puffed up, and head cocked, she came right out of the heather at me!

Day 2: we hiked down out of Hannegan and then up Copper Ridge trail. This trail climbs steeply, then descends, then climbs again, over and over all the way to the end of the ridge. It is tiring, but the views from the entire ridge were some of the best I've ever seen!

From the lookout is a 360-degree vista that includes Canada to the north and the Pickets to the south. Awesome. Breathtaking. There was a little smoke from the fires at Little Beaver coming over Bear Mountain, but not much—just enough to make the sunset beautiful. And that was the last we saw of it.

We spent that night at Copper Lake. The lake was almost all thawed, but there were still icebergs and a corner of the lake was still covered. The gnats were unbearable. They were everywhere. Clouds of them. We were eating them in our food and breathing them,

they were so thick.

Day 3: we hiked the rest of the ridge, stopping frequently to marvel at the panoramas. There were glaciers, and granite, and steep valleys, and thick forests, and waterfalls in every direction. Once we hiked out of Copper Lake we were happy to trade the gnats for flies. At least with the flies, we got to swat a few before they got us.

Almost to the bottom of the valley, about a mile from the Chilliwack River, the trail began to disappear under downed trees every 100 feet or so. We forded the river where the trail crosses.

The going was very slow the rest of the way to Indian Creek camp due to the blowdowns. We finally arrived scratched, bruised and severely bug-bit. Even the toilet was knocked askew by a tree.

Day 4: we were off early because we knew the blowdowns were going to slow us down. The trail was so bad, we took until noon to cover the 2.7 miles to Brush Creek. There were hundreds of blowdowns sometimes requiring us to leave the trail by 50 to 100 yards. Once we reached Brush Creek, the trail up to Whatcom camp was clear and maintained.

The hike was steep in places with some "jungle" but the views we were getting of Easy Ridge, Whatcom Peak and eventually Challenger were spectacular and encouraged us on. We reached the pass tired and spent, but we all agreed that our campsite was in the Presidential Suite!

Day 5: the hike up and over Whatcom Pass and down the other side was



Mountaineer club members at Elbow Lake trailhead, Mount Baker Wilderness.

Robert Michelson

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

an experience none of us will ever forget. First there was a beautiful meandering trail through mountain heather, bubbling creeks and alpine trees. Then there was a sheer drop on 50 or more switchbacks where we could literally see straight down.

From there we could look across to the hanging glaciers of Challenger and hear the roar of waterfalls. Toward the valley floor, the trail was washed out in a couple of places. But by this time we were expert bushwhackers! A quick Tarzan swing through some vine maples and we were back on the trail. It hardly slowed us down.

We especially liked the log bridge and the cable bridge at Stillwell. We were expecting a long hard uphill hike to Beaver Pass, but the pass is low and completely forested. A few switchbacks and we were there.

Day 6: the trail to 39 Mile was gently downhill through beautiful old growth all the way. There was a little jungle to wet our legs but the rain subsided before noon. We had a few peek-a-boo views through the grandfather cedars and firs but the scenic portion of our hike was clearly over. We arrived at 39 Mile with time to do some laundry and socializing.

We met a foursome from Outreach Expeditions who generously treated us to a dessert of Jell-O cheesecake with strawberry topping. Our thanks to Justin, Cynthia, Sarah, and Imo!

Hiking out Friday was an anticlimax. The flies had come back and they brought along their mosquito cousins! The trail continued its gentle down grade through old growth. When we got to Big Beaver we found it overrun by Boy Scouts so we had to wait for our water taxi by the dock.

A kind ranger radioed Ross Lake Resort for us and the taxi came an hour early. When we were dropped off by the dam we found that the .8-mile hike up to the highway was almost the hardest part of the hike! It seemed more like 2 miles.

Looking back, the highlights of the trip were the views from Copper Ridge and Whatcom Pass, and the fact that we spent the entire week in old growth timber. Although we had been warned about a few blowdowns, we weren't prepared for what we encountered.

This was a great hike and I would strongly recommend it to anyone who has never done it; however, I think it would be a mistake to hike across the park and not do the "scenic route" across Copper Ridge as we did.—Terry Alford, Edmonds, 8/16-22.

**SHUKSAN LAKE** (*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Mt Shuksan*)—21.6 miles north on road 11 (the Baker Lake Road) the pavement ends and 3.7 miles beyond is road 1160 on your left. It takes you to a unique 6-car trailhead parking lot. The only place to pass oncoming cars or turn around is at the switchbacks. NOTE: A long vehicle would not be able to turn around if four cars were parked at the trailhead.

The reward for that spine-tingling drive is a view of the top of Mount Baker and its steam vent, Baker Lake, Bacon Peak, glaciers, and sights too awesome to describe. For us, that was the only good part of this trail (see Green Trails maps 14 and 46).

When we arrived at the parking lot, we donned our mosquito and biting fly armor and started trekking. The trail we followed was rough with rotten logs, roots, and big drop-offs.

At about 1/2-mile my group turned around and did some rear-end-dragging back to the car. Guess what? It was the wrong trail! It wasn't the trail shown on Green Trails, it was a climber's route to who-knows-where.

On the way back and within sight of the car, I noticed a clearing to our right. I explored and found it to be the real trail. Here are the instructions for finding trail 608 so you won't make the same mistake we did. At the trailhead (the only path into the jungle of red and blue hucks) start counting. 47 yards uphill you will find two short 10-inch diameter logs. The lower one has an angled cut.

From those two logs, go 18 feet uphill to a slightly rounded rock on your left. Turn left *on* that rock. Flags are hidden in the brush. The brush is so thick, you will have push it aside to see the tread, but it is there. The trail winds uphill into the tall timber. The rest of the group was too tired to ascend so they stayed at the car and I went up about 400 yards.

The trail appears to get better in the tall timber. I understand there are some spectacular views at the ridge. We plan to do it again soon.

The hike is about 2 miles (one way) and has a 1500-foot gain in the first mile and a 700-foot loss after the ridge.

We then went to Schrieber's Meadows. We hiked to the swinging bridge as that was as far as the tired group could go. There were as many people as biting flies. Beautiful country though! We plan to redo both this summer.—Robert DeGraw, Kirkland, 8/16.

**NORTH CASCADES NATL PARK**—360-873-4590 x 37. Permits are required for overnight stays in the backcountry.

Highway 20 remains open. Thornton Creek road is open to trailhead and in fair shape; road is steep and narrow and high clearance is a plus. Cascade River road is open to end at Cascade Pass trailhead. Has potholes and washboards; watch for repair crews.

Ross Lake Resort runs portage and water taxi service; call 206-386-4437.

Thunder Creek trail is cleared out to Skagit Queen, but the Junction stock camp bridge is out, and avalanche debris covers the trail from Thunder Basin camps to Park Creek Pass. A bear is active at Thunder Basin camp; use of bear container advised due to lack of trees for hanging food. On other side of the pass, trail is cleared from Stehekin road to Buckner camp.

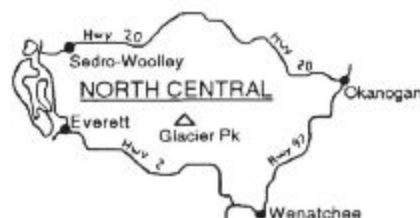
Big, Little Beaver trails are snowfree. Some large trees down over trail between Stillwell and Twin Rocks. Stay on trail through washout area; very difficult to detour around. Follow flagging through braided channels.

Chilliwack trail is cleared out from Hannegan trailhead to Indian Creek. Trail crew is working on Brush Creek to Whatcom Pass. Many windfalls remain beyond to Bear Creek. Slow going. Bears seen around Boundary Camp; please use cooking area provided and hang food.—Ranger, 9/4

**OKANOGAN NATL FOREST**—For information call Methow Valley Visitor Center, 509-996-4000.

Trails are snowfree and many have been maintained. Robinson Pass trail blocked by avalanche debris between pass and Pasayten River. Black Lake has limited camping because some sites are closed for repair.—Ranger, 9/19.

## NORTH CENTRAL



**HIDDEN LAKE PEAKS** (*Baker-Snoqualmie Natl Forest; USGS Eldorado Pk*)—The thing to remember about this trail is that after the first mile there is almost no shade, but the views are stunning. The second mile was brutal with heat and flies but


# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

there were streams all the way—otherwise I might have died of heat stroke! Conditions improved greatly in the heathery alpine part.

We camped at 6400 feet below the pass. The evening was nice but at 10pm the wind started and continued all night with gusts flattening the tent.

In the morning we explored around the pass and went halfway to the lake—still some snow. Several spectacular campsites are sprinkled around this area. Remnants of a tropical storm busted the good forecast and rain started around noon so we headed home.—Ron Rugg, Seattle, 8/19-20.

 **GOAT LAKE** (*Jackson Wilderness; USGS Sloan Pk, Bedal*)—As a special treat to my 10-year-old granddaughters visiting from Baltimore, my son Joseph and I took them backpacking to Goat Lake (see *100 Hikes in Washington's Glacier Peak Region: The North Cascades*). Joseph had been here before and felt it was suitable for an overnight backpack for children, and it was.

The trail follows an old abandoned logging road for about 3 miles and then drops to follow Elliott Creek. The last ½-mile switchbacks steeply up to the outlet of Goat Lake, following along some beautiful cascades.

Hiking with children is very rewarding to me: they are entertained by the little things of beauty we overlook—a butterfly, a soaring hawk; little stream crossings; a frog. Their spirits are easily boosted with lots of treats: candy bars, gorp, string cheese, fruit roll-ups.

And even I was happy to hear Shannon yell, "We're here! Here's the lake!" at the top of the last switchback. We have found in our 30 years of hiking with children that they do better if they are in front.


We quickly set up camp. Patty and I in one tent, and Joseph and Shannon in another. And then the girls were free to play.

Immediately they found the two open-air outhouses and then used the whole forest above us in which to hide and play. We tried hiking along the lake, but the nettles and devil's club were disastrous, so we settled for a couple of feet-soakings in the lake.

After dinner, we crossed the creek on the century-old logjam and inspected the monitoring station. We were the only group at the lake that evening, although we met several day hiking groups on our way out. Encouraged by the promise of lunch at Verlot, we were at the trailhead at 12 noon.

When I planned their two-week visit

with me, they were the most excited about a backpack trip with Uncle Joe, and it really was the highlight of their trip West. They packed their own gear—sleeping bag, ensolite, clothes, water, and lunches; and we rested frequently (mostly for my 71-year-old benefit.)—Olive Hull, Olympia, 8/4-5.


 **COUGAR CREEK** (*Jackson Wilderness; USGS Sloan Pk*)—Contrary to the *100 Hikes* book, fording the Sauk River is no problem after the snow melts. However, right before the river was a confusion of yellow ribbons and on the far side I followed pink ribbons quite a way to finally intersect the old rail grade which becomes the trail.

Except for routine blowdowns and brush, this is a well constructed trail and obviously gets very little use. I was the only person up there both days.

At 1½ miles is a nice waterfall and all the creeks are especially attractive. At 4 miles and 4600 feet is a small basin. From here a steep bootpath goes up to 4800 feet and a larger basin. These basins, although interesting, appeared moist, buggy and bad for camping (also no early morning sun).

So I continued on steep tread to 5300 feet where I found several wonderful benches for camping. This is gorgeous roaming country—just like it appears on the map. The evening was beautiful, with not many bugs, and views to Bedal, Glacier, Red Mountain, Lost Creek Ridge, and of course a neck-stretching look up to Sloan.

On Tuesday went up early before the heat to about 6300 feet on obvious climbers' route. From here is excellent perspective of Glacier Peak area and a good look at the Sloan Glacier. I could barely see my tent 1000 feet below. There are more possible camp spots around 6000 feet with water nearby. From here I gradually headed back, lingering and taking pictures. After the ford, I forgot exactly where I exited the brush and with ribbons everywhere I thrashed around for half an hour before stumbling back on the trail.—Ron Rugg, Seattle, 9/8-9.

 **CURRY GAP, BALD EAGLE** (*Jackson Wilderness; USGS Benchmark Mtn, Blanca Lk*)—John and I left the car at the Curry Pass trailhead at 11:10 on Saturday of Labor Day weekend and walked the gently upsloping abandoned road the 2½ miles to the original trailhead.

At several places, the alders have overgrown the trail such that if somebody doesn't do some trail maintenance

soon we are going to lose this trail. Three pretty falls to enjoy to our left on the road.

From the road end quickly, due to the flies, we headed up brush and gentle inclines to Curry Gap. Were surprised that there were no camps along the river to our right. There sure is a lot of lightly used area we could improve for more to enjoy, if some source of willing volunteers or conscripts could be managed.


Curry Gap was soon past and UP the Bald Eagle trail we went, getting more tired by the foot. Trail is in good condition and in shade but that much up (2110 at the car, 2950 at the road-end, 3470 at Curry Gap and 5000 at the highest point shortly after reaching the ridge) is just getting harder. Some good views of Monte Cristo peaks with snow on their north slopes and waterfalls. Water two places. Drank it.

Once at the ridge, we enjoyed spectacular views of Glacier Peak but were getting dry and to that point of tiredness when any sort of flattish spot looks like an excellent campsite. We found some rapidly flowing water across the trail and ½-mile farther a good campsite.

We set up our tents in record time due to the mosquitoes. Even made dinner in our tents. Identical place where I camped alone ten years ago. We were passed in an hour or so by one party of two who probably camped at Blue Lake. They were all the folks we saw this popular weekend.

Next morning we did a pleasant bugless couple of miles toward Blue Lake before having to turn around due to time limitations. Pond water in abundance 200 feet from camp, but not fast flowing (my so-far-reliable guide for drinking without filtering).

Packed up and headed out with more great views. Flies no problem; must have to do with less sweat. Five hours in and 4 hours out, but more enjoyable.—Tom Karasck, Stanwood, 8/30-9/1.

 **MOUNT PILCHUCK** (*State Park; USGS Verlot*)—Of all the trails I have hiked across the world, I feel this is the most dangerous. It is so bad that it took 90 minutes to go 1.5 miles.

Most of the lower section has a rounded top. It is slippery in rain, and will be worse when covered with ice and snow. Come the freeze and light snow, the upper trail is going to be a bobsled run.

The new steps are already sloughing and a big tree has blocked the trail on the north side of the mountain.

It isn't all bad because Yellow Cat's paw prints still show the old way. All

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

the old timers we talked with went up the new trail to see if it was as bad as people have said and came down the old way. Few were impressed.

The road has steadily declined over the years. The dips and holes are big enough to break an axle. Most of the gravel road is one big washboard.

In conclusion, I consider the new Mount Pilchuck trail very dangerous. This is not a novice trail. If you must hike it, proceed with caution and wear good foot protection.—Robert DeGraw, Kirkland, 8/23.



## TRINITY TO HOLDEN

(*Glacier Pk Wilderness; USGS Suiattle Pass, Holden, Clark Mtn, Trinity*)—Miles and miles of well maintained trails, loads of available side trips, five summits, flower fields simply packed with blossoms, grandstand views of Glacier Peak, and a lunch stop in the quaint village of Holden highlighted this six day venture.

To give the devil his due, pesky flies were simply intolerable below timberline during times when the wind wasn't blowing or it wasn't cold.

Janet Stanek and I climaxed the trip with summit time on Bannock Mountain, a seldom reached peak along the Cascade Crest midway between Glacier Peak and Dome Peak.

The basic one-way hike from Trinity to Holden is about 31 miles. Three or four days should suffice. The key geographical spots along the way include Buck Creek Pass, Middle Ridge, Suiattle Pass, Cloudy Pass, and Lyman Lake. Extra days will allow for some of the side trips we were able to do such as Pass No Pass, Helmet Butte, Flower Dome, Miner's Ridge/Image Lake, Plummer Mountain, Canyon Lake, Bannock Mountain, and Cloudy Peak.

Logistics for this venture are complicated. Trinity is about 25 miles north of Lake Wenatchee at the end of the Chiwawa River road. The road is maintained and drivable with passenger cars. The exit from Holden includes a bus ride to Lucerne (\$6) and a boat ride to Chelan or Fields Point (one way on the *Lady of the Lake*: \$13.50).

We arranged with a friend to pick us up at Fields Point and return us to Wenatchee. The next day Janet and I returned to Trinity to pick up my vehicle (nearly four hours round trip from Wenatchee). An ideal situation would be to secure a ride to Trinity with a friend to avoid the backtracking after the trip is completed.

This outing is one of the classic hikes in the Cascades. The extra trouble arranging transportation is minor com-

pared to the splendid scenery and fine trails one will encounter.—Charlie Hickenbottom, Wenatchee, 8/12-17.



## POINT 6931 (*Glacier Pk Wilderness; USGS Schaefer Lk*)

Lying midway between Sylvester Peak and Bandit Peak on Chiwawa Ridge, Point 6931 provides a rewarding scramble from Schaefer Lake. Begin on the Schaefer Lake trail which starts along the Chiwawa River road.

The crossing of the Chiwawa River is across a large cottonwood which has conveniently fallen across the river, or by the horse ford. This trail was maintained this summer. Many logs were cut and some brushing occurred.

The bridge crossing Schaefer Creek has broken and has an awkward tilt. Rock hopping is an easy alternative when the water is low, but this spot would cause problems for horse users. To get to Point 6931, travel north and northwest from Schaefer Lake to the saddle between Schaefer Lake and D Lake, then ascend the east slopes of Point 6931. Bandit Peak, Clark Mountain and Glacier Peak are all impressive from this vantage.—Charlie Hickenbottom, Wenatchee, 9/13.



## WHITE RIVER TRAIL

1507 (*Glacier Pk Wilderness; USGS Mt David, Clark Mtn, Glacier Pk East*)—The bad news is that the winter storms left over 300 downed trees on this wonderful valley trail. The good news is that the trail crew was busily clearing the trail the day we hiked it.

The bad news is that beyond the Boulder Creek trail junction at mile 4 the "jungle brush" is still over 4 feet high and it will not be cut. The good news is that the first 5 miles of this trail make for a wonderful day hike!

Lots of giant old growth trees on this hike and the White River is always audible. Beyond the junction with trail 1562 (Boulder Creek) meadows and avalanche slopes replace the forest and provide sweeping views of the valley.

On our return, a wilderness ranger told us about a giant cedar ¼-mile up the Indian Creek Trail. We checked it out—its a doozy!—Craig Romano, Seattle, 8/29.



## SPIDER MEADOW, CLOUDY PASS, IMAGE LAKE, BUCK CREEK PASS LOOP

(*Glacier Pk Wilderness; USGS Trinity, Holden, Suiattle Pass, Gamma Pk*)—My brother and I did this loop in 1973 and thought it was the best trip we had ever taken. We repeated it last week and still think it is the best trip we have

ever taken, although this time the mosquitoes were the worst I have ever experienced in the Cascades.

We started on Sunday morning leaving the car at the trailhead for Spider Meadow. Many cars were at the trailhead and we met many people coming out. The flowers were much nicer than I remember from previous trips through the meadows, but the flies were just as bad and the trail up from the meadows to Spider Gap seems to get steeper every time I trudge up it.

Seven hours after leaving the trailhead we had hauled packs to Spider Gap and could enjoy the view into Lyman Basin. There was a lot more snow than most years, so we were able to descend to the basin entirely on snow. Bypassing the scree and dirt probably saved us close to an hour getting down from the pass. We camped on gravel moraine with a nice view of Lyman Glacier.

Monday at 9:45, it was time to head for Image Lake. Flowers were spectacular in the meadow just below Cloudy Pass on the east, and flies were truly horrible at Lyman Lake. Many people seem to camp at Lyman Lake, but I would encourage people to camp either in Upper Lyman Basin or around Cloudy Pass.

Water can be a problem at Cloudy Pass itself, but there is usually a good creek flowing less than a quarter mile east of the pass. The views are much better and there are fewer flies up there than at Lyman Lake itself. The Darrington Ranger station had cautioned about snow on the hiker trail between Cloudy and Suiattle Passes. There was one small patch where an ice axe would be comforting, but not essential, and the snow is surely long gone by now.

The flowers on Miners Ridge were spectacular, and Image Lake was its usual gorgeous self. At 4:20 on Monday night, we were the third party camped at Image. Several more parties came through on Tuesday.

Many people had been intending to do the loop back over Dolly Vista, but after hauling their packs 4000 feet up from the Suiattle to Image Lake, most of them seemed to be reconsidering. Going out via the Suiattle River was sounding better than going up and over Dolly Vista, according to several parties we spoke with.

Limiting camping to the designated, less fragile, and much less scenic, area below Image Lake has not discouraged people from visiting this beautiful place.

We spent Tuesday wandering the Image Lake basin, going up Point 6922 and strolling over to the lookout, which was occupied.

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

On Wednesday the 13th, we headed toward Buck Creek Pass. Four and a half-hours later we had finally struggled to the top of Middle Ridge. I always feel better when that climb is behind me.


This time, I remembered a 1988 report by Mary Sutliff (*Signpost, October 1988, page 22*) describing a spur trail from the crest of Middle Ridge 1 mile to meadows underneath Fortress Mountain. On a bit of a lark, I decided to follow that trail. (It is shown on the Green Trails map.) She was right. The camping there is fantastic. There are broad meadows with lovely streams and beautiful flowers.

The view is virtually the same as it is from the top of Flower Dome, near Buck Creek Pass, with the addition of close-up views of Fortress and views north to Miner's Ridge, Suiattle Pass, and North Star.

The only disadvantage (aside from the bugs, which were everywhere) was that you are so close to Fortress that it blocks the sunlight in the morning until after 8. This was the best campsite of our trip and I plan to use it the next time I do this loop.

Thursday we headed back to the car by way of Buck Creek Pass. That trail was hot, buggy, and dusty as usual. We did not meet as many people coming in as we usually do on this trail. Perhaps the heavy snowpack has persuaded people to wait longer before venturing into the high country.

We did not have any problems with snow. All the trails were melted out and the going was reasonably easy, except for a few spots between Miner's Creek and Middle Ridge where some blowdowns had not been completely cleared. As always, it was a wonderful trip.—Dave and Alan Sherbrooke, Seattle, 8/10-14.

 **TWIN LAKES** (*Glacier Pk Wilderness; USGS Schaefer Lk, Mt David*)—I did a baaaad thing! I promised myself I wouldn't pay to clean trails but that habit just can't be suppressed.

That which lead up to the breaking of my word started when the sun came up over the Cascades guaranteeing a wonderful day. The dew on the leaves, the pleasant sound of the rapids, the wonderful aroma of wood smoke from the nearby Napeequa Campground made for an unmatched day for exploring.

The trailhead is on the White River road 6400, about 18 miles north of Highway 2. The trail gains quickly for about 150 yards then tapers to a won-

derful cool north-side-of-the-mountain walk. We crossed a talus fall and then followed an old road for a way. With a little more uptrailing, we came to a beaver pond. Note the size of the trees those rascals have felled. Watch closely along the trail for the stumps, which at first glance appear to have been sawed.


Beyond the view rock on the west side of the pond, the trail barbers with the pond for supremacy through the seasons. It was muddy but firm for "Raichle-mobiles." East of the pond are some huge cedar trees. Once you cross the creek (no bridge), the trail shows you a place where the sliding snow has challenged the stoutness of trees. It is evident that the trees lost.

Soon the trail jumps back into the woods. Six short switchbacks take you into the fabulous Twin Lakes Creek canyon through which the creek babbles, churns, and rushes to marry the Napeequa River. There are two trail-blocking trees across the trail in the canyon. There is no going around them. It is either over or under.


To better view the lower lake, at the northeast side of the lake, venture up the slight trail by the rocky shore. It is a great overview.

From that viewpoint to the big Twin Lake is where I couldn't help myself. I cleared the trail to the F&WL station. Five logs (two big ) still cross as we could not chop through them. It's gonna take a chain saw. We cleared a way around each. All in all, the trail is now clear between lakes, not horse clear, but people clear. We spent over an hour brushing out that trail.

We met no one going in, and there were two cars at the trailhead. Met 11 going out. Seven were people with babies just going for a little walk. I rate the trail as an 8 to 10. The hike took us about 5 hours.—Robert DeGraw, Kirkland, 8/30.

 **FISH LAKE** (*Wenatchee Natl Forest; USGS Plain*)—Heather and I took a break from hiking and rented a canoe from Cove Resort on Fish Lake near Lake Wenatchee. The Cove has two canoes which they rent for \$4 an hour.

We basically canoed the rim of the lake (twice) and spent extra time in the marshy western end. The 150-acre marsh is a floating bog and is being considered for a "Research Natural Area." We saw a bufflehead and lots of ospreys. As far as insects, only dragonflies graced us with their presence.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 8/30.

 **EAGLE PASS** (*Lk Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness; USGS Oval Pk*)—The original plan was to visit Oval Lakes but the stream crossing was too swift and deep for us, so we headed to Eagle Pass. The trail was wooded most of the way and Silver Lake was buggy. We camped at a comfortable horse camp near the intersection with the Chelan Summit Trail.

The next day we dayhiked south on the Summit Trail, over a 7400-foot pass and then wandered through meadows at about 7000 feet. We ate lunch at another 7400-foot pass on the shoulder of Mount Baldy. Here we met a couple coming down cross-country. They had spent the night at Surprise Lake and were headed for Oval Pass by way of Fish Creek Pass.

On our return, we decided to find Tuckaway Lake and Oval Pass. You turn right at the bridge and sign to a large horse camp and just keep walking through the camp, picking up good tread in the meadows beyond. We soon found ourselves in a rocky basin where the trail died. Then if you look left, up the hillside, you will see a faint track which is a good trail all the way to the lake.

The next question was, where was Oval Pass? We thought it was on the saddle above the lake. When we climbed up to it, we found ourselves looking down on Eagle Pass. When we turned around to descend, we saw clear trail directly across the basin leading to Oval Pass.

We dropped to the lake, contoured around the top of the basin for a quick climb on good trail to Oval Pass. It went across and down to an intersection with the Oval Lakes trail, which was pretty much under snow.

The next day we dayhiked to Purple Pass and Lake Juanita. The first 1½ hours was downhill and treed but after that we were in meadows all the way. There were still some snow patches around Lake Juanita. We had lunch at Purple Pass with Lake Chelan about 6000 feet straight below us. We didn't see anyone all day.

The next day the weather looked iffy. We decided to dayhike toward Oval Pass and Oval Lakes as planned, and turn back if the weather got worse. We met two boys and their father heading for Purple Pass. We could see rain coming by the time we reached the 7400-foot pass. We headed back, got camp packed up one minute before the rain hit. At Eagle Pass we met a man who thought he was at Eagle Lake. We let him trace part of our map. The rain continued and didn't stop until we reached the car

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

at 4:30.—Ben and Nancy Brodie, and Sparky the hiking Bouvier, Edmonds, 7/26-29.

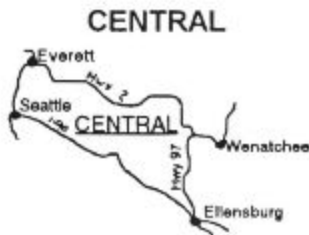
**TWISP DIST**—509-997-2131. Trails snowfree. Most maintained, but Reynolds Creek is not.—Ranger, 9/17.

**DARRINGTON DIST**—360-436-1155. Trails snowfree, but snow patches remain on northfacing slopes at high elevations.

The Suittle River trail will be closed at the Canyon Creek bridge from 9/26 to 7/3/98. The bridge will be repaired and there is no alternate crossing.—Ranger, 8/26.

**LAKE WENATCHEE DIST**—509-763-3103. The wind storm on 8/26 dropped many trees across roads and trails that had previously been open.

Road repair projects are underway, including Little Wenatchee and Chiwawa roads. Call for dates of closures.—Ranger, 9/10.



**MOUNT PERSIS** (*private; USGS Index, Gold Bar*)—This is Hike One in my 1974 edition of *102 Hikes* and is one of the last 10 or so hikes I have not completed in this edition.

As expected there are some changes in the approach. Turn off Highway 2 on road 6200. At 3.4 miles by my car, take the left fork, road 6220. One mile beyond this junction take the left fork again, no name or number. It is rough but drivable.

I parked at a large cleared area .2-mile beyond the junction. Water completely covered the road about .2-mile beyond this and I did not want to drive through the puddle. A pickup was parked about .4-mile down the road, where another left fork took off. Another pickup drove down this fork and parked right at the trailhead. However, I would not recommend this last section for a passenger car.

The trail takes off about 300 yards from the end of the road. The first section goes through some clearcut and then enters the trees. There are many downed logs but they actually help by providing handholds. You gain about

2000 feet in the first mile. The trail is easy to follow but it is not an easy hike. I would not recommend it for kids. The trail goes very close to some drop-offs.

The guidebook did not mention any lakes; however, two large tarns look permanent. This year there are also large patches of snow at each tarn.

The views are lovely. I wandered all around to see the views from both sides and several different knobs. There are cairns when the trail disappears in felsenmeer. One knob had a USGS triangulation marker on it but no name or elevation.

Mount Index is spectacular. When the clouds moved, I could see Glacier Peak. The views to the west were obscured by a pinkish brown smaze. On a clearer day, I would expect views of the sound.

I had thought about doing another hike on the way home. Although this is a short hike, about 6 miles round trip from where I parked, it is a tough hike and I was tired. I met the two people in the pickup; they spent the night at the lakes. They said that they had heard the section would be logged off soon. If this is your kind of trail, do it soon before it is gone.—LAS, Olympia, 8/31.



## SIX TIGER SUMMITS

(*Issaquah Alps; USGS Hobart*)

—Overcast sky with threat of rain discouraged a high country hike—no views likely anyhow—so by midmorning I chose an aerobic challenge nearer Seattle. I wondered how long it would take a strong hiker at steady moderate pace to reach all six Tiger Mountain summits. My trail log shows:

11:00, New West Tiger trailhead (500 feet), onto Bus and Nook trails and up old route just right of bat nooks (1.8 miles).

11:30, Junction with Section Line trail, just before it turns right onto old roadbed.

12 Noon, West Tiger 3 (2522 feet).

12:10, West Tiger 2 (2757 feet)

12:35, West Tiger 1 (4.5 mi., 2948 feet) via bypass trail, then Bootleg and East Tiger trail.

2:00, East Tiger (7.2 mi, 3004 feet), 15 minute lunch break, then Tiger Mountain road west to Middle Tiger

spur.

3:15, Middle Tiger (10.3 miles, 2607 feet), down Artifacts trail, TMT, South Tiger Traverse.

4:45, South Tiger (13.6 miles, 2028 feet). Total time: 5 hours, 45 minutes.

Retracing the Traverse trail, I figured the shortest return trip to be over all summits except East Tiger, so hiked West Side road west 20 minutes and up Middle Tiger Trail.

6:30, Middle Tiger (17.2 miles) then down the spur, north on Tiger Mountain road, and onto 15 mile RR grade north to Bootleg trail.

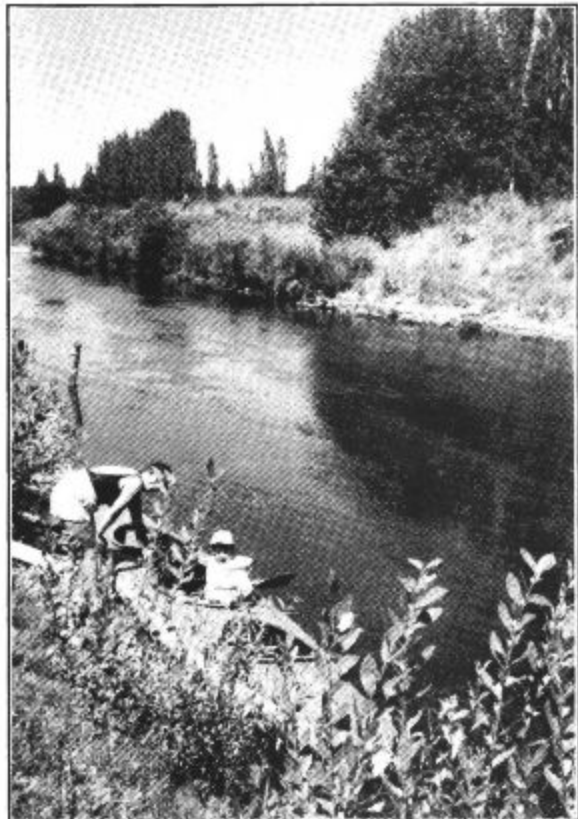
7:30, West Tiger 1 (20.2 miles)

7:55, West Tiger 2 (21.0 miles)

8:05, West Tiger 3 (21.7 miles), a short way down the powerline, then onto the broader, easier-seen main trail, as the last half hour tested my night vision.


9:00, New West Tiger Trailhead (estimated roundtrip distance: 24.4 miles).

Summary: In 10 hours and over 24 miles on Tiger Mountain trails I saw only 10 people—2 on Nook Trail, 4 on Tiger 3 summit, and 4 bikers on the TM Road—on a Saturday! I'd say the Six Tigers hike is best done one-way, north to south, ending at South Tiger trailhead. However done, it's enough exercise to keep us seniors fit. In November I'll be 72.—WEB, Seattle, 8/23.



Karen and Aaron Roper paddle the Sammamish Slough—a good "kid trip."

John Roper

 **KALEETAN PEAK** (*Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS Snoqualmie Pass*)—I left the Denny Creek parking lot at 10am on Sunday. A beautiful day, few clouds, warm weather. I passed many hikers on the way up to the Melakwa Lakes. The lakes were turquoise-blue and very clear. My original plan was to eat lunch at the lakes and turn around. But I felt great so I decided to scale Kaleetan Peak.

I climbed up the boulder field toward the chute, found a faint trail that led up the southwest side of the mountain, and scrambled to the top. Amazing views, unbelievable cliffs and a great place to catch my breath and down some lunch. There were two other people on top and one guy about 1/2-hour behind me.

I climbed off the mountain back to the lakes where by now there were many hikers. An awesome day that turned into more than I had expected. 3.5 hours up, 3 down, I estimated 14 miles round trip.—Brooks A, Seattle, 8/17.

 **LAKE AUGUSTA** (*Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS Big Jim Mtn, Cashmere Mtn*)—The first 3 miles were very steep and though the trail was cleared for stock, there was a big tree in the trail at 4500 feet which we straddled. After the Painter trail intersection we entered a pretty meadow that resulted from the Hatchery Creek Fire a few years ago. The trees were blackened or silver where they had lost their bark and some weren't burned at all. The meadow was blazing with wildflowers.

Next we went up a ridge to the Icicle Ridge trail intersection with good views to the Enchantments and Mount Stuart. The way then dropped 500 feet to a meadow with lots of waterfalls before rising to the lake.


We saw some dayhikers who were making a 19-mile loop daytrip. Our only neighbors at the lake were two fishermen.

The next day we dayhiked up to the pass above the lake for good views of Grindstone Mountain, Snowgrass, Ladies Pass, Mount Rainier and Mount Hinman. Next we walked back to the intersection with the Icicle Ridge trail and followed it until it dropped steeply down into the trees. We then decided to go back to the intersection and climb a big knoll through huge flower fields.

After dinner, we climbed back up to the pass for a beautiful sunset.

On the way out we noticed that the black flies were really starting to come out. We saw two ladies on horseback who were coming in, and after that, no one.—Ben and Nancy Brodie and

Sparky the hiking Bouvier, Edmonds, 8/10-12.

 **BIG CHIWAUKUM** (*Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS Chiuwaukum Mtns*)—This is the crest of the Chiuwaukum Mountains and is an outstanding 360-degree viewpoint.


Hike the Whitepine Creek trail 3 miles, then follow the Wildhorse Creek trail 3.5 miles to 5400 feet. Ascend colorful meadows (Indian paintbrush, towhead baby, phlox) with wonderful views and easy rock to just below the summit. Here things get confusing.

The terrain makes it difficult to see exactly where the summit is and to complicate matters, there are a number of gullies to deal with. So, despite the fact that we've been here before, it seems that every time we end up taking a different route to the top.

The summit itself is small and exposed, falling steeply on the east to a glacial remnant dotted with melt pools. Lake Charles was still half frozen over despite the lateness of the date.

This peak does not see many ascents, maybe 2 or 3 a year (according to the register) but it's one of our favorites. An extra bonus this time was spotting 3 goats scrambling above us on the summit ridge.

Expect a long day, lots of gain, and plenty of class 3 rock in the vicinity of the summit.—Garth, Judy, Rodger, Carnation, 9/7.

 **HORSESHOE LAKE** (*Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS Cashmere Mtn*)—A "roll of the dice" decision brought us to Leavenworth where we got a permit for the Stuart trail and talked about the weather (rain) with the rangers. We waited and wondered. The rain almost stopped at 4:30 so we started up the trail at 5 and camped near the junction. The skies totally cleared and the next day was perfect.

Next day packed up and went to Horseshoe Lake. Set up camp near outlet and explored over ridge north to another beautiful two-tiered basin with larches and streams. One small area was covered with about thirty 6-inch mushrooms.

Back at camp we enjoyed the dramatic view of the north face of Mount Stuart. After dark saw two lights up there—apparently climbers were camped at about 8000 and 9000 feet.

On Friday a "dry front" came through, so it was breezy and Mount Stuart made its own cloud all day. We explored up a series of basins toward Jack Ridge to about 6900 feet. Jack "Lake" is actually an attractive stream


meandering through flat grass. We were back at the car at 6:30. No people past junction; not many bugs.—Ron Rugg, Seattle, 9/3-5.

 **LAKE LILLIAN, RAMPART RIDGE** (*Alpine Lks Wilderness; USGS Chikamin Pk*)—

This was a last-minute trip. I took the shortcut up Rocky Run. Left Seattle at 12:30 and was at Lake Lillian at 2:30!

I took a 15 minute swim, then headed counterclockwise around the lake and up steep bootpath to Rampart Ridge, passing pretty tarns. At the ridge is the cliff seen from I-90 and it's a long way down!

Plenty of snowmelt streams and even camps up here at 5700 feet. I saw no one in this area and heard just one voice down at Rampart Lakes on this nice Sunday. On the way back I continued the trip counterclockwise around the lake. Mosquitoes still out but not horrible. This is a quick way to a beautiful alpine area.—Ron Rugg, Seattle, 8/31.

 **KACHESS RIDGE** (*Wenatchee Natl Forest; USGS Kachess Lk*)—Kachess Ridge runs for over 4 miles along the east side of the southern part of Kachess Lake. Its high point (5520+ feet) is near its northern end, 1.25 miles west-northwest of the west peak of French Cabin Mountain and 3 miles south of Thorp Mountain. It has a few lesser high points; interestingly, the elevations of some of these are indicated on the map but the height of the true summit is not.

Several trail approaches to the final scramble are possible. Road 4308 off the Salmon la Sac Road leads to a trailhead at 3800 feet; from here, ascend trail 1305 for 1.3 miles to trail 1315; head south .3-mile from here to intercept the route discussed below.

Another longer access is from the south end of trail 1315, beginning at 2400 feet about 5.2 miles away; for this, take road 4818 a short distance to the powerline road; turn east for about .6-mile, then northeast on branch 203 to the end.

The easiest access is as follows: from the Easton exit from I-90, find road 4818 and follow it for nearly 6 miles along the east shore of Lake Kachess. Turn right on road 4824 and climb for a little over 1 mile. Watch for slender signs indicating branch 115, which first comes off to the right at about 3300 feet. Follow this for between 2 and 3 miles to the saddle above French Cabin Basin.

Here the road divides again; take the right branch (also signed 115) .1-mile

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

to the low spot in the saddle. The branch ends shortly beyond this. At the east end of a small turnoff find a path leading downslope to intercept trail 1315 at about 4800 feet.

Follow the trail south up to a col between rocky points 5360+ on the right and 5280+ on the left. Just over this col the trail levels out, then gradually descends into the valley of Silver Creek. Leave the trail just south of the col and work west over or around rocky ribs sloping down from Point 5360+. Then climb northwest to the ridgetop to avoid deeper brush straight west.

Follow the ridge over a false summit, then down easy rock to a notch just north of the top (class 2). From here a climbers' path leads quickly to the true summit.

You can see from Mount Rainier to Mount Stuart from here, with a nice view of the Lemah summits and neighbors on the crest. The west peak of French Cabin Mountain beckons just southeast across the valley. Water skiers may be visible on Lake Kachess 3200 feet below.

This short route is only 3 miles round-trip with less than 1000 feet of gain. This leaves plenty of time and energy to explore other summits nearby. —Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 8/15.

## POINT 5280+ (Wenatchee Natl Forest; USGS Kachess Lk)

A short easy class 2 scramble leads to a dramatic little top overlooking French Cabin Basin and the upper valley of Silver Creek. Run up here on your way to French Cabin Mountain or Kachess Ridge to get the lay of the land. Point 5280+ is just east of trail 1315 as it crosses from French Cabin Basin to the Silver Creek side. Across the trail to the west is higher Point 5360+, which looks like it should be a roped climb.

The quickest way to this area is from the saddle at 4900 feet between Kachess Ridge and Thorp Mountain. From the Easton exit off I-90 take roads 4818 and 4824 to branch 115; follow this to the low point in the saddle, where a waytrail drops down the east slope to intercept trail 1315. Turn south and hike less than ½-mile to a col just west of your objective. —Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 8/15.

**ENCHANTMENTS**—Permits are required only until 10/15. —Ranger, 9/10.

**CLE ELUM DIST**—509-674-4411. Salmon la Sac bridge will be closed Monday through Thursday through the end of September. The closure affects Cooper River, Polallie Ridge, Waptus River and Red Mountain trails.

Trails are snowfree and many have been maintained. —Ranger, 9/10.

## SOUTH CENTRAL



**POINT 6350 (House Rock)** (Douglas Wilderness; USGS Cougar Lk)—Unnamed on the maps, House Rock rises above the west end of the Cougar Lakes as a facade of steep cliffs. It is on the Cascade crest, its east side drained via Cougar Creek to the Bumping River, and its west side via Panther Creek to the Ohanapechosh River.

It just misses true "peak" status by the 400-foot rule, having a col of 5960+ feet between it and Peak 6388, .6-mile to the south.

House Rock can be easily climbed from the Pacific Crest Trail, which reaches just over 5800 feet on its west side, about 7.5 miles south of Chinook Pass. Leave the trail near a small seasonal tarn or shortly south, and walk to the brushy top. Be careful of the cliffs that plunge down to Cougar Lakes. Good views of all the peaks mentioned above, plus Adams and Rainier. You can see most of Bumping Lake as well. —Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 8/23.

**PYRAMID PEAK** (Rainier Natl Park; USGS Mt Rainier West)—5:00am, party of seven meets at Martin Way Park and Ride in Olympia.

6:50 start up trail from Kautz Creek trailhead, after obligatory coffee stops. Nice to have toilet facility at the trailhead.

10am, following moderate grade is a steep section with a lot of steps. Levels off somewhat after reaching the foot of the long ridge leading to Mount Ararat. Shift to west side of the ridge.

10:10, high point just east of Mount Ararat. Drop to meadow on east side of ridge. Nice views south and east.

10:35, Indian Henry's, 11am, off Wonderland and onto Mirror Lakes trail. 11:45-12:15, lunch break on slope off Iron Peak; into Fishers Hornpipe Creek soon after.

1:45, on summit of Pyramid after moderate rock scramble.

1:45-2:15, more lunch and view appreciation. This is a real in-your-face view of Rainier.

3:55, back on Wonderland Trail.

4pm, water stop. Refills needed; this is more than a two-quart-trip.

4:30, top rise out of Indian Henry's.

7:00, trailhead.

About a twelve-hour trip, sun-up to sundown this time of year. Moderate pace with time to admire flowers, graze huckleberries, take pictures.

About 15 miles round trip with 4500 feet of elevation gain, net, the gross is a few hundred feet more. —Paul Schaufler, Olympia, 9/7.

**BANSHEE PEAK, CENTRAL COWLITZ CHIMNEY** (Mt Rainier Natl Park; USGS Mt Rainier East, Chinook Pass)—6:25am, leave Fryingpan Creek trailhead. 8:00, bridge across Fryingpan Creek victim of avalanche. A temporary route has been flagged in orange to a temporary footlog approximately 300 feet upstream. The trail on the east side of the creek has been logged out but more debris will surface as the snow melts.

Continue past footlog through flowered and buggy wet meadow to more snow and avalanche debris. Except for these two places the portions of the trail that are snow free are in fairly good condition.

8:30, Summerland.

8:40, continue on trail over rock and snow to near Panhandle Gap.

9:35, leave trail at this point; hike ends and easy scramble begins. Count herd of 62 goats on Banshee. Extensive snow fields on the Wonderland Trail at Panhandle Gap extend well into the Ohanapechosh.

10:40, on summit of Banshee, a walkup. Panoramic view: Rainier, Baker, Glacier, Stuart, Goat Rocks, Adams, Hood, St. Helens.

11:05, drop off east end of Banshee over rock and scree to the saddle between Banshee and the Central Cowlitz Chimney. Up southwest face of the Chimney over rocks with many small gas bubble cavities enclosing crystals.

11:50-12:30, on summit of Central Cowlitz Chimney, same great view and spectacular clouds with sundog.

1:10, on southwest face of Banshee,

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# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

clouds are thickening rapidly.

2:30-45, break at Summerland.

4:05, parking lot at trailhead.

16 miles, 4600 foot elevation gain.—  
Paul Schaufler, Olympia, 8/16.

## ✓ **SHRINER PEAK LOOK- OUT** (*Rainier Natl Park;*

*USGS Chinook Pass*)—4.2 miles one way, 3400 feet elevation gain.

Leave trailhead under fog and overcast. Emerge from tree canopy into shoulder-high bracken. Do not emerge from fog. Meet wildlife artist and retired Park Service naturalist Dale Thompson, out looking for neat snags to incorporate in paintings.

At the ridge top drizzle continues. This would be the first dramatic view of Rainier if the weather permitted. My main objectives were to get wet and pig out on huckleberries. Both objectives met. This ridge top has an array of aesthetic rock outcrops, snags and firs.

At the dip with second dip with basin to east, lots of animal tracks, smells like a barnyard, delightful tiny flavorful strawberries. Leaving the dip the trail moves to the west side of the ridge from here to the summit.

Have lunch under trees while waiting out heavy rain shower near the lookout water source (dry) and the first of eight switchbacks to the summit. Continue in light drizzle.

At summit at 11:40. Fog lifts briefly, Rainier visible to summit. By the time I have the tripod up, camera and lens mounted the curtain closes. Fog boils up out of the valleys and comes whipping over the ridge top—a scenario that I suspect is familiar to many. Meet Dale Thompson again, long conversation, learned among other things that mountain parsley flowers are good to eat, taste like domesticated parsley.

At 1:30, give up, pack up and prepare to leave. Brief encounter with pleasant group of four, one of whom is a reader of this publication; neglected to get a name.—Paul Schaufler, Olympia, 9/2.

## ✓ **PCT, LAUGHING WATER TRAIL** (*WOD Wilderness &*

*MRNP; USGS Chinook Pass*)—Heather and I embarked on an ambitious one-day 19-mile hike from Chinook Pass to the Ohanapecoh Campground. This is one of the least visited sections of Mount Rainier National Park and after spending all day out on the trail we passed only two PCT through-hikers and a backcountry ranger and his friend.

The PCT is well maintained and after the very popular Naches Peak and Dewey Lakes sections the trail gets rougher and lonelier. Most of the way

is through high meadows and sub-alpine forests alternating views east and west from Rainier to the Bumping Lake country dominated by Nelson Ridge and American Ridge.

Mosquitoes are pretty tough here—encouragement to keep trekking! Pretty little lakes along the way—Anderson and Two Lakes among them.

Just before the junction with the Laughing Water trail, the PCT climbs a high gap with incredible views. The 7-mile Laughing Water trail offers pure solitude. This trail sees very little use, but other than a few very large windfalls, it is in excellent shape.

Hiking this trail is like going back into time. You will pass an old 1930s guard cabin as well as numerous old trail signs giving mileage to places that can no longer be reached by trail, such as Sheep Lake.

The Three Lakes area is pretty but is swarming with mosquitoes! The rest of the trail goes through lovely old-growth forests. We continued to Silver Falls and then hiked back to our campsite at Ohanapecoh. A great hike!—Craig Romano, Seattle, 8/15.

## ✓ **OWYHIGH LAKES**

(*Rainier Natl Park; USGS White River Park, Chinook Pass*)—I've hiked to these lakes from the popular White River side, so I opted to come in the "back way" this time, starting from the Deer Creek trailhead.

You have to drop about 500 feet before you begin to climb but the advantages of this route are incredibly beauti-

ful old-growth forests, pretty stream crossings and cascades, and a trail that sees only a handful of people.

The climb to the lakes is steeper this way but the trail's grade and tread is agreeable. Nice meadows before the lakes. Lots and lots of bloodthirsty insects at Owyhigh. Save it for October! Total roundtrip distance this route is 10 miles, 3 miles longer than the popular route—but if you are like me, it is the journey that I live for, not the destination!—Craig Romano, Seattle, 8/16.

## ▲ **TATOOSH RANGE, Pin- nacle Saddle to Lane Peak**

(*Rainier Natl Park; USGS Mt Rainier East and West*)—Leave Reflection Lakes trailhead at 8am; mosquitoes fierce. Am rarely out of sight of avalanche lilies the entire trip.

Snow completely covered the trail at three places; no problem to cross and melting fast. South slopes here still very green, a few anemones in bloom. Route to Plummer on north side of ridge requires about 60 feet of very careful stepkicking on steep snow.

9:25. What I think of as Ira's Tarn low on Plummer is under 3 feet of snow. 9:40 at base of Denman.

Take a photo stop on southwest corner of Denman. Mosquitoes replaced by black, deer and horse flies. My environmentally-safe, organically-grown insect repellent repels no insects.

10:50, at notch between Denman and Lane. Cliff Lake is snowfree but talus slope banks on both sides are still snowcovered.



Mount Rainier's Nisqually Glacier.

Ralph Preston Jr

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

11:20-12:00. Photo and lunch stop high on southwest flank of Lane Peak. The boot track from Pinnacle Saddle to beyond Lane Peak is obvious except for this segment. Fortunately, the route is apparent.

12:55-1:20, take a break at base of scramble route up Denman to adjust socks and take photos.

1:50, at Pinnacle Peak Saddle

2:30, back at Reflection Lakes. Several parties headed up the trail sans water; most retreat before reaching the saddle. —Paul Schaufler, Olympia, 8/12.



## NACHES PEAK (WOD Wilderness; USGS Chinook Pass)

—A great viewpoint ½-mile southeast of Chinook Pass. The Beckey Bible describes a boot path to the summit. I'd like to hear from anyone who can describe that more precisely.

This party of three followed a boot path (one of many crisscrossing the hill side) that left the Crest Trail soon after leaving Chinook Pass. Took the uphill option at each branching to the base of a short rock scramble to the summit ridge. The hundred feet or so from there to the summit involved some hairy scrambling and a short downhill on rock covered with a lot of loose junk.

The view is as advertised. Looked hard but failed to find the boot track to the summit so retreated the way we went up. Most flowers gone, valerians and paintbrush fading. What was billed as a two hour walk up became a five hour climb. —Paul Schaufler, Olympia, 9/6.

**MOUNT RAINIER NATL PARK**—360-569-2211. Backcountry permits for the Park are no longer available through the White River Ranger Station in Enumclaw due to computer conflicts.

Many Park visitor facilities will close for the season in mid-October.

The road to Sunrise is closed now in the evenings; it will close for the season 9/30. Stevens Canyon road closes 10/14 or snow.

Highway 410/Chinook will close 11/28 or snow. Highway 410/Cayuse will close 12/8 or snow. Mowich Lake road will close 10/14 or snow. The Carbon River road is closed at the Carbon entrance. —Ranger, 9/12.

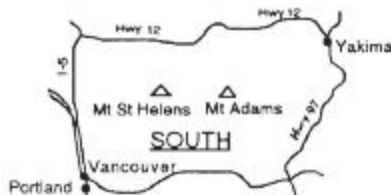
**NACHES DIST**—509-653-2205. If you lost something on the Goat Peak trail, please contact the ranger station.

The Rattlesnake trail re-route is now accessible. Flood damage in February 1996 destroyed the trail for long stretches. Although the work is not complete, the trail is usable. —Ranger, 9/17.

**WHITE RIVER DIST**—360-825-6585. Greenwater road 70 is closed at milepost 6.9 to all vehicle traffic until construction is complete (soon). Wash-out repaired on Viola Creek road 7430.

Trails are snowfree and many have been maintained. —Ranger, 9/8.

## SOUTH



## BLUFF LAKE TRAIL (Goat Rocks Wilderness; USGS Oh-

anepecosh Hot Springs)—Here's a lonely trail through a very popular wilderness area. I spent all day on this trail hiking to the Lost Lake Lookout site on Coal Creek Mountain—no one else out there!

I understand that Bluff Lake is a popular spot—why? It is just a little mosquito hole 1.5 miles up the trail. The real adventure begins afterward. The trail climbs steeply and then levels out on a high ridge overlooking the Cowlitz valley. Lots of wide-open meadows greet you on your ascent as well. This trail is bone dry. There are, however, some snowfields just below the lookout site on trail 76.

You can't beat the view from this summit—much of the Goat Rocks Crest is spread out before you. On the return I glanced down off the ridge to locate the half-frozen Lost Hat Lake. The spot intrigued me—perhaps that will be my next hike.

This hike is long and strenuous at about 15 miles roundtrip—but solitude is a plus! —Craig Romano, Seattle, 8/22.



## LOST HAT LAKE (Goat Rocks Wilderness; USGS White

Pass, Packwood Lk, Old Snowy Mtn)—I spent the night at La Wis Wis campground—a nice base for exploring the northern sections of the Goat Rocks. Heather joined me and I told her about Lost Hat Lake. Off we were! We started this trek on Clear Fork trail 61. The 2 miles of this trail to the junction with trail 76 are a pure delight to hike: level ground and lots of big firs and cedars.

The Clear Lost trail 76 is a rough and tough trail—my favorite kind for keeping the tenderfoots at bay! Aside from some new trail construction near the old shelter at the junction, this trail

is rough (lots of horse damage). It climbs to a ridge, drops down, and then climbs again through open sub-alpine country. Lots of flowers and lingering snow. Lost Hat Lake sits on a high bench at about 5500 feet. This lake will probably not thaw completely this year. Beautiful spot. The total roundtrip for this adventure is about 13 miles—it will feel like more! —Craig Romano, Seattle, 8/23.



## PCT & DIVIDE CAMP

**TRAIL** (Mt Adams Wilderness; USGS Green Mtn, Mt Adams West)—Heather and I hiked a wonderful 13-mile point-to-point hike through the Mount Adams Wilderness on a mellow, cool and cloudy day. We began at the trailhead on road 5603 (near Potato Hill). Nice section of trail—lots of huckleberries and great views of the massive Muddy Fork Lava Flow.

The PCT continues mainly through nice mature forest to its junction with the Highline trail 114. At this junction just off the trail are a few nice tarns worth exploring. We had lunch here in what was probably our first bug free fest this summer!

The PCT to Divide Camp trail 112 is very scenic, passing through meadows, over cascading creeks and offering wonderful views of the glaciers of Adams out to Rainier, Goat Rocks, and the Dark Divide.

The crossing of Adams Creek can be tricky, but currently there are some logs in place. Trail 112 is very gentle and pleasant to hike. Heather and I continued our hike .9-mile on road 2329 to the Takh Takh Meadows and trail 136. From there it was an easy mile back to our campsite on Takhlahk Lake. We encountered only 6 hikers the entire day! —Craig Romano, Seattle, 9/5.



## COUNCIL BLUFF (Gifford

Pinchot Natl Forest; USGS East Canyon Ridge)—Heather and I awoke at our camp to a most beautiful day! We spent the morning floating in our raft in Takhlahk Lake. You can never get tired of the view of Adams from this incredibly beautiful place.

We decided to do a short hike after our aquatic lounging. We headed up Boundary Trail 1 from nearby Council Lake to the short spur trail 117 to the summit of Council Bluff. This spot is beautiful offering a great view of Mount Adams, Rainier, Hood, and St. Helens. We spent time on the summit competing with the ground squirrels and jays for the huckleberries.

Beware of the dirt bike brigade. —Craig Romano, Seattle, 9/6.

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

**MOUNT ADAMS & WIND RIVER DISTS**—The Forest Service is discouraging use of the Round-the-Mountain trail 9 between Stagman and Crofton Ridges. The August 30 debris avalanche is unstable and potentially dangerous, and there is a possibility of further slides.

If you want to view the slide, try Eckhart Point off road 2360; a gravel pit northwest of Eckhart Point on road 23, or viewpoints of Mount Adams from the east side of Indian Heaven Wilderness along road 6035.

All trails are snowfree. Roads are very rough and dusty. No permit is needed this year to pick berries.—Ranger, 9/16.

**MOUNT ST HELENS**—For climbing information, call 360-247-3961. No permit is needed this year to pick berries.—Ranger, 9/16.

**PACKWOOD & RANDLE DIST**—No permit is needed this year to pick berries.—Ranger, 9/16.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

**SECHELT INLET**—Partly sunny turned to cloudy turned to drizzly turned to steady rain. But beautiful fiord—green walls with peaks at 4500 feet coming up out of calm, clear water. Harbor seals accompanied us on our paddle up to Tzoonie Narrows on Narrows Inlet.

Bald eagles, great blues, turkey vultures, red-necked grebes, glaucous-winged and Bonaparte's gulls in the trees and sky. Sea stars, sea urchins, oysters, clams, and barnacles in the water below. Very few people, just a few fishing boats.

Provincial Parks has good campsites along the way. We put in at Tuwanek, left the cars off the road, and camped at Kuncchin Point and Tzoonie Narrows. Had lunch on rainy Monday at Halfway Point before coming home drenched. All are nice spots for a campsite and a swim—on sunnier days!—Jane Tuttle, Edmonds, 8/23-25.

## NEW MEXICO

**PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH** (USGS Philmont South, Central & North)—Troop 14's high adventure this summer was a little farther from home. Two advisors and seven young men completed a 100-mile hike in ten days through a beautiful part of the Sangre de Cristo mountains of northern New Mexico.

Our elevation change went from 7200 feet in the juniper/pinyon life zone all the way up to almost 12,000 feet in the arctic-alpine/bristle cone pine zone, then back down to desert again.

Aside from hiking this wonderful country, we climbed several summits, saw the wreckage of a WWII bomber, participated in rock climbing, environmental awareness, spar pole climbing, toured an old mine and observed Anasazi petroglyphs. The mountains here don't have the alpine flavor of Washington but have a beauty all their own.

A note to you scout leaders who have contemplated a trip to Philmont—DO IT! Although most of us could put together an excellent 50- to 100-mile hike in this state, the program there is outstanding.

I have never had a group of young men work together as a team the way they did down there. It was an unfor-

gettable experience. Philmont is full through 1999 but you long-range planners could get a date for 2000. Definitely worth the wait.—Dave Parent, Freeland, 7/30-8/11

## MONTANA

**BITTERROOTS**—On an August trip from Glacier Park to the Sawtooths, we stopped for two day-hikes in the lonely Bitterroots.

**St Mary Peak**, southwest of Missoula, is a 4.5-mile, 2800-foot climb to a 9350-foot summit with great views south and west into the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The lookout on top is intermittently staffed by volunteers.

**Trapper Peak**, southwest of Darby, is a 5-mile, 3800-foot climb on a smooth trail with great views from treeline at 3 miles to the top.

Very few people on either trail.—Dick Porus, Seattle, 8/97.

## CALIFORNIA

**MOUNT LASSEN** (Lassen Natl Park)—We stopped at the huge parking lot and decided to do the 4 hour, 2.2-mile hike to the top. There were lots of hikers, all of good cheer. The trail was superb and quite sandy.

The hike was about 2000 feet of gain and the top was cold (about 50 degrees) and windy (10 to 20 mph) in contrast to the hot parking lot.

The views east over woods were clear

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**FOUND**—On 8/14, a roll of exposed slide film alongside creek, about 1½ miles up from Laughingwater Creek trailhead, Mount Rainier Natl Park. Identify to claim. 425-481-8139.

**FOUND**—Jacket near Ingalls Lake. Identify to claim. Call 360-754-7203.

**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.

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

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

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

and blue but to the west we looked down on clouds. Normally one should have had a good view of Mount Shasta.—Ben and Nancy Brodie, Edmonds, 8/24.

**CATHEDRAL LAKES, SUNRISE CAMP** (*Yosemite Natl Park*)—There were only a few cars at the trailhead along the road in Tuolumne Meadow. We started in open forest, walked by Fairview Dome, and were soon in treeless, wide-open country with Cathedral Peak and Cathedral Lake taking center stage.

We then headed over Cathedral Pass with Mount Tressider above and descended onto another flat mile-long meadow with Sunrise High Camp located at the far end. The camp appeared to consist of a series of tent cabins around a central cabin. We saw two people and an empty mule train on our way back to Cathedral Pass.

We ate lunch at the pass. A passing hiker encouraged us to climb Mount Tressider. We ambled up the back on huge granite slabs. From the top we had good views of the Ansel Adams, Ritter Range, Half Dome and Glacier Point.—Ben and Nancy Brodie, Edmonds, 8/26.

**MOUNT WHITNEY**—This is the ultimate dayhike in the continental US. Others may be as long or have as much elevation gain but truly none has them combined with as high an altitude: 22 miles, 7000 feet elevation gain, 14.75 hours.

Nancy had called and made a reservation for the hike ten days before. There were no reservations available then for doing the trip as a multi-day. They do release more reservations the

day before, however. We were told the average hiking time for the 50% who make it was 14 to 16 hours.

We stayed in a motel though the recommendation is to use the campground at the trailhead to acclimate to 8500 feet rather than 4500. There are distant and close spectacular views from start to finish and not one single dark mossy fir to be seen.

We awoke at 3:15am and began hiking at 4:25 with headlamps. Several others were also starting the hike. Other than a few small stream crossings, not much happened until a ray of light from the rising sun burst forth onto the granite wall in front of me, turning it a brilliant rose color.

We leapfrogged with five to ten other hikers, but we gradually drifted apart. It was less crowded than the Ridge-and-Gravel hike on a weekday even when the overnighters at Trail Camp joined us.

We passed Lone Pine Lake and went on to Outpost Camp and Trail Camp by 8:30. It took two more hours to hike the 99 switchbacks up 1700 more feet to the Muir Trail where the trail dropped 400 feet. A ranger was checking permits at the top of the switchbacks. Can you imagine being turned back there?

A couple of miles from the top the previously beautiful trail began to have faults requiring the hiker to use hands to cross three or four spots while looking down into the Great Western Divide and Guitar Lake. This part of the hike was spectacular with windowed views back to Trail Camp and sharp granite spires along the rear of Mount Muir.

Near the summit the trail split into multiple paths as people followed those above them more clearly than the trail itself. At the top was a stone hut with lots of thunderstorm warnings.

Our weather was absolutely perfect. We arrived a little after noon, signed the register, photoed, ate and headed down within half an hour.

Returning, we met a man older than my 52 years in a kilt on his way up. It took us until 7:15 to get back but we intentionally hiked almost as slow going down to preserve our good knees for future hiking.

Mount Whitney at 14,495 feet is the second highest in the USA.—Ben and Nancy Brodie, Edmonds, 8/28.

**LAKE SABRINA, HUNGRY PACKER LAKE** (*John Muir Wilderness*)—We had good paved road all the way from Bishop to Lake Sabrina where we parked at the hikers' lot. We then walked narrow road another .5-mile to a huge parking lot and marina. We weren't quite sure where to go as there were no trail signs, so we walked by all the fishermen along the Lake Sabrina dam, crossed the dry spillway, and picked up true and excellent trail.

The trailhead was at 9000 feet, so we had beautiful views of the Sierra right from the start. Blue Lake had a few backpackers camped there and Mount Thompson behind actually had a few glaciers on it.

We had several streams to cross—mostly on nicely-placed rocks for rock hopping. We passed the two Dingleberry Lakes and ended at Hungry Pack Lake (11,070 feet) in a dead-end basin with Mount Darwin at the end.

This area is so open that all we needed was our map and compass to just go and visit the many lakes that were tucked above and below us.—Ben and Nancy Brodie, Edmonds, 8/30.

**PIUTE PASS, HUMPHREY'S BASIN**—We left Bishop on the Lake Sabrina road but turned right just before Lake Sabrina on the North Lake road and parked at the trailhead at the pack station. The trail-road went through the campground and then through open forest which didn't last long as the trailhead was at 9300 feet.

We were soon in the stark, rocky high country and passed Leven and Piute Lakes before the ascent to 11,420-foot Piute Pass. The trails are in such good shape that climbing was easy. At the pass we were passed by a pack train carrying daytrippers who planned to fish. They were soon lost in this vast country.

We passed lots of backpackers, all in good spirits and most leaving as this was the Labor Day weekend. We descended from the pass and had lunch in Humphrey's Basin with Mount Humphrey behind us. This area is packed with lakes but aside from the main trail, there were no paths. The main trail dropped into Piute Canyon and then joined the John Muir Trail.

The sky became black and threatening at lunch, but it didn't rain. This area was covered with lots of rocks and was enormous—could easily swallow a dozen scout troops.—Ben and Nancy Brodie, Edmonds, 8/31.



Bill Lynch and Jane Habegger on the trail to Saddle Mountain. Oregon Coast Range.

Jane Habegger

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

## IDAHO



### FISHHOOK CREEK MEADOW (Sawtooth NRA)

—Heather, my two brothers and I set up camp at Chinook Bay on Little Redfish Lake for 8 days of exploring in Idaho's Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

For those accustomed to Pacific Northwest trails, there are two big differences here in central Idaho. First, the weather: it gets hot. Second, the altitude: most trails start at elevations above 6000 feet.

Fishhook Creek is a wonderful, short 2.2 mile introduction to the lodgepole pine forests and alpine meadows of the Sawtooth mountains. Lots of people, views, and mosquitoes. Nice evening hike.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 8/3.



### SAWTOOTH LAKE (Sawtooth Wilderness)

—Sawtooth Lake is to the Sawtooth Wilderness what Snow Lake is to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Do not expect solitude—but do expect exceptional scenery and what is one of the most beautiful spots in the entire state of Idaho.

We began at the Iron Creek trailhead 640. Beginning of hike is a nice valley walk. One wet stream crossing and then a climb of about 1500 feet to the bench that houses Sawtooth Lake. We hiked to the upper lake and the pass beyond it as well. Lots of snow! We got caught in a nice rain and wind storm—but it kept the crowds and mosquitoes at bay. Check out the side trail to Alpine Lake as well. This is about a 12 to 13 mile roundtrip hike.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 8/4.



### CABIN CREEK LAKES (Sawtooth Wilderness)

—The Cabin Creek trail begins near Alturas Lake south of Redfish Lake. This is a short hike (7 miles roundtrip) to the first lake—but lots of side trip exploring awaits you. From Lake 8811 (name denotes elevation) a rough path leads to Lake 9078. This lake sits in a beautiful high basin with lots of views near and far. We also scrambled on the ridge west of the lower lakes. Be careful choosing a path; patience will be rewarded with extensive views.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 8/5.



### OBSERVATION PEAK (Sawtooth Wilderness)

—My bros and I decided to do the hike to 9151-foot Observation Peak in one day. The 7 miles up Stanley Creek trail are easy, mostly level but they can be tedious. The 1.3-mile spur up Observation Peak is a classic. Lingering snow-

fields (limited glissading on the return) and some high-country elk made the spur more interesting. The view is incredible from the summit—hence the name "Observation." You can see about half the entire wilderness!

We returned on trail 640 past the McGowan Lakes and up over the divide back to Sawtooth Lake. These 3 miles are among the most scenic on the loop. The view from the pass of Mount Regan reflected in Sawtooth Lake will knock you out of your trekking boots. The entire hike is just shy of 18 miles but it is worth every ounce of sweat!—Craig Romano, Seattle, 8/6.



### BARON DIVIDE (Sawtooth Wilderness)

—We decided we had to take at least one hike from the Redfish Lake Inlet trailhead by using the boat shuttle across Redfish Lake. This shuttle saves 5 miles off of a roundtrip hike but it costs \$5 each way. The shuttle leaves from the Redfish Lodge. They will leave on demand for three hikers or more—however they return only at specific hours, so check in at the wharf for a schedule.

We hiked the trail along Redfish Lake Creek to Flatrock Junction. This stretch of trail is enjoyable and makes for a wonderful destination in itself. The trail to Baron Divide begins from this junction and climbs over 2000 feet, at times rather steeply, passing Alpine Lake enroute to the 9160-foot Divide.

Lots of tarns along the way and views and wildflowers galore. From the Divide you can scramble along the ridge for even better views. This is a 13-mile round trip hike.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 8/7.



### BLACKMAN PEAK (White Cloud Mtns)

—This hike was probably our favorite on this trip. The White Cloud Mountains are across the Stanley Valley from the Sawtooths. Although the White Clouds are a part of the National Recreation Area, they lack Wilderness protection.

We hiked Blackman on the very popular Fourth of July Lake trail. The lake is at 9365 feet—this is high country. Even the trailhead starts at an elevation of 8800 feet.

From Fourth of July we hiked the Born Lakes trail to the high point on the ridge (9900 feet). Now for the fun. We walked the ridge a mile or so to the 10,300-foot summit of Blackman. No trail, but no routefinding problems. The view from the summit is incredible. We were surrounded by 10- and 11-thousand-foot giants.

Ants Basin below called for us to ex-

plere. We dropped off the ridge and traversed this basin. Winds were high to combat the insects. Lots of pipits and mountain bluebirds were on hand to greet us. We hiked back out of the basin on the Born Lakes trail back over the divide and back to the trailhead.

One of the most scenic hikes I've ever done—only about 8-9 miles with very little effort for so much alpine exploring!—Craig Romano, Seattle, 8/8.



### LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

(Sawtooth Mtns)—Lookout is a great "little" (9984 feet) mountain in the White Clouds. This mountain and the trail leading to it, the Rough Creek trail, see very little use. Lots of downed trees—no difficulty however in getting around, over or under them. The hike is 5 miles one-way to an old lookout which the Forest Service rents for overnight use. Views extend beyond the White Clouds and Sawtooths north to the peaks of the Frank Church country.

We returned on the little used trail to the Garland Lakes. We followed this to the pass and then headed back down the Rough Creek trail to its junction with the cut-off (which we used on the way up) The ridge walk was nice; the Creek trail was covered with windfalls—tough going; you may want to skip this option.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 8/9.



### TOXAWAY CANYON

(Sawtooth Wilderness)—Our last hike in the Sawtooths was supposed to have taken us to Toxaway Lake and then down to Alice for a grand finale loop—but Mother Nature said "No!"

We had hiked up from Petit Lake to the Toxaway Canyon, beyond Farley Lake to the little tarns just below Toxaway when a storm broke loose.

We had already sat through one thunderstorm, but this one was unbelievable. Heather and I hunched down and watched the fantastic electric light show above the peaks and lake. We were right in it. No time gap between flash and crash. I was a little scared but in complete awe at the same time. Absolutely stunning! We then got buried in a fury of hail. What a storm!

When the sky quieted down we made our retreat—aborted our plans for Toxaway for another time. We got caught in another thunder blast but at least we were a lot farther down the still-quiet-open canyon.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 8/10.

SUSAN WINEKE

## Two Easy Trails at Glacier

—FIND THE GRANDEUR WITHOUT THE CROWDS—

Hidden from the hoards who visit Glacier National Park, two easy trails near Two Medicine Lake show off its mountainous backcountry, wilderness lakes, and Northwest vegetation.

Two Medicine is a less travelled valley, glacially carved with a string of three long lakes. It's in the southeast quadrant of the park, 11 miles northwest of East Glacier.

You approach from the east on Montana 49 off Highway 2. Past Lower Two Medicine Lake, you arrive at a quiet campground facing Rising Wolf Mountain, the largest mountain mass in the park. The glittering waters of the middle lake, Two Medicine, nestle at about 5000 feet, the highest of the park's long skinny lakes you can reach by car.

No resort hotel, no dining room. A quarter-mile off, a general store with a snack bar, a boat dock, and a ranger station provide creature comforts, access and support.

We chose to hike—and float—to Upper Two Medicine Lake. The hike without the boat ride is 10 miles round-trip. We caught the *Sinopah* at 10:30 for the ride up Two Medicine Lake. Together with a dozen others on the launch, we hiked a half-mile to Twin Falls.

Sure enough, the creek splits at the top and tumbles down about 100 feet in two cascades a block apart. While some returned to the boat, a half-dozen continued with us for the 2-mile hike to Upper Two Medicine Lake.

We sampled huckleberries along the bushy trail and kept a conversation going to alert any bears. At the lake, we lunched and inspected a backcountry camp. One area away from the campsites was designated for food preparation, lest cooking aromas entice bears into campsites.

From the lakeside, we could look north into the interior of the park and identify several dusty peaks rising

above timberline.

After descending from Upper Two Medicine Lake, we skipped the boat trip down lake and chose the north trail for our way to camp. We climbed about 350 feet through open meadow overlooking the lake, alone now in the grandeur of Glacier.

Most of the 2½ miles back lay through stands of lodgepole pine, firs and spruce. We stepped gingerly on a loosely-hung suspension bridge over the Paradise River. "Weight limit one hiker," the sign said. We soaked our feet in a cold creekbed.

A bit farther, we watched a moose frolic in a small pond. Wholly submerged sometimes, he seemed to be grazing on bottom plants. Back by the general store and nearby boathouse, we admired their historic and rustic character. Both structures are two of the remaining four chalets that the Great Northern Railroad had built in the park. We recommend the huckleberry ice cream cones at the general store.

The second easy hike was led by Ranger Jim to Aster Park Overview. We gained about 650 feet in 2 miles. Rangers regularly lead hikes at Glacier, giving courage to newcomers to see the roadless areas despite a fear of bears.

Jim genially empowered his guests to enjoy observing the colors of flowers and not to worry about their names. We paused at Aster Falls to enjoy the coolness. From the expansive overview at Aster Park, we sat on rocks and took in the whole Two Medicine Lake valley. Jim named the encircling peaks and told their stories.

We returned as we had come, happy with a rewarding afternoon hike.

△

*Susan Wineke, of Bellevue, is a Mountaineer trip leader who spends as much time as she can hiking.*



Susan Wineke

Ranger Jim describes the mountain valley beneath Aster Park Overlook.

DARRYL LLOYD

# AVALANCHE ON MOUNT ADAMS

—LABOR DAY WEEKEND AVALANCHE LEAVES HUGE SCAR—

A massive 3-mile-long debris avalanche ripped down the southwest flank of 12,276-foot Mount Adams on Labor Day weekend, around 2pm, Saturday, August 30th, creating a scar that can be seen easily from Portland.

It appears to be the largest avalanche on Mount Adams since the "Great Slide of 1921," surpassing a similar slide of July 1983.

The slide apparently was triggered by rockfall at the head of Avalanche Glacier, near the 12,000-foot elevation. The entire glacier literally tore apart and fell almost 6000 feet, spilling into the timberline area. One lobe of the slide stopped about a quarter-mile above the popular Round-the-Mountain trail near Salt Creek.

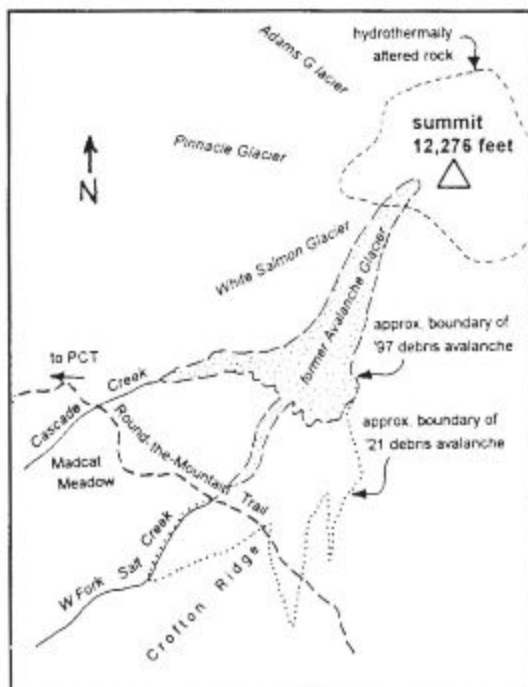
The source of the slide is the steep, "rotten" part of the main cone consisting of hydrothermally altered rocks, rich in clay minerals that are prone to failure. Scientists have estimated that about a million cubic yards of altered rock came down in the slide, plus an untold amount of glacier snow and ice.

In place of the upper mile-and-a-half of Avalanche Glacier is a deep gouge, from 500 to 1000 feet wide and 50 to 200 feet deep. Below, near the 7500-foot elevation, the debris spread out about a mile wide.

Such a slide is called a "debris avalanche" because it consists of large blocks of ice, pulverized snow and ice, mud, clay and rocks of all sizes. These can attain speeds that exceed 100 miles per hour. Avalanche Glacier was well-named; it has been the "home" of many large debris avalanches in the past.

In 1921 about 5 million cubic yards of hydrothermally altered rock fell from the head of Avalanche Glacier and travelled almost 4 miles downvalley. It covered an area of about 1.5 square miles or almost 1000 acres, and devastated a mile-wide swath of timber down to the 5000-foot level.

In the weeks ahead, a hazard could exist for anyone venturing into the Cascade Creek and Salt Creek drainages (both glacial tributaries of the White



Salmon River). Since the upper gullies of these two streams are choked with ice and debris, meltwater could pond

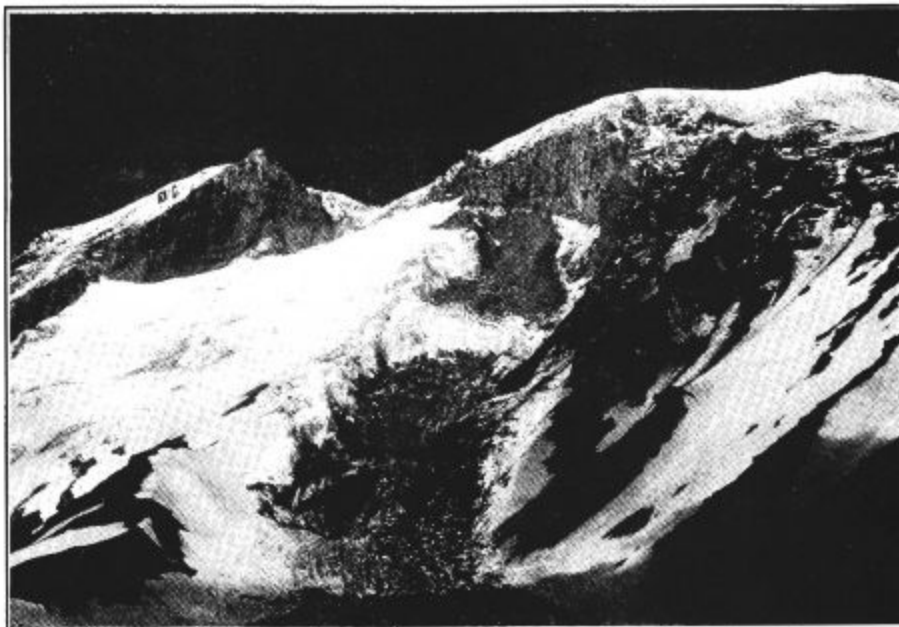
up underneath and suddenly release into small flash floods. Similar floods occurred out of Rusk Glacier on the east side of Mount Adams during the late summer of 1988.

There have been no reported fatalities from avalanches on Mount Adams in the past century.

Ancient debris avalanches have catastrophically changed the shape of Mount Adams and the valleys below. The largest, about 6000 years ago, left a half-mile-wide notch in the mountain west of the summit.

The ensuing mudflow (or "lahar") buried Trout Lake Valley with deposits varying from 3 to 65 feet thick. The lahar continued down the White Salmon River valley at least as far as Husum, more than 35 miles from the mountain.

*Darryl Lloyd, of Glenwood, is a former owner of the Flying L Ranch. He has climbed Mount Adams many times.*



The upper mile of the debris avalanche track on the southwest flank of Mount Adams. White Salmon Glacier on left. Avalanche Glacier is all but swept away in the slide. Photo taken on September 1, 1997.

© Darryl Lloyd

MARK &amp; JILL OWEN

## Enchantments from Snow Lakes

Taking a gamble we left Shoreline at 4:30am on July 31 this summer hoping to enter the drawing for an Enchantments permit.

We made the 7:45 drawing in Leavenworth but didn't get chosen for the "Gold Pass"—the permit that would have given us complete freedom to camp at any of the lakes.

We did get a Snow Lake permit, however, and were on our way up the trail by 9am. It was eerie walking through the remains of the fire, and without much shade we were glad to be doing it in the morning.

Once the trail reached the creek below Snow Creek Wall we were ready for a break. As the trail climbed up to Nada Lake we passed many nice campsites and enjoyed the soft breeze coming down the valley. The bugs greeted us at the lake so we took a short break before moving on around the long, narrow shoreline.

The climb up to Snow Lakes was short but hot. We decided to camp at the far end of the upper lake to get as close to the Lower Enchantments as possible. It was fun crossing the man-made dam between the lakes. We passed many nice campsites along the lake but finally chose one by a huge boulder close to the trail up to Lake Viviane.



Jill at Nada Lake.

### ENCHANTMENT PEAK

We left our camp at upper Snow Lake and climbed the scenic, rocky trail to Lake Viviane. Along the way we passed several beautiful waterfalls, the best one of all coming directly from the lake.

The views from the mouth of Viviane were truly breathtaking! Prusik Peak rises to the north in grand form. To the south McClellan Peak and the Chessmen rise sharply above Lake Leprechaun. Our goal for the day was Aasgard Pass so we continued, almost walking right into a herd of five goats below Isolation Lake.

At Aasgard Pass, 4½ hours from our camp, we decided to take a high route back and attempt Enchantment Peak. We found the travel quite easy and within an hour were below the summit. Jill waited as I scrambled up the blocky summit. The last 50 feet was exposed but easy.

After meeting up with Jill, we enjoyed a great view down to Perfection and Inspiration Lakes. Surveying two possible routes back to the trail, we picked the direct one leading down to the north end of Perfection.

It would be quite easy to continue our high route to Prusik Pass but that would be a much longer way back to our base camp. We arrived at camp at 6:30, ready for dinner!

### LEPRECHAUN LAKE AND MCCLELLAN PEAK

We left our camp at Upper Snow Lake around 9 and climbed quickly up to Lake Viviane in 1½ hours, enjoying great views of McClellan's ridge. We left the main trail at Leprechaun's outlet and followed the lakeshore path on its east side.

There are lots of friendly campsites in the Lower Enchantments and we learned, after leaving the main trail for the first time, that you can really get away and hide out in this beautiful place.

Jill decided to explore more of the lake as I climbed the easy slopes below



Rune Lake and Little Annapurna.

the Prong and McClellan. Staying west of the Prong I climbed moderate snow until I could reach the Class 3 rock about 100 feet below the notch between the Prong and the McClellan-Chessman ridge.

Once on the ridge the travel became much easier. The south side is a broad, sloping plateau, so I followed it behind McClellan's pyramid and scrambled to the top. My ascent was only the second of the season. From the register it looks like it is climbed about six times a year. If you want a grand view of all the Enchantment Lakes, this is the place to be.

Arriving back at Leprechaun three hours after leaving, I found my wife with a touch of heat exhaustion. It seems she had fallen asleep watching me climb.

I insisted she dunk her head in every stream and waterfall on our way down to Upper Snow, and she was feeling much better by the time we reached camp.

For dinner we enjoyed beef strganoff with a can of chicken for extra taste.

△

*Mark Owen, of Shoreline, is an elementary school teacher. He has been hiking and climbing for about 15 years.*



DEBBY RIEHL

## How to Get Help in the Backcountry

### —CELL PHONES AND RADIOS—

I frequently get questions about how to get help if a "worst-case" scenario develops on a backcountry trip.

Cellular telephones are becoming more and more popular as the "eleventh essential," especially as they are becoming smaller and lighter than ever. At least they seem to be competing for this position right in there with cash for your wilderness permit.

If you decide to carry one, also carry a FRESHLY CHARGED spare battery which is designated ONLY for emergency use if required. Consider asking your cellular phone dealer if there is available for your cell phone a battery pack which holds alkaline batteries.

Also note that the cell phone system is strictly line-of-sight in nature. You must be high enough to reach a cell site—one of those steel poles with many little antennae on top.

The cell site you may reach could be in a different county than where you are. A 911 call will first go to the local law enforcement agency in the county where the call is received, not necessarily the county you are in.

This is where your wilderness navigation and map and compass class will come in handy. It is nice to be able to tell them where you are. Emergency calls can be referred on to the appropriate agency.

Ham radio "handy talkies" or handheld radios have become incredibly compact. They are usable on hundreds of frequencies. Their range can be extended by "repeaters," special radio systems on mountain tops and other high places which receive, amplify, and retransmit your signal over a very wide area.

Their major drawback is that they do require a test and a license to operate. This is easier than it used to be with a new no-Morse-

code-required class of license now available. It is a fairly easy written test. The comments about battery packs for cellular telephones also apply to them.

Citizen's Band (CB) and the new Family Radio Service radios are low power devices and do not use repeaters to extend their range. They are not a good choice for use in the backcountry.

When requesting help with a cellular telephone, dial 9-1-1 just like you would at home. Your call should be routed to the local Sheriff's office. Search and Rescue is dispatched only by the local county Sheriff. The appropriate SAR teams will be paged and

called out by the Sheriff. You cannot initiate a Search and Rescue action yourself, even if you know someone in one of the rescue units.

With ham radios and repeaters, some of the repeaters have a direct access to the 911 system. Usually it is accessed by using the DTMF keypad on the radio and sending 911 just like over the telephone. If the repeater does not have a "911 autopatch," another ham radio operator can get the information from you and relay it over the telephone to the 911 system for you.

In the National Parks, the process is basically the same. The only real difference is that the National Park Service will be responsible for the Search and Rescue.

Frequently they will call for assistance from the local SAR organizations through the local Sheriff in a "mutual aid" sort of arrangement. It is possible that the people who come to you in the National Parks may be the same folks who come to you out in the counties.

I do encourage backcountry travelers to carry ham radios and/or cellular telephones so you can call for help if needed, but these devices are not a substitute for training, experience, and being prepared. Always carry the Ten Essentials plus rain gear and insulation.

△



Ann Marshall

*Debby Riehl, of North Creek, is a member of the Ski Patrol Rescue Team and King County Search and Rescue Association.*

*Cell phones with charged batteries can be useful in the backcountry, but are no substitute for training and experience.*

ED AGIUS

## From the Mystical Hoh to Mighty Olympus

—OUR FIRST VIEW OF A GLACIER—

Turning off the Olympic Peninsula's scenic loop highway, my two sons, Patrick (16) and Tony (12), and I began our final approach to the Hoh River entrance of Olympic National Park.

I popped in a rain forest sound effects tape to compliment the rain forest theme of our soon-to-begin pack trip to Mount Olympus. We meditatively drove the 17 miles along the Hoh River road to the visitor's center and the trailhead. Rarely do we get to adventure together and this trip was going to be a major one, with six days set aside.

It was mid summer and the dry season, taking away a bit of the magic of the forest. If you really want to experience the full grandeur of a rain forest you must tough it out with a trek in the midst of the rainy season.

The 5.6 miles to our first camp at Happy Four was for the most part pleasantly level, a rare experience for a traveler of Olympic trails.

During this portion of the hike we became acclimated to the sights and sounds of the rain forest. The moss-carpeted ground surrounded us. Trees were blanketed with ferns. We crossed the occasional stream and the sound of the river is ever present even when out of sight.

When we came in sight of the river it revealed its power, with its fast moving, silt laden waters weaving in and out of the timber debris. Then out of nowhere we walked up on the biggest Douglas fir I've ever seen.

Early afternoon of the second day we reached Elk Lake at 14.6 miles. Here we set up base camp where we would stay for the next three nights. We spent all the next day enjoying Elk Lake. While swimming we tried not to stir up the water too much, wanting to stay in the sun-warmed upper layer.

The next day we awoke to a pleasant surprise—a young doe was feeding in the brush surrounding our camp.

This day was set aside for an easy scramble up the remainder of the trail



Patrick, left, and Tony on the Hoh trail.

Ed Agius

to its terminus on a moraine overlooking the Blue Glacier of Mount Olympus. Just short of the moraine we had the good fortune to meet up with the oh-so-controversial Olympic Park mountain goats. (Are they original fauna or are they not? Should they be transported elsewhere or should we leave them alone? Should we allow them to overgraze the alpine vegetation or should they be killed?)

Sitting on some nearby rocks all I could think of was my good fortune to be allowed to glimpse a few moments the life of a mountain goat someplace other than in a zoo. The goats strolled around, fed a bit and observed the strange two-legged creatures in their realm before wandering over a nearby rise.

For the boys this was high adventure in every respect. It was Patrick's very first backpack trip. As for Tony, it was his second. A week earlier I had taken him over the difficult Mildred Lakes trail. Talk about an initiation! It didn't

faze him though; he couldn't wait for the Hoh trip to begin.

Now back to the moraine overlooking the glacier. Neither the boys nor I had seen a glacier before. My first impression was that a glacier feels ancient. Just beyond the glacier was Mount Olympus' snow dome with a backdrop of deep blue sky ... the sight nearly took our breath away. Patrick's comment was, "Wow! My friends aren't going to believe this."

While we sat to eat lunch, we soaked up nature's magic. It was July 1996 and the Olympic Games were underway in Atlanta. The boys thought it was kind of funny to be in the Olympics during the Olympics.

While we were eating lunch the boys asked if we could go down to the glacier. I told them it was quite possible but I wanted to check out the approach to make sure it was safe. That was the plan.

Now here is where Patrick did a no-no ... he slipped away while Tony and I were finishing our lunch and before I missed him he had made his way down a scree slope to the edge of the glacier and was on his way to a boulder fifty yards out.

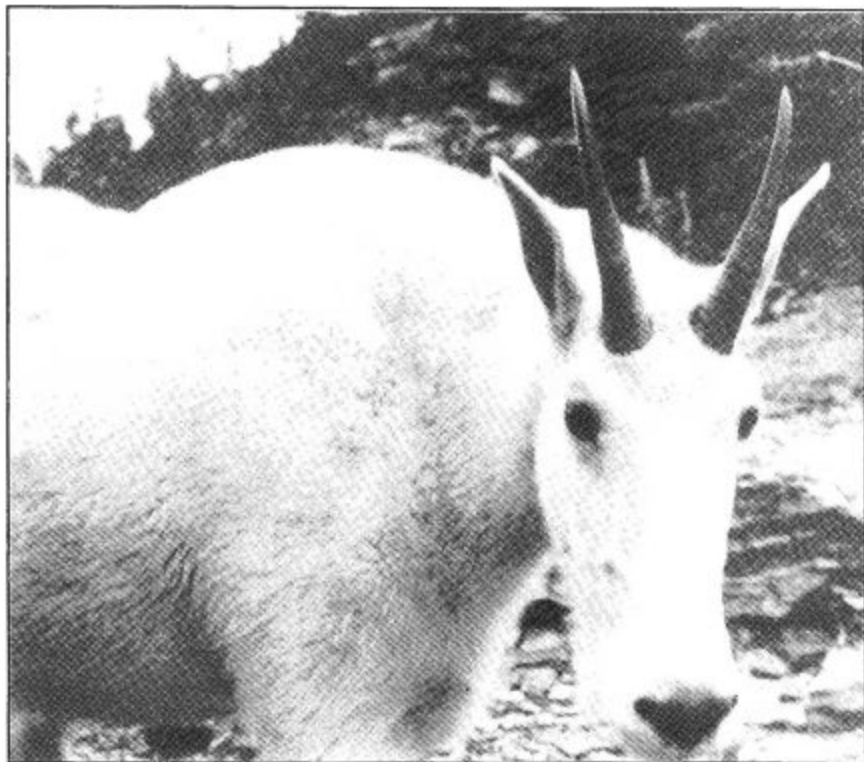
I turned to Tony and said, "Where's Patrick?" A moment later Tony replied, "There he is on the glacier." Pat was on a glacier without the protection of ropes, a dangerous move.

Tony and I headed to the scree slope that leads to the glacier and, using our bamboo hiking sticks for balance, made our way down. I called out to Patrick to immediately retreat from his location on the boulder.

We had a few words regarding glacier travel, safety and how the success of our whole trip was placed in jeopardy and left it at that.

Day five arrived with the sun smiling as it had done the entire trip. We broke camp and bid our new friends Elk Lake and Mount Olympus farewell.

As we casually made our descent to



Ed Agius

*It was a thrill to see a mountain goat in its own environment.*

the river valley I picked up an orange bandanna someone had dropped on the trail. We took a lunch break at the Olympus Guard Station, mile 9 from the trailhead, and watched a couple of

pack-laden llamas on a rest break from an inbound trip to mighty Olympus.

We set up our final night's camp beside the river just a short 3 miles from the trailhead. We spent the evening

playing on the river's bank, skipping rocks and chewing the fat around the campfire. Tony put in a request to float the river in our canoe next summer.

On the final day culture shock set in when the Hoh backcountry trail turned into the visitor's center nature walk mobbed with people. In the final few steps we paused momentarily to check out of the trailhead log.

I took this opportunity to return the orange bandanna to its rightful owner, indirectly, by tying it to a nearby post. I hoped it would be a pleasant surprise as the owner completes his trip, finding the missing piece of gear.

This was an excellent backpacking experience.

△

*Ed Agius, of Bremerton, is retired from the Navy. He is an avid backpacker and is a student in this year's Mountaineer Scramble class.*

## more on WATER TREATMENT

See August and September issues for Dan Vorhis' two-part article on backcountry water treatment.

### Question:

We're recently back from a two-week float trip through the Grand Canyon. The outfitter relied on the large base-camp Katadyn filter and supplemented the filtration by adding one drop household bleach per gallon pumped.

Does Dan Vorhis have any advice on this additional step for those of us who aren't anxious to test our resistance to the microbes?

Cleve Pinnix  
Olympia, Washington

### Dan Vorhis' Answer:

Dear Cleve,

A halogen (iodine, chlorine, etc.) residual in water is useful when previ-

ously-filtered water is to be stored for more than a couple of days.

If you are using the filtered water each day, and the storage containers are reasonably clean, I don't think a residual is necessary or even desirable. I would choose an iodine residual over chlorine where water is stored for more than a couple of days, in any case.

Where human viruses may be present (human fecal material in the water), where the water is consumed within a day or two, and where the treatment device is equipped with a decent quality activated carbon media (I don't think the Katadyn device has carbon in it, though), I would *pre-treat* the water with iodine, giving it the contact time specified by the manufacturer, and then filter the water. If the filtration device also has a decent quality carbon media, iodine will then, to a great extent, be removed from the drinking water. If the water is to be stored for more than a

couple of days, I would filter and *post-treat* with a lesser dose of iodine, to reduce bacterial growth in the storage container.

Iodine is considered more effective for field water treatment than the various forms of chlorine because it is more stable, and is less pH and temperature sensitive than chlorine.

Both halogens may have negative health effects on some individuals. For an excellent evaluation of chlorine/iodine field water treatment methods, see the chapter by Howard Backer, MD, on "Field Water Disinfection" in the book *Management of Wilderness and Environmental Emergencies*, edited by Auerbach/Geehr, published by C.V. Mosby Company.

Dan Vorhis  
Freeland, Washington

△

VAL FROM EDMONDS

## An Unexpected Night Out

—JUST A DAY HIKE ON TONGA RIDGE—

It was 7 in the evening. Jim should have been home by now. He and his teenage son have been staying with us. The two of them had an evening planned together after Jim's return from his day on Tonga Ridge with some of his friends. It was the end of September.

They'd left the house about 7:30 this morning—two men, two women and a 4-year-old boy, planning a hike on the ridge this nice sunny fall day with plans to be home by dinnertime.

Another hour went by, then another and another. No word from Jim. We finally went to bed.

It was 1:15am when I was awakened by the telephone. It was Jim.

"Hello, it's me. We just got out of the woods. Well, Lois and Tommy and I made it. Mitch and Leslie didn't. It looks like they'll be spending the night out there. I'll be home soon and will explain." He sounded pretty upset.

I was glad to hear little Tommy, the 4-year-old, was with Jim and didn't have to spend an unexpected night in the woods. I seriously doubted if he was equipped with a pack and extra clothes, water and food. In fact, I wondered if any of them were prepared for any emergencies, as they weren't very experienced hikers, except Jim.

Jim was not only an experienced hiker, he was almost fanatic about being prepared. Along with his Ten Essentials, he always carries a railroad flare, rope, hatchet, you name it.

People often laugh at him when they find out he's going out only for the day, when he looks prepared for a week.

So what went wrong? Why did it take so long? They couldn't have gone too far in the first place with a 4-year-old along.

I fell back to sleep thinking about these things and was awakened again at 3am when Jim walked in the door with a sleeping Tommy over his shoulder. He'd dropped Lois off at her place and brought Tommy here for the night, wondering how he was going to tell him in the morning that his mother

was lost in the woods.

A very tired Jim sat down and told me what had happened.

The group had gone up the ridge around 3 miles or so and stopped to eat and enjoy the day. About the time they were ready to start back to the trailhead, Leslie and Mitch decided to take a different route back toward Deception Creek.

The plan was to hike to the Deception Creek trailhead on Highway 2. Jim, Lois and Leslie's son Tommy would hike back on the Tonga Ridge trail to the car, and drive around to the Deception Creek trailhead. And if they all hiked at a fairly good pace, they would arrive at their trailheads before dark. It was late September and they were all aware of the early darkness of that season.

Just before the group separated Jim became worried about Leslie and Mitch. Their route would be a longer one. He was concerned they might not make it out before dark.

He asked them what they had in the way of emergency gear. They had nothing. No extra food, clothes, flashlights—no Ten Essentials. So Jim gave them *all of his* emergency equipment except a book of matches. The odds of his group needing them were far less, he figured.

So the group separated and went their different ways as planned. All went well until Lois said, "We can't drive the car to pick the others up. We don't have the car keys."

It was Leslie's car, and she was on her way to Deception Creek. Jim and Tommy stayed where they were while Lois, a good runner, ran back to where the group had parted and on down the other trail until she caught up with the other two.

She got the keys and ran back to Jim and Tommy. This caused an hour and a half delay, and by the time she reached them and rested a little it was getting dark. They had no flashlights, extra clothes, water, food, whistle, map, or

compass.

Now what to do? They continued in the dark. It became pitch dark. A moon would have been helpful, but there was no moon.

Sometimes walking, sometimes crawling on their hands and knees, and sometimes lighting the few matches they had to try to find the trail, they finally arrived at the trailhead. It had taken them about five hours. Tommy was tired and pretty hungry and thirsty. There is no water on the ridge.

After they had driven down to the trailhead and waited and looked for the other two, they knew Leslie and Mitch would be spending the night out. Jim and Lois found a place to make a phone call home, got some food and drink for Tommy and headed on home.

After telling me the story, Jim repeated it for Search and Rescue, which had been called.

In the morning, Jim and Lois drove up to the ranger station, arriving shortly after Search and Rescue. And the two weary hikers also trudged in. They were safe but had had quite a time.

What had happened to them? The trail toward Deception Creek was poorly maintained and they found it slow going. It got dark. They walked as far as they could and then the flashlight died. There were no extra batteries. After a lot of tripping and falling, they eventually arrived at the Deception Creek campground, but not until Leslie had slipped and fallen in the creek.

The extra clothes Jim had given them sure came in handy. They started a fire but weren't experienced in how to keep it going and it soon died. The rest of the night they spent sharing the space blanket and being very thankful they had it.

Early in the morning, as soon as it was light enough, they continued on the trail while enjoying the salami and fruitcake Jim had given them. They

to next page ...

# PANORAMA

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

**METHOW TRAIL SHUTTLE**—A new minivan shuttle service is being launched to transport skiers and hikers to trailheads throughout the Methow Valley.

The service will provide people opportunities to ski or hike point-to-point without having to arrange shuttles on their own.

For information on the Methow shuttle, contact:

**Methow Valley Sport Trails Assn**  
PO Box 147  
Winthrop WA 98862  
509-996-3287.

**WHITTAKER TO SPEAK**—The Ptarmigans club will feature Lou Whittaker as the guest speaker at its annual banquet.

Lou began climbing as a Boy Scout, and has climbed mountains all over the world. He is a legend on Mount Rainier, where he has guided thousands of people to the summit with his company, Rainier Mountaineering, Inc.

The Vancouver-based Ptarmigans will hold their annual banquet on Friday, October 10, at 7pm at Miller Hall at the World Forestry Center in Portland. Tickets are \$20 per person and may be ordered by sending a check or money order to:

**Ptarmigans Annual Banquet**  
PO Box 1821  
Vancouver WA 98688.

**FALL PROGRAMS**—These events will be held at Swallows' Nest, 2308 6th Avenue in Seattle.

On October 22 at 7pm, Mike Fagin of Washington Online Weather will give a program on weather forecasting for backcountry travellers.

On November 15 at 11am, Sherpa Snowshoes will sponsor a program of

"snowshoe ambassadors" who will reveal favorite destinations and offer tips and techniques.

If you need directions or more information, call 206-441-4100.

**HIGHWAY 410**—The National Park Service plans to resurface 11.6 miles of Highway 410 within Mount Rainier National Park.

Reconstruction is scheduled to begin in October 1997 and is expected to be completed by the fall of 2001. The project will be broken into at least three phases: Chinook Pass to Cayuse Pass (1997 to 1999); Cayuse Pass to Deadwood Creek bridge (1999 to 2000); and Deadwood Creek bridge to the north Park entrance (2000 to 2001).

This project is part of a larger effort by the state Department of Transportation to reconstruct 53 miles of Highway 410 from Enumclaw to Naches.

Although proposed roadway modifications will alter the highway's appearance to a limited degree, the overall rustic and scenic qualities of the road will not be substantially diminished.

Travellers over Highway 410 should expect closures of up to 30 minutes from 5am Monday through 5pm Thursday in the work zone.

**MOUNT RAINIER MANAGEMENT PLAN**—Several specific alternatives for the future management of Mount Rainier National Park are ready for public review.

A series of public meetings was scheduled for September; typically, the notice about the meetings was mailed too late to be useful to *Pack & Paddle* readers (we hope you saw the notice in your daily paper).

Written comments, however, will be accepted until October 24. Send to:

cluding the boy, should have attempted the hike without being prepared for an emergency. You just never know when it's going to happen to you.

△

*Val is a Pack & Paddle reader who lives in Edmonds.*

**Mount Rainier National Park Superintendent Bill Briggie**  
Star Route, Tahoma Woods  
Ashford WA 98304.

Some of the issues are:

- how the Longmire, Cougar Rock and White River campground areas will be managed due to their geologic hazards and historic significance;
- how to manage summer congestion at Paradise and Sunrise;
- where horseback riding and bicycling would be allowed;
- how the Westside and Carbon River roads should be used;
- what to do about the parking problem for all the different uses at Paradise—employees, tourists, picnickers, hikers, backpackers, climbers;
- whether snowmobile use should continue where it currently exists.

For more information on these and other issues, contact the Park at the address above.

For a different viewpoint, contact **Friends of Mount Rainier, PO Box 92, Issaquah WA 98027.**

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IN OUR 14th YEAR

## An Unexpected Night Out

continued to the trailhead, and then hitchhiked to the Skykomish Ranger Station.

All ended well. No one was hurt. The rescue volunteers didn't have to go out looking for them, and things could have been much worse. Although it was Mitch and Leslie who spent the night out, it could just as well have been Jim's group. None of them, in-

**BUG STUFF**—When 33% DEET is spread on top of SPF 15 sunscreen, the effectiveness of the sunscreen is decreased by more than 40%.

This information comes from research at the Walter Reed Army Institute. An alternative is to add more sunscreen, more frequently, to apply the repellent only to your clothes, or to use a repellent that does not contain DEET.—*From information in the UC Berkeley Wellness Letter.*

**FROSTLINE**—The new Frostline Kits catalog is out. They still have that great 60/40 mountain parka—price is only \$60. They also carry an assortment of packs, sleeping bags and outdoor garments. Call for a catalog: 800-548-7872.

**FALL COLOR**—When backcountry folk in Washington think "fall color," the tree that comes to mind is the beautiful larch, which can be found at high elevations from the Enchantments and Teanaway country on north.

For you Colorado transplants who must have your aspen fix, however, only a few places in the state can supply it. One of them is Glenwood, south of Mount Adams, which has some substantial groves along the Glenwood-BZ Corners county road.

In the Methow Valley, you can find aspens along the West Chewuch road, along Highway 20 between Winthrop and Twisp and near Patterson Lake. For hiking, try the trails to Black Lake and Horseshoe Basin.

Don't expect much in the way of huge groves of aspens. Better to look in the Teanaway, Entiat or Pasayten for larches, where whole hillsides and valleys turn incandescent golden larches.

**SERPENTINE**—A comment on the Bean Peak report in the last issue (*September, page 17*), by Mick Campbell:

Though I've never been to Bean Peak, I know there is a lot of serpentine rock in that area. It is sort of rough

grainy orange to rust on the surface, from weakening.

Where it is cracked, split, or sheared off, the unweathered surface is a shiny, slick green or green-black. It's really weird-looking stuff. You can find it on the trail to Iron Peak, and it's all over Headlight Basin and Ingalls Lake, in the same area.—*Peg Ferm, Monroe.*

**DEHYDRATION**—After reading the report by Darvel Lloyd (*September, page 23*), which described his friend's serious dehydration on the trail, I thought I'd contribute my own experience with dehydration, in hope that someone else might save themselves some trouble.

I experienced dizziness on the trail one hot summer day, up on Nason Ridge. I came down slowly, but fearfully: I had no idea what had happened to me.

A few days later, a trip to the doctor showed nothing wrong, even on a "treadmill test" for heart function. The doctor suggested dehydration was the culprit. People with low blood pressure, it seems, may experience dizziness when mildly dehydrated: blood pressure can drop too low when you haven't got enough fluids in you.

My confidence in this diagnosis was strengthened by another episode, months later, in which I suffered worse dehydration and worse dizziness during a bout with stomach flu.

So for all you healthy people out there, who have been told for years that your blood pressure is "really good" or "nice and low," on those routine office visits, you may be at greater risk from dehydration than others.

Drink that water! Carry two quarts! —*Gil Gamesh, Uruk.*

**YUCKY SKIS**—See *July, page 30*, and *September, page 38*. Although I do a great deal of cross-country skiing, I have only twice found an unwanted substance adhering to the base of my no-wax skis.

Both times it was on the south side of Mount St. Helens where there is a lot of snowmobile activity—once on heavily used road 83 to the Lahar, and this May on a lightly used road off road 83, also to the Lahar. I only noticed it when my skis seemed to be slowing down. On inspection I found a dark grey, thin, smooth layer from oil/ex-

haust deposits on the snow (invisible to the eye on the snow) and presumably consolidating in late season as the layers of snow melted.

The first time, it quickly skied off as I got off the road, and clean corn snow wiped it off in 300 hundred yards or so. The second time I used paint thinner at home. It cannot otherwise be wiped off with paper or rags. The July article did not indicate where the skiing was done, on or off roads.

I have never otherwise had anything stick to my skis except when using wax skis on dirty, forest snow, or once on St. Helens ash some 70 miles from St. Helens. Even with a scraper I was unable, repeatedly, to remove enough of the thin coat of ash to glide so I walked for four miles on my skis—most annoying and tiring.—*Klindt Vielbig, Portland.*

**Ed. Note:** Klindt is the author of *Cross-Country Ski Routes—Oregon and Southern Washington*, and of the new *Complete Guide to Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument*.

#### NO-BAKE BROWNIES—

- 1 ¼ cups graham cracker crumbs
- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 2 tablespoons powdered sugar
- 3 ounces semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 3 tablespoons powdered milk

At home, mix together crumbs, pecans and sugar.

In camp, mix ¼-cup water with the powdered milk in a pot you won't need for dinner. Heat the milk, add chocolate chips and stir until melted. Add crumb mixture. Mix well, then press into the pot. Let sit at least 30 minutes.—*from Living it Up!, the newsletter of the Backpack Section, Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club.*

**STORING GEAR**—Before you put your backpacking gear away for the season, check it over to make sure it is in good condition. Then you'll be able to start hiking next summer without delays for repairs.

Do your boots need resoling? Get them in to Dave Page this fall. Do you have zippers or seams that need mending? Take them to Rainy Pass Repair. Do you want a McHale pack for next year? Get it ordered now.

Empty the fuel from your stove. Wash and thoroughly dry your sleeping bag; store it loose, not packed tight.

#### WIN FAME & ADMIRATION!

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

PACK & PADDLE  
PO BOX 1063  
PORT ORCHARD WA 98366

# EDITOR'S JOURNAL



At Ingalls Lake; Mount Stuart behind. Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

**FROM THE MAILBOX**—"Down here people keep their eyes riveted on their slot machines but *Pack & Paddle* has my full attention!"—*Las Vegas*.

"Thanks for not sending premature renewal notices!"—*Seattle*.

"Am interested in how other disabled hikers/paddlers have overcome their problems (back, knees, shoulder, hamstring, foot, etc)."—*Seattle*.

"Dear Yellow Cat: I am sad to say we may be leaving this beautiful part of the country soon, so we have decided not to renew our subscription to your wonderful magazine. We will treasure our collection of issues. Keep up the great job you are doing. May there always be wilderness left for all to find peace and renewal."—*Silverdale*.

"I will renew for two years again. I hope to last until the next century!"—*Bellevue*.

**WATER FILTERS**—Will the person who called wanting information about the chart in the water filter article (*September, page 32*) please call me again? I forgot your name.

I'm not able to print the information, but I can give it to you verbally.

**CELL PHONES**—Deb Riehl's column this month is not about a particular mountain incident, but is a response to the questions she (and I) are getting about cell phone use in the backcountry. Cell phones don't work everywhere, but they can be useful at times.

**GOODBYE, OL' JEEP**—For several years, Lee and I have been using a '71 Jeep Wagoneer as our backcountry car. It has been a great vehicle for snow and ice, mud, potholed roads, and hauling people, packs, skis and paddle gear, not to mention our big double kayak (22½ feet long).

It is also big and heavy, ungainly in freeway traffic, horrible on gas mileage, and needs a mechanic's constant attention. At the end of summer, the old Jeep went out to pasture. It originally belonged to Lee's late father, so to keep it in the family, the car has a new home with Lee's nephews. Our "new" backcountry and paddle car now is Lee's grey Pathfinder.

**GIFTS**—In any season, we are always happy to fill your *P&P* gift subscription orders. This is the time of year, however, when we start to get a lot of them. We are pleased that so many of you give *P&P* to your hiking pals—it's a great way for readers to support the magazine.

**HUNTING SEASONS**—It's useful to know hunting seasons to plan fall hikes. You can pick up a copy of the complete regulations at any sporting goods store. Here's a brief version that applies to Wenatchee National Forest:

Cougars, August 1 through March 15. Bears (eastern Washington), August through November 6. High Buck

Hunt (Chelan and Kittitas counties), September 15-25. Deer (Chelan, Kittitas, Yakima counties), October 11-19.

**GREY WHALES**—We have learned a lot about whales this year, particularly grey whales. While driving down the Oregon coast in August, we stopped several times to watch the resident grey whales.

In early September, while kayaking in the San Juans, we made a stop in Friday Harbor and visited the Whale Museum, where we learned lots about these animals—gray whales have baleen instead of teeth, for instance, and until plastic came into use, baleen was used by humans for many things.

Then, at the Sea Kayak Symposium at the end of September, we were fortunate to hear Heidi Tiura and Steph Dutton tell about their year of research on grey whales—using kayaks as research vessels. They have marvelous slides and stories about the whales, as well as a brand-new video.

**FALL**—Yellow Cat knows that fall is here. She now seeks out spots of sun for her naps, instead of avoiding them. She keeps hoping we'll turn the heat on so she can toast her whiskers by the fire.

See you in the backcountry,

Ann Marshall



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