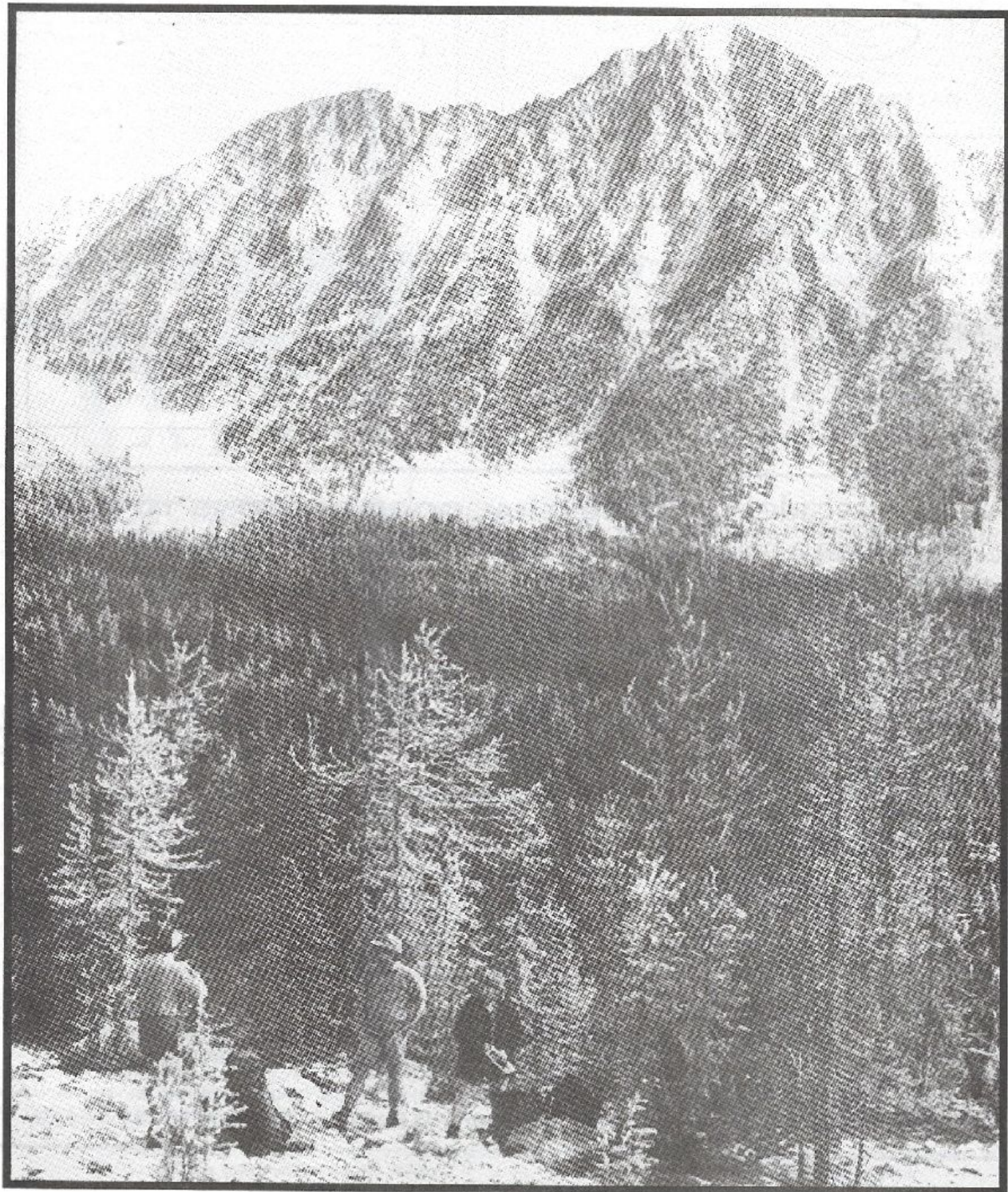



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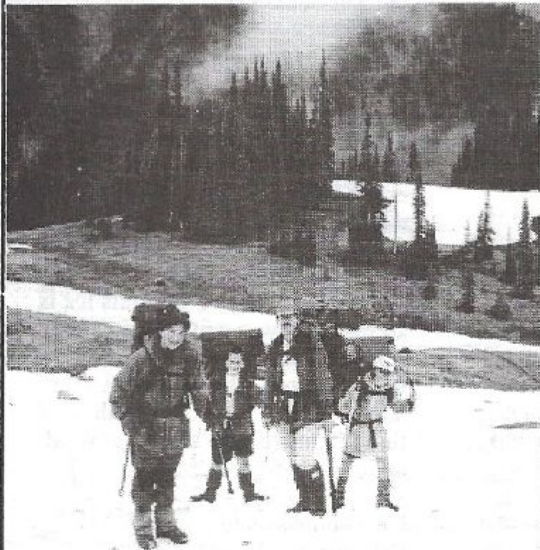
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VOLUME 8, NUMBER 10

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RANDOM VIEW—



Jim Benthuisen

Traveling the East Side of the Wonderland Trail in August, these intrepid hikers get ready to leave Summerland (aka Winterland): Jacqueline Benthuisen, left, Zach Evans, Phil Evans, and Sarah Evans. Mount Rainier National Park.

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John Randall and Nicole Randall

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### COVER PHOTO:

Lee, Gary and SB confer about the route near Crazy Man Pass; Rimmel Mountain in back. Pasayten Wilderness, Washington. Photo by Ann Marshall.

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

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#### A FINE 'ZINE

Once again it is time  
To compose a fit rhyme  
That expresses my pleasure with thee

Every month I do wait  
And so anticipate  
The arrival of my P and P

With its aim to give tips  
Facts and stories of trips  
Be they on land on snow or on sea

I'm compelled to renew  
For not one year but two  
A fine 'zine it continues to be.

D. S. Wallace  
Burien, Washington

#### GOOD OLD DAYS

A couple of comments about the picture of Kathe and me (*September, page 28*), or rather about the gear we were wearing.

First, times have changed for the better, as manufacturers now make outdoor clothing for women!

Next, my orange 60/40 parka has been patched and sewn back together again and again, but I still have it and on special occasions break it out.

In those good old days and with a fresh spraying of water repellency, it would withstand a 90-minute down-pour before becoming saturated. It was far more comfortable for me than any tech material used in shells.

It was made by Holubar and had as an option a piece of goatskin sewn onto your rappelling shoulder to keep the fabric from melting or shredding.

The boots were Raichle Palus which I purchased from REI for about \$75. Equivalent boots now are about \$240 or higher.

Gordon McDougall  
Olympia, Washington

#### MORE THAN TEN

An article in the Eastside Journal about survival in the outdoors quoted the Ten Essentials and inspired me to write the following letter to the editor:

"After well over 50 years of hiking, backpacking and cross-country skiing, I am qualified to make three additions to the well known Ten Essentials.

"My first suggestion is a half dozen hand warmers. These are light weight, inexpensive, simple to use and provide warmth for at least eight hours. On one occasion, two of them slipped into

dry mittens brought a skier on the verge of hypothermia back to functioning.

"My second recommendation is a little more complicated but very effective. A can of Sterno with a wire wrapped around about it, three nails which will slip between the can and the wire, a Sierra Cup to balance on the nails and several packages of instant hot chocolate. Within minutes you can have a hot cup of cocoa.

"My third suggestion: four large garbage bags. These are also light weight, cheap and take up almost no room. They make great emergency rain coats or wind breakers and keep you off the wet ground. A couple of arm holes made with your pocket knife creates your lifesaving outfit."

I realize the Ten Essentials list is sacred but it was written before hand warmers, sterno and large plastic bags were common. In our years in the out-of-doors, I have used all three of these items to turn around several serious conditions.

Pat Thorlakson  
Bellevue, Washington

#### OBVIOUS DANGER

The papers recently mentioned a hiker killed on the Gothic Basin trail. A check with the Verlot ranger station verified that the accident site was the gully mentioned in my trip report (*page 14*). There was a residual snow bridge at the head of the gully that arched 10 feet high. I remember the strong current of cold air blowing from it.

We dropped down into the gully to cross on the portion that was collapsed. The big chunks of fallen ice were an obvious warning to stay out of the remaining tunnel.

This is the second time this year that a fatal accident has occurred just a few weeks after we hiked the same trail. In both cases there was obvious danger that could be avoided by exercising a little caution and common sense. Perhaps our daily lives have become so cluttered with warnings that people no longer take time to think for themselves.

Ken Hopping  
Bellevue, Washington

## You Know You're a Mountaineer When ...





- ... at the office they whip out pictures of kids—you whip out pictures of peaks.
- ... you are number 7 on the wait list but stay on anyway because you know lots of people will cancel if it's raining.
- ... you still use a wooden ice axe, or an MSR Thunderbird.
- ... you go on a hike with another group and your pack is twice as big as anyone else's—that is, if anyone else is even carrying a pack.
- ... your weekends are more work than your job.
- ... you take scenic snapshots in a whiteout.
- ... you come home exhausted from a climb, The Mountaineer bulletin is in your mail, and you scour it for upcoming trips before you rest, eat, or change your clothes.
- ... your 2-year-old grandson says "on belay" when his seat belt is fastened and "climbing" when getting in or out of the high chair.

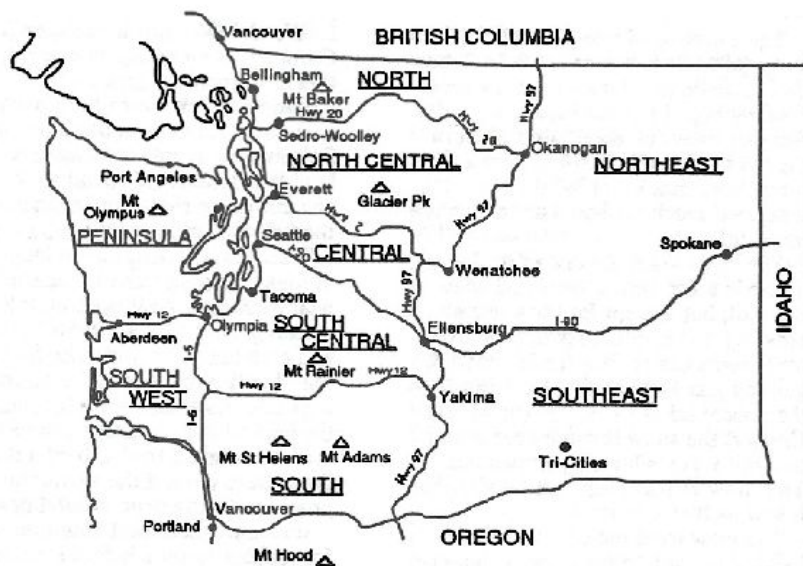
## INTRODUCTION

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

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

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-  —Hiking, backpacking on trails.
-  —Canoeing, kayaking and water trips.
-  —Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.



## PENINSULA



### CEDAR LAKE WAY-TRAIL (USGS Wellesley Pk)

—Having been up the Graywolf River trail several times but never taking the time to check out Cedar Lake, I needed to go back one more time to "bag" this side trail.

Our route for this trip took us up the Dosewallips trail where we spent our first night at Deception Creek. The backcountry ranger was stationed here this year, rather than Honeymoon Meadow because of the destruction of the high West Fork bridge. Because of the snow conditions this year, he had scant information on our next day's journey over Graywolf Pass.

Trail crews were busy on the Dosewallips trail, cutting out logs, doing tread work, and leaving the trail in good condition, but the 3.4 miles

between the Dose and Graywolf Pass were a disaster. We had to climb over, under or around 167 downed trees with full packs. We finally made it to our next camp in Graywolf Basin. The basin was at least two-thirds snow-covered and the route off the north side of the pass was snowcovered and steep. We found a nice camp on an "island" of trees with running water close by.

Our third day took us down the valley to Falls Shelter carrying light day packs. This 4-mile stretch is in worse condition than the trail on the south side of the pass.

Alas, the way-trail from the shelter up to Cedar Lake is in need of lots of work as well. From the lake (two-thirds frozen over) we travelled cross-country over 6000-foot, snow-covered Cedar Pass, past three frozen subalpine lakes, and back to our camp. The next two days was a reversal of our route in.

Outstanding weather, few bugs for this time of year, and great companions made this another good trip despite the trail conditions.—Joe Weigel, Port Orchard, 8/20-24.

### BADGER VALLEY LOOP (USGS Maiden Pk)

—Lots of snow. Obstruction Point is closed beyond Waterhole, and road is still drifted with up to five feet in places, for as long as a hundred yards in spots. Badger Valley is about 50% snow, with only the upper slopes clearing out. Some snow chutes to cross going up to Elk Mountain out of Badger Valley. Flowers blooming on upper slopes. Still

kinda tough getting past the extremely steep snow on east flank of Obstruction Point—I ended up just heading down moderate snow slopes directly into Badger Valley from Obstruction Point.

Saw a *huge* bear, with a tag on its ear, heading up to Elk Mountain. In fact, I must admit that it really startled me, as I came around a corner and it was about 20 feet from me. You should have seen me as I quickly backtracked! Also, saw a coyote on the Obstruction road. Also, saw a patch of white bluebells.

Badger Valley is only just now getting the first glacier lilies coming out of the snow banks, and the avalanche lilies are only about 10% in bloom!—Larry Smith, Port Orchard, 8/19-20.

### GLADYS DIVIDE (USGS Mt Skokomish)

—I drove from Hoodspout past Lake Cushman. The section that is not paved is in lousy condition! I guess there is no money for repairs.

When I got to the Park, the entrance station was manned, even though there were practically no cars. I wonder whether they took in enough money to pay for the cost of collecting.

It was nice having so little traffic. I started at 10am and hiked for many miles before I saw any other hikers. The first 4 miles are on an old road and the hiking is easy. The next 4 miles have some steep up in places. About 3 miles in the trail is closed and a very poor detour is in place. The hillside is steep and the detour is dug in, but it starts out going straight up (hands needed).

## BACKCOUNTRY NEWS DEADLINE: October 19

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

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

There were a couple of patches of snow (altitude just over 3000 feet), but they were no problem. I used the ice to cool my pop! Flapjack Lakes, at 3900 feet elevation and about 4 miles from the old road, are just .6-mile from the junction to Black and White lakes, but it seemed much farther. The lakes were beautiful.

The lakes mark the end of trail work. There is much brush, trees and snow on the trail, but, except for the stream crossing, the trail is easy to find. The trail seems easier than the lower trail, gaining just 1100 feet in 1.5 miles. At the upper end of the valley (by Mount Cruiser) the snow became deeper and the trail was visible only in patches. The snow was so deep that I doubt that it will melt this year.

The view from the pass was great, looking down into the upper Hamma Hamma basin. A small tarn near the pass was half covered in snow.

The trip down was uneventful. I saw four people at the lakes (I saw none there on the way up). I got back to the car at 6:30 and decided to head north on Highway 101. I took road 24 which is a 7 mile or so gravel short cut, but when I got to the sign that said "Hwy 101 1.0 mile," the road was blocked. Don't understand why they didn't mark the road sooner! I had to take the road to Hamma Hamma (the road that by-passed Highway 101 while it was closed). It was a lot out of the way and I got home after dark.—Lewis Coleman, Poulsbo, 9/3.



## TUNNEL CREEK TRAIL

(USGS Tyler Peak)—From the trailhead to the view from the knob above where the trail crosses the ridge to drop into the Dosewallips is about an 8½-mile round trip with an elevation gain of approximately 2800 feet. Robert

L. Woods' *Olympic Mountains Trail Guide* gives an excellent description of this little traveled gem.

Tunnel Creek seems to be one continuous series of cascades, mini waterfalls and moss-covered boulders. Big boulders. One could spend a whole day absorbing the sights and sounds in just the first half mile of trail.

Trail starts at about 2400 feet, clear of logs and good tread to the shelter at near 3700 feet. At this point, if a safe crossing can be found, cross the creek and take the stock trail. The four of us found only slick moss-covered rock and logs so crossed on the bridge and used the hacked-out tread that connects back into the original trail. About a dozen down trees beyond the shelter but no problem getting over, around or under.

Encountered almost continuous snow from about ½-mile before Harrison Lake to several hundred feet beyond. Also encountered clouds of mosquitoes determined to make up for lost time. The view of Mount Constance from the opening at 4900 feet is spectacular, the view from the high knob above even more so. Mount Jupiter lies just across the Dose; Henderson, La Crosse, Bretherton, Washington, Ellinor and a host of other peaks are visible.

Met about 10 people on the way out, some heading in to camp and feed the bugs, others on day hikes. Most days you will have the trail all to yourself. Our group of mature individuals did the round trip in about 7 hours, including a leisurely lunch and time at the upper viewpoint to identify peaks.—Paul G. Schaufler, Olympia, 9/4.



## DOSEWALLIPS RIVER

(USGS The Brothers, Mt Deception, Wellesley Pk)—Trail clear to Bear Camp. Just a few blowdowns. New

bear wires at Bear Camp.

Bad News: 100 blowdowns from minor to major between Bear Camp and Dose Meadows.

Good News: We passed the work crew and mule train coming in yesterday to clear them out. They will be working the area for two weeks. The Ranger and 4 others will be working on the trail.

Gray Wolf Pass: 89 blowdowns and obstacles on trail from the Dose to the pass. Trees are from minor to major, but all navigable. *No snow.*

Lost Pass: 30 blowdowns from Dose Meadows to the pass, but all navigable and snow free.

Lost Pass to Cameron Pass: Clear and snow free. A couple of small patches of snow on the way, but a great hike.

Thousand Acre Meadows: SNOW.

Hayden Pass: The bridge is damaged going out of Dose Meadows. The bridge is still usable, however the Park Service has flagged it for liability reasons.

INFO: Ranger told us the Park Service will be fixing the High Dosewallips Bridge this fall. (This is the bridge featured on P&P's web site last spring.) Ranger reports the plan is to straighten the two steel girders under the bridge, add a third and put it back again. Hopefully the bridge will be usable next year. Cross your fingers. It would be nice to get into Mount Anderson again.—Rich Peregrin, Olympia, 8/19.



## DOSEWALLIPS (USGS The Brothers, Mt Deception)

—I day-hiked up the Dosewallips to Bear Camp, about 11 miles up from the trailhead. The trail was in great shape. The trail crew was still working on it. I guess that the part of the trail that I didn't hike is still in bad shape.

The trail crew had a lot of work to do. There were the remains of many downed trees. Looking up at the Grey Wolf trail, I saw where an avalanche had topped most of the trees.

There were large patches of snow on the trail, but the way was clear. Wildflowers were nice. The trail is mostly flat and smooth with gradual climbs.—Lewis Coleman, Poulsbo, 8/24.



## DOSEWALLIPS, MAIN FORK (USGS The Brothers, Mt Deception, Wellesley Pk)

—Three of us chose the main fork of the Dosewallips for our annual three-night backpack in the Olympics, since so many other alternatives we considered still had snow, bridges out, or major blowdowns.

Indeed, at the Dosewallips Ranger Station, orange signs warned that the



Rick Kohler

Looking south from a headland near Shi Shi Beach, with Cape Alava, Cannonball Island, and Ozette Island in the distance.

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

West Fork bridge on the way to Anderson Pass is still out, and posted trail notes said the bridge work might not be completed until October.

After leaving work early and camping the first night at Dose Forks, we started Saturday morning with Bear Camp as our destination, 10.9 miles from the trailhead. The ranger had told us that work crews had cleared the trail only that far. All the tributary creeks were running full. Across the valley from the intersection with the Gray Wolf trail, we could see the remains of an impressive avalanche off Wellesley Peak, with a mound of soil-covered snow reaching nearly to the river.

The wildflowers were magnificent for this late in August. Just before Butler Creek on the approach to Bear Camp, we were surprised to encounter three small patches of snow on the trail at only 3800 feet elevation. A new bear wire has been installed.

Sunday morning we awoke to fog and occasional drizzle, which became a three-hour steady rain. We took our reading material and maps to the shelter nearby, which is still in good condition. Several other backpackers in camp who had arrived the day before stopped by to chat, and talked about the quantity of trees across the trail above Bear Camp.

When the rain finally abated around noon, we decided to do a dayhike up to Dose Meadow and Hayden Pass. We took nearly three hours to find our way over, under, and around fallen trees 2 miles up the muddy trail.

At Dose Meadow, we were greeted by seven marmots sitting on rocks by their burrows. One of the two bear wires is down. Our way to Hayden Pass was blocked by the damaged crossing across the Dosewallips, where we found the steel beam footbridge crushed into a V-shape by an avalanche. Although the river is much less wide at this point, the way appeared hazardous since the river cuts through a rock canyon here.

Under partially clearing skies, we had a bite to eat in a snowfield on the flank of Mount Fromme, and retraced our way through the log mess. Given our uncertainty about the weather, we hiked out from Bear Camp Monday morning.—Jack Lattemann, Doug Johnson, and Jack Whisner, Seattle, 8/27-30.



## MARMOT PASS (USGS Mt Townsend)

—Seven years ago Kathy and I took our first hike together to Marmot Pass in the Buckhorn Wilderness. Even though it was May 31st, there was much less snow remaining

on the ground than when we went this year in August. We crossed several patches of snow near the pass, but began seeing large areas of snow in the protected, tree covered areas far lower.

From the pass, looking into the interior of the Park, I was amazed at the amount of snow still remaining. We wandered down the trail toward Boulder Shelter, crossing a good sized snow field immediately. We returned to the pass after coming to a large, steeply sloped snow field covering the trail.

From Marmot Pass we climbed south to a meadowed knoll for even more spectacular views. From here we could see that the north side of Constance Pass was solid snow.

There were good displays of wildflowers this year. In the wooded areas were large numbers of woodland penstemon growing out from the slopes nearly horizontal and overhanging the trail. Drifts of brilliant red Sitka columbine and delicate pink columbia lewisia decorated portions of the lower meadows. On the summit and north side of Marmot Pass we discovered masses of the rather rare mountain death camas (*Zygadenus elegans*).

The trail has been well maintained except for a few remaining down trees and minor washouts the last mile or so. The trees in the sub-alpine zone have been heavily damaged by avalanches this winter. Numerous new avalanche tracks were visible from the pass and from along the trail.—Don Paulson, Seabeck, 8/25.



## GOLD CREEK (USGS Mt Zion)

—The road to most of the hikes in the Dungeness Valley has been closed and it is a long way to walk to the trailheads. The Gold Creek trail, however, has a back road which allows access to the middle of the trail. It is the only trailhead that you can drive to out of maybe ten trailheads!

The road to the trailhead is a little out of the way, but was not too bad of a road. My map showed the start of the trail was at the end of the road, but before I got to the end of the road, there was a big tent right across the road! There was a guy in the tent and he said that the trailhead was back the road where I earlier saw a couple of trucks. The trail is smooth and fairly level, maybe a couple of thousand feet above the river and has some good views, especially at the far end. Near the far end, I could see the road (the one that you couldn't drive to).

At that point I headed down to the road. Just below the trail, I found a party of two or three camping. I talked

to them for a while and walked down an old logging road, passed their llamas and down to the main road. I then walked up the road to the far end of the trail. (There are three trailheads at that spot. One of them is the Tubal Cain Mine trail.) I met two bicyclists and one of the guys that I saw earlier right as I started back.

The weather was great. Blue sky and not a trace of the forest fire on The Brothers.

I went up to the trailhead from the north (Blyn), but I went over Bon Jon Pass and returned out of the east side of the Olympics (Quilcene).—Lewis Coleman, Poulsbo, 9/15.



## WELCH and HAWK (USGS

Tyler Pk)—Welch and Hawk Peaks are two of several small rocky peaks south of Mount Townsend in the Olympics. My friend Mark had wanted to do a little crosscountry ramble in this area ever since scrambling up Welch Peak a few years ago.

We started up trail 843 toward Windy Camp and the saddle south of Mount Townsend. Don't start at the lower end of this trail that goes by tiny Sink Lake, instead drive a little farther up the road and find a spur that goes to a higher start. My old Green Trails map shows this spur as a primitive road.

At the saddle we headed south and ascended Welch Peak. From this point we were able to look down at pretty Silver Lake. We were appalled at the number of tents we saw clustered at the lake. That was capped only by the hollering and rock fall created by a foursome of energy-filled young people.

We left Welch and continued south headed for the saddle directly south of Silver Lake. After climbing out of a small bowl to a point just above the saddle we were briefly serenaded by small children singing a song to or with their parents. Continuing we traversed to the west and made for the ridge top and rambled some more until coming to a nice heathery spot that commanded a great view, particularly of the dark bulk of Mount Constance, but also Inner Constance, the Warrior Peaks, Ridge of Gargoyles and the spires of Alphabet Ridge.

After a long respite we made the short walk out to Hawk Peak, turned around and headed off down the ridge to the southwest to see if we could make it up Mount Worthington (which I nicknamed Mount Worthy-of-a-Climb).

Moderately steep and loose pillows were the order of the day. When we reached what was the highest point on this ridge we thought we had made it—

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

there was a cairn and my altimeter did say approximately 6900 feet—but on looking just a little farther, there standing a bit higher was the true Mount Worthington (now re-nicknamed Mount Maybe-Worthy-of-a-Climb).

Calling it a day we headed back and descended to the north and east directly to Silver Lake. From there we quickly hot-footed it out on the Silver Lake trail 842. We passed even more folks still headed in.—Dave N. and Mark D., Tacoma, 9/4.



**KLAHHANE RIDGE TRAVERSE** (USGS Mt Angeles, Port Angeles)—Heather and I were originally going to hike the Klahhane Ridge trail from Heart O'the Hills to Heather Park for a loop. What we ended up doing instead was an arduous one way trip from Heart O'the Hills to Hurricane Ridge.

It was 10 miles with over 4700 feet of vertical, some ups and downs and some incredible scenery. The trail to Lake Angeles is very good—beyond it gets steep and narrow. Still some snow and lots of scree.

At Victor Pass we noticed some dangerous snowfields enroute to Heather Park. We didn't have our ice axes. We opted instead to continue our hike to Hurricane Ridge. We were greeted by a docile coyote and grand views from Olympus to the Garibaldi Peaks in BC.

At Hurricane Ridge we got back to our car via thumb—a nice couple let us climb in the back of their pick-up truck and we enjoyed a most relaxing return! —Craig Romano, Seattle, 8/27.

**QUEETS**—The Queets trail has remained largely unvisited the whole year so far because of the high water at the crossing. The river has finally shrunk to a level more easily crossed.

**Queets River Crossing:** The easiest place to cross is located just downstream of the trailhead. Hang an immediate left once on the gravel bar and walk downstream to the end of it. Here the river fans out and becomes a little slower than at the trailhead (at the confluence of Sam's River). The water is moving 1 to 3 mph and is, depending on your height, about thigh to waist-deep.

**Queets Valley trail:** The trail has been cleared of blowdowns to the 4-mile mark except for 6 trees 1 mile from the trailhead that you have to duck under.

**World Record Douglas-fir:** This massive tree is about 2½ miles up the Queets Valley trail and is well-marked. The record still stands even with its top broken out!

**Upper trail:** The rest of the trail has

not been cleared of blowdowns. This means that a backpacker can expect many impediments to forward progress.—Ranger, 8/29.

**HOH**—Intermittant snow begins above 4000 feet with continuous snow at Glacier Meadows. Erosion and slides make the chutes hazardous in places and impassible to stock.

**Climbers Route:** Climbing conditions are still in great condition considering the time of year. The lower Blue Glacier is still snow covered and the route is directly across to Cal Tech rocks. The route up Cal Tech is the most direct route with complete snow access. On Snow Dome the crevasses are beginning to open up, but can still be easily navigated.

Crystal Pass is very open from crevasses and moats and is not recommended. You will need to traverse the south shoulder of the false summit where you can attain the top of the false summit through an obvious V notch on top. From here you descend to the west summit block and choose your route carefully.—Ranger, 8/27.

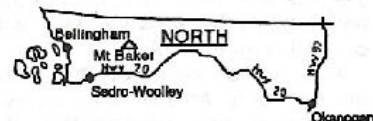
**SEVEN LAKES BASIN**—The Sol Duc River trail is snowfree for 7 miles; after that expect some patches of snow. Nearly 70% of the High Divide trail is snow-free, although snow drifts remain. All lakes are still mostly frozen with Deer Lake being the exception. Recent avalanches are evident throughout the Sol Duc highcountry. Check in with a ranger before attempting a trip to the High Divide or Seven Lakes Basin.—Ranger, 9/5.

**NORTH FORK QUINALT**—The 16 Mile ford is currently 2 feet deep. A few patches of snow remain in the Low Divide area. All campsites and facilities are melted out. The shelter is unusable due to snow damage.

Martin's Lakes are 90% snow covered. The Skyline trail is 30% snow covered. Ice axe, topo map, compass, and good off-trail navigation skills necessary. All known successful parties this year have carried altimeters.—Ranger, 9/10.

**OBSTRUCTION POINT**—Road is now open to point.—Ranger, 9/17.

NORTH



**WELCOME PASS** (USGS Mt Larrabee)—Trailhead is less

than a mile up Forest Service road which goes north from Highway 542 between mileposts 45 and 46 (just before maintenance complex). It is two gravel tracks with weeds down the middle and turn-outs obscured by weeds, but my Geo Metro made it with no problems.

Trail goes up roadbed to the old miner's trail. This miner chose his route well. After hauling up the hot and steep trail, the only thing more "welcome" than breaking out of the forest onto the ridge was walking a bit farther for a slight breeze and escape from the deer flies.

One guide book says the trail gains 2400 feet in 1.8 miles (above the old road bed which gains 500 feet in ¾-mile). I took it for hyperbole. No more. I felt old and out-of-shape, and will leave this excellent approach for younger, more fit, hikers.

Snow patches on the ridge were a foot or two thick and melting fast. Pools west of the pass were mostly full of ice and snow and appeared to be shallow. Great views from the ridge.—Ramona Hammerly, Anacortes, 8/27.



**GOAT MOUNTAIN** (USGS Mt Larrabee)—We celebrat-

ed summer's arrival on September 12 by huffing up the Goat Mountain trail. The trail is in excellent condition through the forest and up to about 5000 feet. Above that, it is overgrown between 5000 feet and 5400 feet and is faint in places above 5500 feet. It was not difficult to follow, however. Just keep going up.

Above about 5400 feet, the hillside (and the trail) is very steep in places. We had no difficulties on a warm sunny day, but the last 1300 feet could be difficult, and perhaps dangerous, in a cold rain when the vegetation was slippery.

Views from the top are among the best around. This hike is more work than Church Mountain or Excelsior Ridge, but the views are much better. Challenger, Whatcom Peak, and the back side of the Pickets are visible, along with the Hannegan Valley, Ruth Mountain, unknown peaks in Canada, and of course Shuksan and Baker close at hand.

We were a bit disappointed by the lack



of flowers. The seasons appear to have gone directly from spring to fall, as a few patches of huckleberries were beginning to turn. All in all, however, this was an excellent hike.—Dave and Alan Sherbrooke, Seattle, 9/12.



## WINCHESTER MOUNTAIN (USGS Mt Larrabee)—

The Twin Lakes road beyond the Tomyhoi trailhead is classified as "primitive." Drivers may wonder if "abandoned" might be a better description. We had to use low range, 4-wheel drive to negotiate the erosion ruts and exposed rocks.

The road narrows the last mile with hairpin turns and steep dropoffs. With sweaty palms and sighs of relief we safely arrived at the lakes. Although mostly thawed, there was a fresh coating of ice from the previous night.

The trail started out with switchbacks through delightful flower meadows. The first snowfield we encountered was a moderate slope with a good track across. The second one was very steep. We chose the early season bypass going below and up the left side.

Our biggest challenge of the day was a rocky gully where the trail crosses a shoulder to the back side of the ridge. A residual snow patch covered the tread with very limited options for going around. After some hesitation, we followed a "goat path" high over the top of the gully. It was somewhat exposed, but steady nerves and careful attention to foot placement allowed us to pass unscathed.

The rest of the climb to the lookout was easy. We met a couple there who had stayed overnight. Their two dogs had fearlessly crossed the snow patches.

We enjoyed a long stay lounging in chairs from the lookout and soaking up the incredible views. I would rate it as the best of any lookout site I've visited. Peaks and ridges extend in all directions with Mount Baker front and center.

On the trip down we followed the trail back to the snow impasse. I was able to work my way along the moat and chop an opening through the wall. This got me most of the way across the gully, but I still had to drop down below the trail to bypass some icy snow. Dripping meltwater made the footing an interesting combination of mud, scree and slimy moss.

With one person across, the demonstration of feasibility was enough to convince the rest of the group to follow. Arriving safely back at the car, our rejoicing was tempered by thoughts of the drive down the mountain. As we started out, everyone prayed that we

wouldn't encounter a late-comer driving up the narrow road.

Fortunately, we were past the really bad part when we did meet a car on its way up. The road was wide enough for passing and our cheerful waves and smiles of relief gave occupants of the other vehicle bogus indications of the great fun awaiting them on the Winchester Mountain trail.—Ken Hopping, Bellevue, 9/14.



## YELLOW ASTER BUTTE (USGS Mt Larrabee)—

The old Yellow Aster Butte trail is closed. Access has been rerouted to a new spur trail off the Tomyhoi Lake trail. Drive Twin Lakes road 3065 to the Tomyhoi trailhead. Parking space for 5 vehicles is totally inadequate for this very popular hike. On a Sunday afternoon over 40 vehicles crowded the shoulders nearby.

Have your boots on for a flying start because biting flies were an extreme nuisance. Fortunately, there was some relief when we reached the basin below Gold Run Pass.

The new Yellow Aster Butte trail forks left about 1/4-mile before the pass. There is no trail sign, but the route is obvious as it contours around the basin. We encountered a few snow patches that were easy to cross. The trail provides outstanding views of Shuksan and Baker. Soon numerous lakes and ponds are seen on the ridge below.

There is a junction with the old trail 1/4-mile below the summit. A steep boot path leading to the top tests your energy reserves. The views of Mount Larrabee and Tomyhoi Peak are worth the effort. Through binoculars, the lookout on nearby Winchester Mountain was visible.

The boot path continues north across a saddle to a rocky pinnacle. From a distance the climb looks difficult, but we found it to be an easy scramble. For the extra effort you gain views of Tomyhoi Lake.—Ken Hopping, Bellevue, 9/12.



## YELLOW ASTER BUTTE (USGS Mt Larrabee)—

The old trail, called the Keep Kool trail, is officially closed. Now you take the Gold Run Pass trail until a fork just before the pass that takes you over to Yellow Aster Butte.

Seven of us encountered snow that was very do-able, although there was one high snow drift that made us take some big steps on a narrow walkway that was a little exposed on one side. We didn't have ice axes so had to be careful. The elevation gain is 3200 feet over 4 miles as opposed to the old trail that got you up there in 3 miles.

Those little tarns in the basin between Yellow Aster and Church Mountain were just thawing out and the aqua blue was stunning!

The fall color was starting and there were a few patches of Indian paintbrush. Lots of marmot holes but we didn't see any of 'em.—Elin Rodger, Seattle, 9/19.



## SKYLINE DIVIDE (USGS Mt Baker)—

This hike features wide open views of Mount Baker. Just 2 miles of hiking through the forest, with 1400 feet of elevation gain, puts you on top of the ridge. From there you can continue as far as desired.

We followed the trail to point 6563 where we stopped for lunch. To the east, summits of the Picket Range were visible beyond Mount Shuksan. To the north, we could see the suburbs of Vancouver, BC. The trail beyond this point becomes intermittent. We contin-




Mount Shuksan from Excelsior Ridge, near Welcome Pass. Mount Baker Wilderness.

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ued on to the west end of Chowder Ridge. A good boot path leads up onto the ridge. It was far easier than it looked from below. From the top we had excellent views of the Coleman Glacier. Climbers descending from the summit were visible through binoculars.

Because the route along Chowder Ridge is not distinct and involves some exposed climbing, we decided to make this our turn around point. Round trip distance was 13 miles with 3600 feet of elevation gain. It was one of the few hikes this summer where lingering snow was not a problem.—Ken Hopping, Bellevue, 9/13.

 **COPPER MOUNTAIN, et al.** (USGS Mt Sefrit, Copper Mtn)—The main objective for Don Beavon, David Singleton, Walter Voegtlin and me was Copper Mountain (7142 feet), but we all also hiked/scrambled the south-southeast peak of Copper, Copper Mountain Lookout Peak, Peak 5694 and Peak 6445.

All of the landforms have at least 250 feet prominence, and thus qualify as at least "minor" mountains by my definition (Copper and Peak 6445 qualify as "major"). These geographical protuberances represent 5 of the 303 mountains in the NCNP, according to my detailed study.

Only Peak 6445 had a cairn, but the Lookout Peak had a cabin. Therefore, these two summits had solid evidence of previous human visitation.

Finding no cairn atop Peak 6445 on 8/6/98, Joanne William Lennox dubbed it "Polychrome Plus" (Peak). She built cairns on both summits of this mountain. David and I liked her descriptive place name. It could also be known as "PPP."

Of course, all of these mountains have been climbed long before, probably at least 5000 years ago. The area has ample physical evidence of ancient Native American hunting activities along the ridges, including obsidian flakes/arrowheads found by USGS Geologist Ralph Haugerud.

The views from Silesia Camp, near the summit of Peak 5694, were fabulous. The panorama included Slesse, Copper, Redoubt, Whatcom, Challenger, Easy, Mineral, Blum, Icy, Shuk-san and Baker.

Ranger Rosemary checked our backcountry camping permit. She was friendly and appeared to be enjoying her 10-day stay up in the vicinity of the Lookout—Steve Fry, Edmonds, 9/10-12.



**PCT, Grasshopper Pass**  
(USGS Slate Pk)—This is a

gorgeous area, now snowfree after our long, cool "summer." Having never been to Harts Pass, we decided to go south along the PCT and see what was there. Lots of views, steep green meadows, little water or camps, miles of excellent trail.

We started out at the PCT trailhead just beyond Meadows Camp on road 5400-500. To get to that point, we negotiated the steep, winding gravel road to Harts Pass.

The only water near this section of the trail (between the trailhead and Grasshopper Pass) was located in a sunny, rocky basin of the upper South Fork Trout Creek. Marmots and pikas greeted us when we descended to get water there on Sunday.

We camped Saturday night at Grasshopper Pass, a pretty spot with thin subalpine larch and mountain hemlock cover. We tucked the tent into a little hollow as weather was beginning to come in from the west. Melted snow was our only water source here.

Sharp short showers punctuated the night, with the almost full moon moving through broken cloud cover and illuminating the scene. Thunder growled in the distance. At one time during the night, we could see a thick fog in the valley below obscuring views of the mountain to the west.

By morning, the fog was streaming over the ridge top around us. It was brisk and cool, although to the east the skies were still relatively clear.

We broke camp and hiked north to the trailhead, enjoying the coolness of the air and the sun. Late and mid-season flowers greeted us in the bright morning light. The huckleberries were not ripe. Flies of all sizes were biting with enthusiasm, making up for lost time.

When we got back to the car, we decided to do the short drive to Slate Peak. When we arrived, there were still views to the north, south and east, although the western ones were obscured by the incoming weather clouds. The Pasayten Wilderness lay at our feet, with the deep valleys of the Pasayten River curving below.

A short distance to the north lay the battered basin of the Glory Hole, a gold mining area in the late 1800s. Slate Peak, itself, was a military site during the Cold War, armed with radar. The installation has been demolished and a tall firetower erected on the flattened summit.

Quite a trip and historical overview to an area little known to me. Several trailheads start in the area and many loops are possible.—Liz Escher, Lake Forest Park, 8/28-29.



**GOAT PEAK** (USGS McLeod Mtn)—I've done this peak

many times, and it was a good thing since this time Jacki and I raced up the trail and made it to the top in 45 minutes flat.

Before going into the reason for the rush up the mountain and our subsequent long wait on top, let me tell you about the lookout's unique ranger, "Lightning Bill" Austin and his dog Turk. The minute a new party appears at the foot of the lookout, Bill and Turk come out of the tower and extend a warm welcome to come up and have a look around. There he answers questions and shoots the breeze with everyone.

Well, you say, a lot of lookouts do that. But how many lookouts do you know who take a Polaroid picture of your entire party (with Turk in the middle) to mount in the scrapbooks he keeps? We even located our picture taken up there two years ago. How many read poetry to you?

Bill's job is his life, and he enjoys every minute of it. He keeps his lookout building in tip-top shape, too. Even the windows were clean! So the next time you go to Goat Peak, say thanks to Bill. And be sure to leave a few coins in the can to help pay for his film and photo albums.

Back to our rush up the mountain. About a mile short of the trailhead, Jacki's brand new Ford Explorer suddenly began making a loud clunking noise which soon turned into a high pitched squeal. Being so near the trailhead, she decided to go all the way.

Once at the trailhead, we all tried to assess the problem. The car made noise only when it moved, whether it was backward or forward, so we knew there was nothing wrong with the engine. The brakes didn't grab. The noise was only in the front end. Dick crawled under the car but nothing looked amiss. Although we were the only car at the trailhead when we first arrived, soon other cars puffed up. I began asking if any of the occupants knew what might be wrong with our car. All the guys had plausible explanations but no one was able to fix the problem.

Jacki tried calling her husband David on the cell phone. She was sure he would know what to do. We couldn't get any service but knew the phone would work from the top of Goat Peak. David was at work in Longview but went out to lunch within the hour so we had to catch him before he left. Thus the race up the trail.

After calling a few numbers at the plant, Jacki finally located David. A

few suggestions later about what to do when we got back down to the car (and not sure if any of them would work), Jacki asked David to call a tow truck. They have free roadside service for a year with their new car. Does that also mean free trailhead service in a remote area? So we waited for David to call us back. Well, first they were going to have a tow truck come from Kelso because that is where they bought the car. Then a tow truck was supposed to find our car somewhere near the town of "Winston" (try Winthrop).

After two hours of trying to work the problem through David, we gave up. He had said that if we had to drive the car back down ourselves, to put it in 4x4 low and stop if it heated up.

With Dick driving, about halfway back to the main road we met the tow truck. The driver, Bud, informed us that he had come all the way from Twisp, the closest town that has a towing company that honors the "roadside service" agreement. Not all towing companies do, we found out.

We all piled into the cab. Dick and Bea, who rode up with us, didn't want to go to Twisp so Bud actually drove the tow truck all the way back to Klipchuck Campground to drop them off first. You should have seen the look on Trudy Ecob's face when she saw us coming.

We got to know Bud quite well on the long drive to Twisp. He radioed ahead that we were coming and to have a mechanic standing by. The minute we arrived, the mechanic jacked the front end of the car up and took the wheel off. In one minute, he popped a tiny stone out from somewhere behind the brake.—Ginny Evans Renton 9/9.

**CUTTHROAT PASS (USGS Washington Pass)**—By the third day of our car camp, only Jacki and I were left to go hiking. We picked this one because a few years ago we did Cutthroat Pass from Cutthroat Creek and always wanted to complete the one way trip. The trail on the south side of the pass is the PCT, and the grade is never more than 10%.

We zipped up the 6 miles to Cutthroat Pass in record time and still felt fresh. In fact, we decided to go an additional mile north on the PCT till we rounded a corner for additional views. From our lunch spot upon a little knoll above the trail, we had 360-degree views of rows upon rows of too many peaks to name and not a clearcut in sight.

The first 3 miles of this trail are in trees with the final 2 miles in meadows and rocky slopes. Nearing the pass, we

could tell that the snow had just recently melted out. The meadow grass was short and matted down. The previously dry trail suddenly became muddy in spots as well. But the snow is all gone now.—Ginny Evans, Renton, 9/10.

**BORDER RIDGE (USGS Ashnola Pass, Rimmel Mtn)**—Patti and I finally made it to the spectacular Cathedral Lakes, courtesy of Backcountry Burro Treks. Our base camp, near the junction of the Boundary and Lesamiz trails, was perfectly situated for exploring the surrounding country. For our final day-outing I set out for the Border Ridge trail north of Spanish Camp. "Getting there" required unraveling a maze of unmarked, well-trodden paths.

Three trails lead north from the Spanish Camp cabin. The leftmost begins across a creek bridge and climbs the nose of a ridge; the middle and rightmost begin across an upstream horse ford (middle climbs over east shoulder of ridge; rightmost skirts foot of ridge to east, above creek meadows). Hikers should choose the leftmost trail, as the others are badly rutted by stock use. It switchbacks up to a fabulous flower meadow, with views west to Bald Mountain and east to Amphitheater Mountain. At .8-mile from the cabin, come to a 4-way junction with the middle trail. Don't go left, which drops 100 yards to a semi-permanent camp complete with canvas cook tent; go straight a few yards to a Y. Again don't go left to the camp; stay right on a cairned-and-flagged route. In ¼ mile strike a backdoor trail to the camp; in 50 yards more strike the "rightmost" trail from Spanish Camp.

Proceed 300 yards north to a mucky, unsigned junction; right (uphill) is the trail to Lower Cathedral Lake; left (straight) is the Border Ridge trail. The way first proceeds north, through subalpine meadows; then, in ½ mile, northwest contouring an open ridge slope above Beaver Creek (500 feet below the ridge crest). The slope ran riot with flowers on this sunny August afternoon. Talk about finding Heaven on Earth! It doesn't get any better for this wayward soul.

After 1½ miles I stopped for lunch, and turned

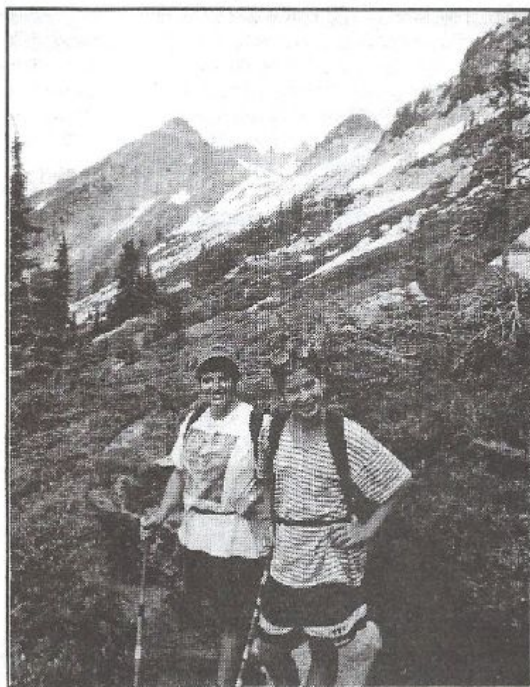
around, as the trail begin to drop to a saddle on the ridge (which becomes more forested at this point). I'll guess I was a long mile from the boundary. Views were west across the Ashnola valley to Sheep Mtn.—Andy Carr, Bellevue, 8/10

**REMMEL LAKE (USGS Rimmel Mtn)**—From our camp at the Lesamiz junction, the Boundary trail descends southwest just over a mile to the Chewuch mainline. About midway down this stretch is a T junction, with a sign identifying the Boundary trail but not the southeast-heading divergence—or, in the case of my pea-brain, a (required) diversion.

In .1-mile I reached a Y at a campsite. The right fork ptered out; the left path continued faithfully eastward through subalpine meadows, faint at times but always there. After a rambling mile I found myself on a sidehill on the north side of Rimmel Lake (with Rimmel Mountain peering up directly behind), merging obliquely into a stock trail entering from the east.

I dropped through meadows to the lakeshore trail and followed it west past horse camps to lake's-end and an obscure mud-wallow merger with the Chewuch trail.—Andy Carr, Bellevue, 8/10.

**HORSESHOE BASIN (USGS Horseshoe Basin)**—All melted out, unlike everywhere else. Lots of



Linda and Sarah Wilson on the Hidden Lake Peak trail, North Cascades National Park.

Shirley Haley

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people there for that reason. Lots of room up there, though, so it isn't crowded. Flowers at about 7500 feet at their absolute peak. No sheep this year, so expect better than average floral displays in the upper meadows as well.

The road to Iron Gate is worse than ever, and the Ranger suggests high clearance vehicles only. However, a good many sedans had made it in one piece, so it is doable. The Forest Service has no plans to improve the road, either, so be prepared. The mosquitos are terrible in the meadows. Flies in the forest are no worse than usual.

I think Green Trails has a few mileage errors on the new Horseshoe Basin map. My old map (1979) has what I think are the correct mileages. First, from point 6800 on trail 340, going east from Horseshoe Pass to the intersection with the Snowshoe Meadows/Snowshoe Mountain trails is certainly not 3.5 miles, but more likely 1.8, as on the 1979 map. Second, the distance from Sunny Pass to the Topaz Mountain trail intersection on trail 342 may be 2.5 miles as the camp robber flies, but not as the feet walk. Old map says 3.5, which seems more likely.—Peg Fern, Monroe, 8/9-12.

**T** **TIFFANY MOUNTAIN**  
(USGS *Tiffany Mtn*)—This is a nice mellow dayhike from Freezeout Pass. The trailhead is reached by a long washboard road, which my book calls "very poor." It isn't really all that bad.

The trail winds up the spine of the mountain, first through dry forest and then in wide flowery meadows. At the very end, it toils up onto the rocky-grassy summit of Tiffany. The map at this point says "hard to follow," and we did in fact meet some people who had gotten lost.

There were some cairns marching off to the right as we approached the last steep part of the obvious trail we were on, so I bet they mark the hard-to-follow trail on the Green Trails map. If you wanted to follow that route, you'd simply go around the shoulder of the mountain to the right instead of going up. I think this would bring you to the intersection with trail 373 and trail 367 at Whistler Pass. If you really get lost, you can climb up to the top and easily see all the trails going here and there, and be able to tell just where you are. (Assuming you have map and compass.)

It was very cool and windy in the meadows, with, thankfully, no bugs. LOTS of flowers. The views from the top (about 8300 I think) were obscured by clouds in the distance. We heard

thunder growling as we came down.

There are lots of larch in small clumps in the lower meadows. They are just putting out their new soft growth; each branch proffers a daintily arched finger, like a dog offering to "shake." I think I overheard Gregg murmuring "pleased to meet you" to one particularly insistent tree crowding the trail, but perhaps I was imagining things.—Peg Fern, Monroe, 8/13.

## NORTH CASCADES NATL PARK

—For information on permits, restrictions and current conditions, call the Wilderness Information Center in Marblemount, 360-873-4500 x37 or 39

Cascade River road is open to the Cascade Pass trailhead. In good shape but some potholes. Hozomeen road is 39 miles of gravel road with a few washouts but passable.

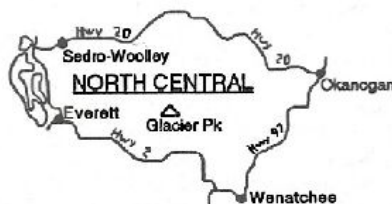
Ross Lake Resort runs a water taxi, portage service and rents cabins on Ross Lake until November 1; call 206-386-4437.

Big Beaver/West Bank: Beware of yellowjacket nest 1 mile before Luna Camp. Cascade Pass: Sahale Arm mostly snow free and in excellent condition. Sahale camps partially melted out. Snowfree from basin to Cottonwood and beyond.

Chilliwack: Trail has been cleared to Little Chilliwack, but from there to Canadian border is in poor condition.

Desolation: Lookout is snow free. Bear resistant canisters required for overnight camping at this location. Easy Pass: Granite Creek ford cold, swift, and deep. Cross in early morning or use log ¼-mile downstream.—Ranger, 9/9.

## NORTH CENTRAL



**OAK HARBOR** (NOAA 18423)—The 10am Port Townsend ferry came out of a fog bank just as it approached Keystone, and a clear blue sky promised a great day for kayaking. I put in at the Monroe Landing County Park across Penn Cove from Coupeville. This park, called Penn Cove Park on the NOAA chart and Monroe Landing in the North

Puget Sound volume of *Afoot & Afloat* by Marge and Ted Mueller, is just a small parking area with a launch ramp access to the beach and no rest rooms.

Calm water and a couple of harbor seals accompanied me east and then north toward Oak Harbor, beneath a high bank and rocky shoreline. At a particularly rocky area just before entering Oak Harbor I ran into a family, or more like several families, of seals. There were at least ten, of various sizes, lying on the rocks and playing in the water. As I slipped by between them and the shore they vacated the rocks, and all I could see were seal heads popping up all around looking me over.

Shortly after entering Oak Harbor into a head wind, I encountered two bald eagles swooping down in attacks on what looked like a western grebe. Every time the poor bird surfaced an eagle was about to hit, and it had to dive under again.

This was happening dead ahead, so as I approached the eagles flew off. The grebe rested on the surface awhile, then flew off. I suppose I may have saved its life.

The marina is not passable along the shoreline without a portage, so I backtracked and passed along the outside where the waves were reflecting off the breakwater and making a mess of things. Once by the marina, I found the shoreline leading out of the harbor and south and east to Forbes Point (per NOAA. Maylor Point in *Afoot & Afloat* and on my Whidbey Island road map) the best part of the 7 mile trip. The shoreline was deserted for the most part, and the water, though exposed to wind and potential boat waves, was quite calm.

As afternoon turned into evening the wind lessened, and the return trip was most pleasant, especially along the rocky shore leaving Oak Harbor. The water was calm, the tide up (covering most of the rocks), and the waning sun weaved areas of shadow and soft orange colors.

I have been kayaking the shores of Puget Sound since 1988, sometimes with The Mountaineers, sometimes with friends and family, but mostly alone now that I am retired. I enjoy the shorelines because that's where the wildlife action seems to be (and because that's where it's safest).—Pete Jancola, Bainbridge Island, 9/1.

**HIDDEN LAKE LOOKOUT**  
(USGS *Eldorado Pk, Sonny Boy Lks*)—This is possibly one of, if not the best hike in western Washington. My friends in the Mountaineers

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tell me it is the all time favorite among members. Getting to the trailhead involves driving Highway 20 east to Marblemount, then following the Cascade River road 10 or so miles, then another 4 miles on road 1540. The trailhead is at the end of the road.

The hike begins in woods, but soon opens up into meadows filled with wildflowers (it is spring up there): paintbrush, tiger lilies, penstemon, harebells, valerian, lupine and asters. I am sure there were many more I have forgotten.

The trail switchbacks steeply up to the head of the valley where it levels out and traverses around a spur. At this point there is a transition to granite and heather. About halfway to the lookout we began to encounter patches of snow, but it did not create a problem. As we got into the high heather meadows the views began to open up to all of the North Cascade peaks. At a saddle just below the lookout you enter North Cascades National Park.

Ahead and below is Hidden Lake. To the right, a short climb over boulders is the lookout (elevation 6890 feet) and about 4 miles from the trailhead.

The lookout is maintained by a volunteer group, "Friends of Hidden Lake Lookout." From the summit is a 360-degree view of all the major and minor peaks in the area, and of course Glacier, and in the distance Rainier. It was a beautiful clear day and a wonderful hike.—Leigh Champlin, Seattle, 9/12.

**CASCADE PASS (USGS Cascade Pass)**—A hike I have wanted to do for years and can see why it is so popular. Drop-dead gorgeous views even from the trailhead parking lot. A long 2½ hour drive from Seattle, end of Cascade River road east of Marblemount. Starts with switchbacks and continual elevation gain through the woods until just below the pass. Then beautiful views from the pass down the valley and all the surrounding peaks.

Continue up to the right to climb Sahale Arm, another 2500 feet of elevation gain requiring some effort, but well worth it. Views continue to increase, including blue/green Doubtful Lake complete with icebergs. Lovely heather meadows and 360-degree views, swarming (and I mean swarming) with marmots. Trail and road access are in excellent shape. This trail is an absolute 10!—Linda Meier, Seattle, 9/10.

**PILOT / BACHELOR / PEAK 7088 (USGS Downey Mtn)**—The summit register refers to this peak as Pilot Peak. John Roper and

other locals refer to it as Bachelor Peak. On the maps it's simply 7088.

To ensure success on a day trip, leave early and make sure you find the old Downey Waytrail referred to in Beckey's book. I found it by going to the second drainage shown on the map, up the Downey Creek trail; starting elevation 1450 feet. This is the drainage from the little lake north of Downey Mountain.

I then backtracked to a spot that looked good and went straight up the hillside. I hit the surprisingly good trail that traversed up the hillside in less than 20 minutes. Some yahoo has mutilated some of the trees along this route with new slashes.

It took me about an hour along the Downey Creek trail before I decided where exactly I wanted to cut off. It took me three hours to the little lake north of Downey Mountain. From there it's pretty easy to get to the saddle between 6185 and 6505 and up and over Peak 6640+ where Torok and Company watched the sunset last April on their marathon day (see June issue, page 24).

The ridge from that point all the way to 7088 is beautiful! Great views from Buckindy to Dome and far beyond. Several inches of fresh snow above 6000 feet had drifted to over a foot deep at one point along the ridge.

On the return trip from 7088, I dropped off the south side of the ridge at the low point to try to save time by skirting around the other high points. That was a mistake. With the wet snow and vegetation, sidehilling was a joke.

Even without the wet conditions, I think it would be faster to stay on the ridge on the return trip. Other than pausing a few times to look at my map, I pretty well went nonstop from the car to the summit of Peak 7088 in 6 hours.

I'm not the fastest guy around but I'm not the slowest either and I was pushing to make it in that time.

Nonetheless, I figured I could have done the trip in 10 hours round trip had I not decided to traverse Downey Mountain on the way out. It was a challenge climbing Downey from the east and very tiring to find a route through all the cliff bands. It made me wonder which way Torok and Company descended. The west side of Downey was no picnic either.

I dropped a bit north from the main ridge that shows so beautifully on the map in an effort to regain the old trail. Another mistake. The terrain steepened so much that I wondered whether I'd need the rope in my closet to rap a few trees. The open forest with huge trees in the steep terrain was blanketed with slippery pine needles. I eventually resorted to facing in at numerous spots and using my ice axe in the ground to avoid what would have been an otherwise uncomfortable descent.

Due to the lay of the land I gave up on rejoining the old trail and "simply" dropped back down to Downey Creek.

Left home (Lynnwood) 5:15am. Started hiking at 7:26am. Summited Peak 6640 at noon. Summited Peak 7088 at 1:26pm. Summited Downey Mountain at 5:05pm. Returned to trailhead at 7:49pm. Wonderful day.—Don Beavon, Lynnwood, 9/1.

**SQUIRE CREEK (USGS Helena Ridge, Whitehorse Mtn)**—Lew and I drove up the Squire Creek road out of Darrington. The pavement soon ended and my car bottomed a little up the 7-mile road.

The trail starts at 1800 feet and follows an old road about a mile then con-



Lee McKee and Paul Mocha in the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

David Price

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

times climbing gently for another mile with some great views of Three Fingers and eventually the backside of Whitehorse Mountain.

No blowdowns or snow on the entire trail but from there the trail climbs pretty seriously. After a long false summit, the trail does reach a bare-rock summit at about 4 miles from the car and about 4050 feet elevation.

We were amply rewarded with spectacular views of Three Fingers to the west and White Chuck to the east but Glacier and Sloan Peaks were blocked by about a 500 foot ridge south, which was very pretty and passable, but we left it for another time with, hopefully, fewer bugs.

There is a short steep trail east to an 1800 foot road to the Mountain Loop Highway. The summit offers one good, if possibly wet, campsite and lots of flat on the rock (no tent stakes) but no water. Last water that looked trustworthy was about half-way up.

After a quick lunch, and a chat with *Pack & Paddle* subscriber Jim Lingafelter, we headed down. About 2½ hours up and 2 hours back; a testament to the number of roots and rocks.—Tom Karasek, Stanwood, 9/8.



## SPRING MOUNTAIN

(USGS Sloan Peak)—While sitting on the summit of Mount Pugh a week ago, we spotted Spring Mountain, and decided to explore it.

Approach: Hike the Lost Creek Ridge trail to Bingley Gap. Turn left and follow the crest of the ridge. About 10 minutes from the Gap is a minor rocky point which can be bypassed by a traverse to the south. From there, it's clear sailing along the crest to talus and meadows. The ridge swings to the northwest and it's an easy scramble to the summit.

We found the views to be spectacular—even more so than from Mount Pugh. You can almost reach out and touch Sloan and Bedal. And to the north, Mount Pugh looks to be impossible! There are also splendid views east to Glacier Peak.

There was still a fair amount of snow below the summit and it seems unlikely that it will melt out this season.—Garth and Judy Warner, Carnation, 9/3.



## WBT / BALD MOUNTAIN TRAVERSE

(USGS Mallardy Ridge, Verlot)—Heather and I set out on a challenging 14-mile point to point trek on the Sultan Basin DNR lands off the Mountain Loop Highway. Good news and bad—both ends of our hike contained fabulous trail and terrain.

The mid-section, however, goes down in Heather's all time favorite hikes (read—worst!) for the trail was rough, obscure and downright difficult.

We began on the Walt Bailey Trail, a wonderful hike through old-growth forest, sub-alpine meadows and the portal to the Cutthroat Lakes basin. We hiked to the DNR Bald Mountain trail and followed it all the way out to the Ashland Lakes trail.

The views are impressive—even with swirling clouds—however this trail is grown over, long, steep in places and covered by windfalls, bracken ferns, and nasty brambles. It was not fun. The last 3 miles, however, are good—trail crews have been improving the way.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 9/10.



## MOUNT PILCHUCK

(USGS Verlot)—It was already hot when Peg and I pulled into an almost full parking lot at the trailhead. It had been a few years since I had hiked the Mount Pilchuck trail so it was interesting to see the trail improvements, although we hiked on some of the old trail, too.

Along the old trail we found "the perfect rock" for a lunch spot. The rock was a naturally carved bench with a backrest and facing a view of Mount Baker. Only one person hiked by as we ate lunch and soaked in the view.

We hiked the old trail until it joined the new trail. The new trail has loose chunks of rock which are more difficult to walk on. Shortly before the lookout we took a spur route to Bathtub Lakes.

The route is marked but requires a bit of scrambling (not for the faint of heart). We encountered only four other hikers on our way to the lakes and they were traveling in the opposite direction. Seeing the lakes made the trek worth it. The bugs made it hard to linger. Seemed awfully buggy for this time of year.

Still some patches of snow around some of the lakes and lots of snowfields on the north face of Mount Pilchuck. The views at Mount Pilchuck lookout were excellent and worth the climb up to the lookout tower.—Donna Wylie, Monroe, 9/19.



## GOTHIC BASIN

(USGS Bedal)—I was surprised to find the first half of this trail has been rebuilt since my last visit several years ago. Switchbacks were added, but the grade is still steep. The improvements end where the trail emerges from the forest. Same old roots and rocks from there on.

We had to cross residual snow patches

in two of the major stream gullies. Fortunately, the high arching snow bridges had collapsed. Passage still required leaving the trail and scrambling down through the gully.

Gothic Basin was mostly snow-covered with Foggy Lake completely frozen. We found traces of a boot path and followed the ridge up to Gothic Peak. The final climb to the summit was a class 2 scramble on a series of rocky steps. Great views for such an easy climb.—Ken Hopping, Bellevue, 9/4.



## MOUNT DICKERMAN

(USGS Bedal)—A strenuous hike with a wonderful reward. Approximately 4000 feet gain in 4 miles. The trailhead is on the Mountain Loop Highway east of Silverton. We found a large, new gravel parking lot with a toilet. You used to have to park on the Highway with room for only a few cars. There were about 30 cars in the parking area when we pulled in, but the trail did not seem crowded, and with the twin summits people were spread out.

The first 2 miles or so switchbacks steeply through woods with some wonderful large old trees. The trail then opens to alpine meadows.

The 360-degree view from the summit included many local peaks and of course the big three, Baker, Glacier and Rainier.

It was a clear day with deep blue sky and the snowcovered peaks were spectacular. Wildflowers were abundant. A few patches of snow on the trail posed no problem. A fantastic hike.—Leigh Champlin, Seattle 8/22.



## SILVER LAKE

(USGS Monte Cristo, Bedal)—I left Barlow Pass with my pack and running shoes on. I made it to the Silver Lake trailhead, 4 miles, in just over an hour. I traded my Nikes for hiking boots and trekking poles. The next 1½ miles to the lake took me one hour, 20 minutes! Rough and rocky trail; beautiful basin, though. Lots of snow—not a soul around. I soaked my aching feet in the 1-degree-above-freezing lake. I usually hike "journey not destination" as my philosophy—but this hike is the reverse. A tough journey—a great destination.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 9/9.



## MAPLE PASS

(USGS Washington Pass, McGregor Mtn)—Dick Scaring led a Midweek Hikes car camp in this area, and six ladies showed up to go along. Lucky Dick! The weather couldn't have been better. Crisp fall days with brilliant sunshine, and crystal clear skies. No smog up

here on the North Cascades Highway.

This hike begins at Rainy Pass, and the 7-mile, 1950-foot gain, loop trip is a must. Don't just go to Maple Pass and back the same way or you'll miss out. After a short walk in the forest at the beginning and end of the hike, we were in open meadows the entire way. It is such a scenic trip for so little effort. I recommend going counterclockwise.

Attaining Heather Pass at 2.25 miles, we were treated to views of impressive Black and Lewis peaks as well as turquoise Wing Lake. There is a trail leading to the lake, and we saw many backpackers heading in that direction. Fueled by snacks, we headed off to Maple Pass just a mile farther.

We continued to the high spot on the trail above the pass where we ate lunch. Frisco Mountain and Corteo Peak dominate the view. Continuing the loop, we began our descent on a skinny ridge between Lake Ann and Rainy Lake.

Although we were in meadows most of the day, the wildflowers weren't as profuse as I'm sure they were a few weeks ago. The fields were still green, however. The golden browns of fall haven't started quite yet. —Ginny Evans, Renton, 9/8.

## ▲▲ KANGAROO TEMPLE (USGS Washington Pass, Silver

Star Mtn)—The shortest approach to this peak begins at the hairpin turn just east of Washington Pass and the Liberty Bell Group. We parked on the large shoulder and headed into the scrub trees, staying west of Early Winters Creek looking for a climber's path all the while.

We picked up a good path in the first meadow that took us up valley, past the small lake. This is one beautiful valley with the creek running in several channels past many flat, green camp spots.

An hour and a half later we climbed several steep switchbacks to Kangaroo Pass. From here we had a superb view of the North Fork of Twisp Creek.

From the pass we dropped about 20 feet to a faint waytrail that contoured below Wallaby Peak. This trail stays high and just below the big slabs you can see from the pass. A fairly easy scramble brought us to the notch between Little Finger and Kangaroo Temple.

The climb from here is four pitches of solid granite which we did after changing into rock shoes and leaving some of our gear. Paul led up and east (left) of the ridge to a nice belay ledge. I followed and then continued back to the true north face to a detached flake. Paul led the third pitch around to the west face and I led up to a sandy bench where we



Mark Owen

Paul Cho on Kangaroo Ridge; Liberty Bell group behind.

unroped and scrambled to the top.

Great views of Silver Star and Vasiliki Ridge awaited us. After a few pictures and some chocolate-covered raisins we set up the first of four 80-foot rappels back to the notch.

On to The Fin!—Mark Owen and Paul Cho, Shoreline, 8/10.

## ▲▲ THE FIN (USGS Washington Pass, Silver Star Mtn)—From

below the southwest face of Kangaroo Temple we continued below the slabs of the Tomahawk through easy open terrain. Running low on water after our climb of Kangaroo Temple we were hoping to find a stream to filter some water, but to no avail.

We pressed on until we were below The Fin. From here we heard a big stream coming down from The Fin/Gilbert Mountain pass. Here is a great camp spot.

The idea behind our traverse below The Fin's West Face was to gain access to the Southeast Ridge, which can only be done from the southern notch. It took about 20 minutes to gain the notch between The Fin and an unnamed peak farther south. The downsloping slabs provided a nice challenge for Paul in his boots. I resorted to my rock shoes knowing I was a notch below his ability.

The top of The Fin was flat and we were able to walk around the entire edge and see that we came up the only doable route for us. It was now 6 o'clock and we knew we would have to hustle to get out before dark. It had taken us 4 hours from the top of Kangaroo to The Fin so we knew we had some work ahead of us.

We made one long rappel, collected our gear and slid down into the basin below. Keeping high, we retraced our route back to Kangaroo Temple and onward to the pass.

We glissaded down the last snow in the valley to the meadows below. True dark hit us in the last open spot but the headlights of cars and trucks coming off Washington Pass provided the beacon we needed to get back to the road.

12½ hours round trip with about 4500 feet of gain.—Mark Owen and Paul Cho, Shoreline, 8/10.

## ▲▲ CONCORD TOWER (USGS Washington Pass)—We spent

the night at Cutthroat campground where a sort of climbers' camp exists fee-free! It was hard sleeping with the meteor shower overhead.

For our getaway climb we picked the north face of Concord Tower. Driving into the Blue Lake trailhead we were delighted to see a brand new parking lot complete with bathroom.

Nice, clear skies with a host of bugs accompanied us up the trail about 1½ miles to the climbers' path leading to the Liberty Bell/Concord notch. Several other parties were ahead of us but they were either doing the Beckey Route or Northwest Face of Liberty Bell.

At the notch we roped up and Paul led up the open book to a nice belay ledge. The North Face of Concord is rated 5.6 but sure looked harder to me!

After exchanging leads Paul led the final steep slab around a corner. Here he realized he missed the 12-foot final crack. He belayed me up and we talked things over.

The final 10-foot east facing wall was too hard for either of us until Paul asked for a shoulder stand. Glad he ate a light breakfast, I boosted him up to the summit.

Following us to the summit were Seattle Mountaineers Shirley and Charlie. Shirley had left a piece of protection while climbing the same route

on Saturday and came all the way back to retrieve it. What a great excuse to take a day off work!

Four rappels took us back to the notch. It was fun watching the two parties on the Beckey Route. I bet this place is busy on the weekends.

3½ hours up; 3 down; 2500 feet of gain.—Mark Owen and Paul Cho, Shoreline, 8/11.

### ▲▲ MOUNT LOGAN (USGS McGregor Mtn, Mt Logan)—

Bouncing up the road to the Park Creek trailhead all I could think about was how late it was getting. I had started out several hours earlier from the Harlequin Bridge in the lower Stehekin Valley and it was now about 4:30 in the afternoon. I had left wife, kids and in-laws back at the cabin we were renting and headed off on an overnighter to meet up with friends coming up Thunder Creek.

The idea was to climb Mount Logan the next day. With 7.5 miles and nearly 4000 feet of elevation to gain, I was let off sometime after 4:30, antsy to get moving and much lighter in the wallet (it costs \$5 a shuttle each way and there are two to take!).

The trail climbs steadily for 2 miles to the aptly named Two Mile Camp; from there it is a nice easy ramble for another 3 miles to Buckner Camp and then comes the stiff climb to beautiful Park Creek Pass. The trail was all in good shape and I was able to get over the pass and onto a small benchland in four hours.

I found a bivvy site and between getting dinner and setting up for the night I gazed around for some sight of my friends—a light, a tent or voices in the distance—but there was nothing!

I did not have the time or energy to worry about it so I had a hearty dinner and planned to awaken early in the morn. It was a beautiful clear night with the stars ablaze as I drifted off to sleep.

I awoke, not at four to the obnoxious beep of my alarm, but at 5:30 to a lightening eastern sky. That put an end to my plan to possibly make the summit so I snoozed a bit longer and got up at 6 with a revised plan to just go explore up the mountain for part of the day.

The climbers' track was only a hundred feet from my bivvy site and there was a plastic bag with a message. It was from my friends who had been up earlier the day before. They had not been granted a permit for Logan x-c and had been forced to camp nearly 3 miles below.

I was just writing them a note when I heard someone call my name and there

they were. After a happy meeting we headed up the climbers' track. It was easy to follow as it traversed up and across the alpslopes finally disappearing in scree slopes. We finally emerged at the eastern edge of the Fremont Glacier.

This was the end for me. I was locked into an unfortunate time schedule with the shuttle bus. It was difficult as I was only two hours from the summit! Instead I bade my friends good-bye and watched for a while as they crossed the glacier.

It was a very pleasant and quiet hike back down watching those same grand views, that had appeared in stages on the way up, slowly slip away. I repacked my gear for the trail out and counted my blessings in the hot noon sun. I had the chance to see a little bit more of the fabulous North Cascades, I had a wonderful hike with my friends, and the bugs weren't even that bad!—Dave N., Tacoma, 8/21-22.

### ▲ COMPANY CREEK (USGS Stehekin, McGregor Mtn)—

This is a long trail that follows Company Creek for many miles before continuing up Hilgard Creek to Fourth of July Pass and the Devore Creek trail which returns to the Stehekin Valley at Lake Chelan.

I only hiked 2.5 to 3 miles of it on a hot afternoon as an appetite builder. On my return we were headed up valley to the Stehekin Valley Ranch for one of their more-than-ample dinners.

The trail starts a short way up a spur road on the west side of the Stehekin River just past a crossing of Company Creek. It wanders at an angle away from the creek then quickly gains altitude by climbing in open forest up a rounded ridge. Through a few openings in the forest views down to the creek and out to the valley are possible. After about 2 miles the trail levels with some views to the south with the bulk of Bonanza Peak and another mountain.

On the return I made a short detour out to the north of the trail, about 1 mile up, to a rocky knoll that provided an excellent vista of much of the lower valley and the upper end of the lake.—Dave N., Tacoma, 8/27.

### ▲▲ CHIWAWA BASIN (USGS Trinity, Suiattle Pass)—

Dave and I got to the trailhead about 10am and were pleasantly surprised that the parking lot was not overflowing.

We had camped in Chiwawa Basin in 1993 and had spotted a knoll at about the 5900-foot level at the head of the valley. It looked like it would be a pleasant spot to camp, and surely there

would be a scabble trail up to it. We came back this year to enjoy our knoll. Bad choice. There is a reason none of the guidebooks suggest this trip.

The hike in to Chiwawa Basin was uneventful under high overcast. We passed the route to Massie Lake, which is now marked with a sign that reads "Trail Not Maintained." The sign is not visible from the trail, unless you know where to look for the Massie Lake junction. (The junction is between 4400 feet and 4500 feet. There is a cut log opposite a large boulder where the path takes off down the hill. The sign is about ten feet from the junction.)

The trail in Chiwawa Basin peters out at a stream crossing and campsite about 1¼ miles from the junction with the Red Mountain trail. You can follow your nose a bit farther and find another campsite at about 4800 feet. Much of the basin is quite wet (many bugs) but there are a few dry places to put a tent.

From here, we had planned to follow scabble trails up to our 5900-foot knoll. We started on such a scabble trail and it was fairly promising for a few hundred feet, but then we were on our own. It was a nasty bushwhack. And the knoll itself was disappointing. There were too many trees hiding the views down the valley, and this knoll was one of the few places where there wasn't any water. So down we went, choosing the west side of the knoll this time. We got to a pleasant basin with a nice creek and camped at about 5300 feet. Still no sign of sunshine, on what was supposed to be the nicest day of the three day weekend.

The clouds were even lower when we woke up Sunday morning, so we packed up and left early. Another 500 feet of unpleasant and sometimes scary bushwhacking got us back to the bottom of Chiwawa Basin, where it started to rain seriously. Showers followed us back to the car at Trinity. We saw no one in Chiwawa Basin, except for two tents Sunday morning at the junction of the Chiwawa Basin and Red Mountain trails.—Dave and Alan Sherbrooke, Seattle, 9/4-5.

### ▲ ROCK MOUNTAIN (USGS Mt Howard)—

Steve and I got an early start (for us) and at 9:50 we were on our way up the steep trail from Highway 2. At 4600 feet the great trail work came to an abrupt stop. The trail became overgrown and dropped away in several spots. Then the trail entered the forest and the tread became better.

We crested the ridge above Rock Lake just before 1pm. Looking down at the lake we could see several mountain



bikes down on the shore. We did not go down to the lake. Instead, we found a shady spot in the basin near several streams and had lunch. Still lots of snow on the northeast side. We started down about 2:15.

Then came the frustrating trip home. At Index we got in line and crawled along until we got to the new signal in Sultan. It took us four hours to get home.—Linda Rostad, Redmond, 9/19.

**LAKE WENATCHEE DIST—509-763-3103.** Car break-ins and vandalism have occurred recently in the Phelps Creek area.

**Cady Creek trail 1501:** bridge at the trailhead has collapsed. Cross on upstream log or ford. **Indian Creek trail 1502:** bridge at the trailhead has collapsed; trail is inaccessible.

**Spider Meadows:** Leroy Creek is high but fordable. Meadows are snow-free. **Little Giant trail 1518:** log jam has washed out; trail is inaccessible.

**Heather Lake:** bridge at 1.5 miles is closed. **Schaefer Lake:** cross river on logjam at trailhead; bridge at 3.5 miles is out. **Mount David:** bridge out; trail is inaccessible.—Ranger, 9/15.

## CENTRAL



**BIG SNOW MOUNTAIN (USGS Big Snow Mtn)**—Allow at least 1 hour 15 minutes travel time on the 25.4-mile, bone-jarring Middle Fork road to Hardscrabble Creek. The last 8 miles are suitable only for high clearance vehicles.

The best starting point for this hike is a logging road located .7-mile before Hardscrabble. Watch for an eroded roadway angling left uphill. There is space on the shoulder for two vehicles.

Follow the logging road as it switchbacks up through an old clearcut. After 1.5 miles, the road bears north into the Hardscrabble Creek drainage, where it ends at a rock slide.

A faint boot path marked by cairns continues through the rocks. Crossing the wilderness boundary, it enters scrubby trees and climbs to Lower Hardscrabble Lake. Traverse on rocks around the west side.

A smaller pond is located immediately north of the lake. Residual mounds

of snow decorated with shattered tree limbs testify to the violent events that transpire during the winter.

A stream with several pleasant waterfalls drains Upper Hardscrabble. We found a boot path nearby. The upper lake was large and deep with good campsites. The path continued around the west side, up along the inlet stream, to a marshy basin. From there we zig-zagged upward in a northwesterly direction, following a series of rock slides. The objective was a saddle (5760 feet) on the east shoulder of Big Snow, where we had our first view of Gold Lake.

The route to the summit was an ascending traverse around the rim of the cirque on mixed snow and rock.

Although lower than many of its neighbors, Big Snow still provided excellent views. We spent an hour on top identifying dozens of peaks while we ate lunch. The majority of the route involved rock hopping so our knees were aching after the long descent to the car. Round trip 9 hours with 3900 feet of elevation gain.—Ken Hopping, Bellevue, 9/18.

**BRYANT PEAK (USGS Snoqualmie Pass)**—This peak, immediately south of Chair Peak, offers nearly the same views with far less climbing hazard. Follow the Melakwa Lake trail up to Hemlock Pass. Turn right (east) and continue up the ridge on a faint boot path. After ¼-mile, drop down to a grassy meadow slightly below the ridge.

You will notice a small stream crossing the far side. Follow it a few hundred feet and you will arrive at a major stream channel with rock walls, dropping steeply down the mountainside. This is the drainage for a small basin between Bryant Peak and Hemlock Peak.

During the dry season, it is possible to scramble up the gully with some minor rock climbing. An easier, all season, route is to bushwack up the left shoulder. There are traces of a boot path if you look closely. Don't stray too far left of the stream channel or you will run into cliffs.

From the upper basin you can observe the summit ridge of Bryant Peak. There are multiple lines of ascent along talus slopes interspersed with patches of trees. Generally aim for the left end of the summit. The last hundred feet to gain the summit requires some actual climbing. There are multiple options for selection. The easiest route is on the far left end. It is almost a walk-up; however, it is also very exposed.

Other routes follow various fault

lines. They are a little difficult to see from below because vegetation hides some of the key ledges. Your best guide is to follow a well worn path.

The summit ridge broadens towards the east with great spots for eating lunch and enjoying the views. A summit register is located slightly west of the midpoint. Entries for 1999 indicate that Bryant receives only one visit per month. It is an excellent choice if you want solitude in an otherwise crowded section of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Time from trailhead to summit: 2 hours and 45 minutes.—Ken Hopping, Bellevue, 9/11.

**PCT, KENDALL CAT WALK (USGS Snoqualmie Pass)**—I have hiked portions of this trail 7 or 8 times since the middle of July, watching the snow melt. Two large trees still block the trail in the first ¼-mile with another 13 before you reach the ridge. One day last week, two groups of WTA volunteers did an excellent job of removing 11 of the 26 trees between the parking lot and the Kendall Catwalk.

This section of trail is finally free of snow except for a few tiny patches. Even on cool day with clouds frequently hiding the sun the views were great.—BRN, Snoqualmie Pass, 8/20.

**OUT BOX and MOSSY SLAB (USGS Chikamin Pk)**—Dick Michelson and I planned a quick trip so I could be back for a 5:30pm PTA meeting for kindergartener Aaron. We were on the trail at 7:30am at the end of the Kachess Lake/Box Canyon road.

We hiked up the Rachel Lake trail just a ways until we spotted a "mossy slab," then hopped over it to a 2900-foot hairpin on a logging road to the east. We followed the road to a 3200-foot hairpin, then headed north-north-east through light, but annoying vine maple under old growth firs to Point 5071 on the south ridge of Peak 5600+.

The final bit of Peak 5600+, which we dubbed "Out Box" (it's the outermost, last significant peak on Box Ridge—southeast of Hibox, 6547, and Lobox, 6032), has a class 3.55 pitch (all holds are there, but you may want a rope—which we didn't have). Surprisingly, there was no cairn or register or anything human on top. This peak may indeed be a clean 400-foot prominence peak, but erroneously shows up with only 360 feet P. It is, without question, more than 40 feet higher than the 5600+-foot spire just north of "Mossy Slab" (5480+).

We descended west to the 5200+ col



Warren Guntheroth

Bean Peak from upper Bean Basin, Teanaway.

with "Mossy Slab" (5480+) and decided that what Jeff Howbert calls "Match Box" (Peak 5600+), just north of "Mossy Slab" (and southwest of Hibox Lake) would be a technical climb that we weren't equipped for. And, in fact, it looked like we wouldn't be able to do "Mossy Slab" from here either. But after we descended a grassy gully to 4900 feet, we found a ledge leading to the south ridge of "Mossy Slab," which allowed us to regain our lost elevation to this summit.

The summit register here was in a solid, plastic PVC pipe, that unfortunately contained a totally soaked and very stinky, unreadable notebook. We could barely recognize P&P scrambler Dave Beedon's name (who may have named this landform) but little else. There was no way we could sign into these gooey pages, but luckily Dick had a cloth iron-on knee patch that was failing badly. He ripped this off, and we scribbled our names in on it, and stuffed it into the pipe.

We descended from this 5480+ summit via its south ridge, which is indeed mossy and slabby to about 4000 feet. We then entered the vine maple zone and hit the trail at about 3000 feet just between the words "Canyon/Canyon" on the USGS map. 3.5 hours up to Out Box. 1.5 hours down from Mossy Slab. —John Roper, Bellevue, 9/16.

**THORP MOUNTAIN** (USGS Polallie Ridge)—We missed the trail we actually intended to take and wound up at the end of road 4312.

The Alpine Lakes book showed a trail taking off from the end of that road ... so off we went up a steep, unsigned, unmaintained trail.

It was perfectly plain to follow, though steep and a little brushy. It went right up to Thorp Lake in about a mile. Thorp Lake is cute, two-lobed, with a cool peninsula dividing it. Crowded this Labor Day weekend by four tents all crammed together.

From Thorp Lake the "real" trails take off, all signed nicely. It seemed like a steep route up, but short, and there is a staffed lookout on Thorp. Amazing views from there—a whole line of peaks, including one dramatically fanged mountain with a glacier that is called, to my dismay, Overcoat Peak. What a pedestrian name for such a magnificent collection of spires and ice!—Peg Fern, Monroe, 9/4.

**POLALLIE RIDGE** (USGS Polallie Ridge)—This is a hike, steep but no scrambling, leading to one of the top 10 views in the state. Take Salmon la Sac road off I-90. Turn off on road 46 to Cooper Lake; park at the upper end of the lake. Hike 1.4 miles on the trail to Pete's Lake, and turn right on Tired Creek trail. In .6-mile, hike right on the abandoned road to the bridge and start up. It's steep but mostly shaded, and there are a few watering spots for doggies, but it's better to carry water.

In 3.2 more miles, intersect Polallie Ridge trail at 5400 feet, turn right for a quarter mile, and you will find the site

of an abandoned lookout tower, with only concrete pedestals, 5482 feet. The view is spectacular: Rainier in the south and Stuart in the east. In between is a non-stop panorama. Total mileage up is around 6 miles and 2700 feet.

Sasha and I wandered along the trail to the next high point at 5600 feet. Round trip, including a lengthy lunch at the lookout with lots of photos, 6.5 hours.—Warren Guntheroth and Sasha, Seattle, 9/12.

**ESCONDIDO RIDGE** (USGS Polallie Ridge, Chikamin Pk, Mt Daniel, Big Snow Mtn)—Point 5965 in the lower right hand corner of the Big Snow quad brought back most of the memories of the 1987 Summit Chief climb. Longtime readers will remember the controversy stirred by my detailed route descriptions of scrambles of Middle Chief and Summit Chief. While some delighted in reading details of ascending these two peaks in one day and bivvying on top of Summit Chief, one particular "Friends of the Cascades" wrote an anonymous note to me, leveling criticisms of the amount of detail regarding how to get to these fabulous places.

On the 1987 trip, I saw no one in the entire area. On a good weather weekend, this time I saw only one other person, my climbing partner, Jock Kinne. The sketchy tread, if any, beyond the last lake in the southwest corner of the Mount Daniel quad, confirmed my thoughts that this is still a little used area, despite the publicity received over a decade ago.

Since our climbing plans also included Chimney Rock, we hiked toward the base of Escondido Ridge via the PCT, rather than the route past Escondido Lake via Waptus Pass used previously. Many logs are across the trail on the PCT as it ascends Escondido Ridge from the Chimney Creek (North Fork Lemah Creek) area.

Views from Point 5965 include all the peaks of the Cascade Crest from Chikamin Peak to Mount Daniel, with Summit Chief and Chimney Rock being the closest and most impressive peaks. Via Pete Lake and the PCT, the round trip distance to this impressive vantage point is perhaps 25 miles, insuring that "Friends..." can still have solitude in this area, despite the fact that readers know it's available.—Charlie Hickenbottom, Wenatchee, 8/26-29.

**SPECTACLE LAKE** (USGS Polallie Ridge, Chikamin Pk)—Carol Murray and I started at the Cooper River trailhead on a bright

morning. Finally we were having some warm, clear weather.

The recent snow in the mountains did little to slow the bugs. Mosquitoes and black flies were out in their legions demanding blood; beet did little to slow the little devils.

We had lunch at Pete and then started up trail 1323 toward the PCT. We decided to go on the bypass trail, 1323-A, to avoid the ford at Delate Creek. We soon reached the junction with the PCT and crossed the sturdy bridges over Delate Creek.

At the head of Delate Meadows, the PCT begins a grinding series of switchbacks, which continue up to the lovely waterfalls coming out of Spectacle Lake. The most popular camps are on the peninsula between the lenses of the Spectacle. We found a protected camp between rocky outcroppings. Sitting above a little bay, we had great views of Chikamin, Lemah and Chimney Rock. Behind us, to the south was Three Queens.

On Saturday I hiked up the PCT to Upper Park Lake. It had been a long time since I had been in the area, when the trail was still raw. It has aged well, and now looks more a part of the scenery.

The views from Spectacle Gap were outstanding. I ate lunch at the lake, sharing it with the frogs and mosquitoes. A peaceful place. I saw only three other people on the trail that day until I returned to Spectacle.

It's a long hike to Spectacle (10 or 12 miles, 1550 feet gain). People started arriving after I returned in mid-afternoon. Most of the newcomers settled into camps on the popular peninsula.

Sunday, we left early since the day was going to be warm. The night had been very cold and clear, with a sparkling carpet of stars. Morning warmed up quickly as we dropped toward Delate Creek passing through the beautiful silver fir, Doug-fir and hemlock forest.

On return, we chose to cross the footlog at the creek. It's a little tricky, but we didn't have any problems. The creek can be waded at this time of the year, also. It appeared to be less than knee deep at the deepest channel.

We soon reached Pete Lake and pushed on toward Cooper Lake. Spicy scents filled the warm forest, as well as the whining of bugs. We encountered a rich variety of folks coming and going, horsepeople, bikers, dayhikers and dogs. Soon we reached the car, grateful to remove pack and boots and change into clean clothes.—Liz Escher, Lake Forest Park, 9/10-12.

**▲▲▲ THREE BROTHERS (USGS Enchantment Lks, Red Top Mtn)**—Located on the divide between Ingalls Creek and Negro Creek, Three Brothers provides inspiring views of the nearby Stuart Range. Stafford Creek, Navaho Pass, and the County Line trail is the shortest way to the peak, with a round trip distance of about 16 miles.

With an early start to beat the heat on a hot summer day, this peak can be ascended in one day, but scenic camps along the way beckon for an overnight stay. The Stafford Creek trail is mostly in excellent condition.

The County Line trail east of Navaho Pass has some large blowdowns, but they are easy for hikers to cross.—Charlie Hickenbottom, Wenatchee, 8/21.

### ▲ INGALLS PASS / LONGS PASS (USGS Mt Stuart)

Started up to Ingalls Lake but by the time we got to the pass we were caught by a cold rain and plenty of wind. Had lunch and dry clothes in a little tree nook right at the pass. Wild weather is great when one is dry and warm! Decided to bail on the lake.

Coming down, the weather cleared a bit and we began to dawdle. By the time we got to the intersection with the Longs Pass trail, the weather was quite nice. So, up we went again, hoping for a better view of the Stuarts. We weren't disappointed.

It's a good trail, smooth and moderately sloped. The rock up here is so amazing—rusty rough red on the weathered outside, and sharp slick green-black on the inside. Slick as slug slime when wet, I might add.

Got wet again coming out. Glad not to be backpacking.—Peg Ferm, Monroe, 9/5.

### SOUTH CENTRAL



### ▲ STAMPEDE PASS (USGS Stampede Pass)

Our hearts had been yearning for the annual trek in search of the luscious huckleberry. Finally, the day arrived and we headed to our favorite spot near Stampede Pass with three friends in tow. At first it looked like our favorite site had already been picked over. It was soon evident,

however, that this year's supply was not as abundant as years past. With patient searching we discovered bushes that yielded their fruit to our ever hungry "huckle buckets."

The weather was warm and sunny with a delightful breeze providing. We joked and laughed with occasional spots of quiet for serious picking. In about an hour we had all picked what we needed. Three of us hiked the PCT northward for fifteen minutes to catch the next view, then returned to our cars parked at Stampede Pass.—Shortstop and Wanderbuns, Kirkland, 8/28.

### ▲ STORM KING MOUNTAIN (USGS Mineral, Glenoma)

This is a "Pack and Pedal" report. It was good to be "on the road again" with old biker friends, Jeff and Reed. This particular "Storm King" (there are at least three in Washington), at a modest 4750 feet, lies halfway between Elbe and Morton, just east of Highway 7. Its biggest claim to fame is that it has over 2200 feet of prominence, as its east ridge dips to 2520 feet, then rises to the next higher summit.

The trip was fraught with problems. At the start, Reed discovered he'd left his bike seat (of all things) at home, bad news. He strapped some padding on the open hole with a piece of manila rope. Then, I realized I'd left my lunch on the kitchen counter. Luckily I found a left-over Power Bar in the trunk. Unluckily, it was a Power Bar, if you know what I mean.

We found our way safely around a DNR gate near Ladd Lake off Highway 7 that seemed okay, after encountering an inhospitable Murray Pacific Logging gate/sign.

We pumped up the road paralleling the East Fork of Tilton Creek, dodging the bullets of some maniac target/game-shooter lower down, then took a left turn at the pass 6.5 miles from Highway 7.

This summit-bound road had been freshly graded, which made it pretty much impossible to ride. Reed became disgusted enough with the pushing endeavor to head back down after another 3 miles. He left a note on my car on his return that he'd suffered a flat tire on the exit, and rode the last 7 miles out "on the rim." Ouch.

Jeff and I persevered to the top of Storm King (12 miles from Highway 7) and enjoyed a panorama that a 2200-foot-prominence peak gives. Rainier, as always, dominated the scene, and made its immediate surrounding 2000-foot-prominence peaks (Wow, High Rock, Purcell, Unicorn, Curtis Gilbert) look

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like pimples. A flying red ant convention on the very top made us have lunch a few feet below, near a small shack and antenna.

We decided to "satisfy loop requirements" and avoid the graded road by returning via a road that headed down the north, then the south side of the ridge that separated Tilton River (Highway 7) from 19 Mile Creek. All went well for about 1000 feet down, then as soon as Jeff cheered our good choice, the road became "decommissioned" and reverted to berms and tight 20-foot-high alders.

Bad enough, but pushable, then after a couple of miles, we ran into rock slides across the road, the first couple minor, dangerous nuisances, but then a serious slide wiped out more than 100 yards of the mountainside to bedrock, which would have been difficult enough to cross without a bike, but we had 'em.

We debated a full retreat, but decided to endure, lugging our bikes over the monster slide. Once we reached the other side, we were totally wiped out. Jeff had lost his odometer, ripped off by brush on this crossing, and my rear brake was caught along the way by a mean bush and twisted beyond function.

The road eventually improved, but on the final ride down, I was exhausted enough to "take a header" when my front wheel hit a rogue rock. I catapulted forward, splattering and bruising my tired left body on the rocky road. Luckily, all parts seemed to gather themselves and hold together, and we continued the ride back to the car. 3.75 hours up, 2.5 hours down. Go back down the up route!—John Roper, Bellevue, 9/12.

 **GRAND PARK** (USGS White River Park, Sunrise)—Drive Highway 410 through Greenwater and turn right onto road 73. Follow this road a little more than 10 miles to the trailhead. This is a good gravel road; the last 4 miles are very steep and narrow, but have dramatic views of the Huckleberry and Eleanor creek valleys.

A small trailhead parking area is at the crossing of Eleanor Creek (there is a sign "Eleanor Cr Elev 4550"). No outhouse or bulletin board or any other trailhead facilities. The road here is within ¼-mile of the park boundary.

Trail starts on the south side of the road and heads south. We (Bob, Ricard, Elaine, and Annie) all piled out of the car eager to start up, and were assaulted by black flies until we all applied our bug dope. Clear sunny weather, temp about 65, light breeze from the northwest.

Starting up the trail in dense forest

we climbed over 15 or more major logs and stepped over another 30 or so minor ones before reaching Lake Eleanor (5000 feet) in 1 mile. A nice little lake with 3 campsites. We met a family with a cute 2½-year-old baby camping here.

The official trail starts here and is well maintained with no downed timber. Leaving the lake the trail climbs slightly to the southeast through the forest and then drops 200 feet in the next ½-mile to the first astounding view at a large meadow (about ¼-mile across at 4850 feet). Rainier rose majestically over the forest beyond as we came into the meadow.

We crossed the meadow back into the open forest and crossed a little stream. From here the trail started up and climbed steeply for about ¾-mile, then a few little clearings and less gradient signal nearness to Grand Park.

After about ¼-mile more we came out into the park and in another ¼-mile we rounded a grove of alpine fir and met the north face of Rainier up close (it was actually about 4 miles away).


Now we walked on the level for another mile through the stupendous meadow land of Grand Park with Rainier in view all the way. A good breeze up here blew the insects away.

We stopped at the junction with the northern loop trail (5600 feet) and found a shady grove of fir for our lunch site. Temperature now up over 70 and over 80 in the sun. To the southeast of us Mount Fremont was a solid dark green with the lookout building just visible on top.


Several other groups were coming or going or relaxing but a couple of dozen people in such a giant open park made almost no human impact. We heard only the wind and the bees.

After about an hour of lunching and resting we reluctantly packed up for our trip back out. On the way down a cold hat-full of water over the head was really refreshing, at the little stream crossing and again at the lake.


We arrived back at the car at 4 after a 5½-hour trip. About 8 miles and 1500 feet total gain.—Robert Michelson, Seattle, 8/28.

 **SKYSCRAPER** (USGS Sunrise)—Originally intended to hike out to Palisade Lake but encountered deep snow and flattened trees near Clover Lake so turned back. Went from Sunrise to Skyscraper, on the Wonderland Trail to the north trending ridge leading to the summit. There is a boot track all the way.

About a 2½ hour trip at a moderate picture-taking pace. About 1273 feet vertical gain outbound, 560 inbound. Elevations are from the map; I don't have one of the new wrist computers. Sighted one deer, many marmots in meadows. Actually several would be more exact but less euphonious. Wildflowers, just what one would expect in mid-July.—Paul G. Schaufler, Olympia, 8/17.

 **SOURDOUGH RIDGE/HUCKLEBERRY CREEK TRAVERSE** (USGS Sunrise)—By arranging two vehicles, Heather and I got to explore one of the wildest and loneliest valleys in Mount Rainier National Park. We left Sunrise Point and hiked up Dege Peak. From here we surveyed the Huckleberry Creek drainage—a valley of gigantic firs and hemlocks, scores of elk and bear and no hikers.

We continued along the Sourdough trail and then began the descent into the Huckleberry Creek valley on the trail with the same name. This trail drops over 3000 feet and travels 10 miles to road 73. We encountered one hiker coming out of pretty little Forest Lake. The old guard station is still standing and this obscure trail is in remarkably good shape. A walk on this path is a walk back in time—perfect way to celebrate Rainier's 100 years. The entire hike was 14 miles and most of it was down hill.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 9/2.

 **INTERGLACIER** (USGS Sunrise)—With the big snow year I decided this was my chance to go skiing in September, the most difficult month of the year to find decent skiing. I toured the Inter in late season several years ago and observed that its northly aspect limits suncupping, bane of the summer skier.

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From White River Campground (4300 feet) I goose-stepped in my plastic tele boots up the wide and smooth (and as yet uncrowded) trail to Glacier Basin. After catching my breath I continued up the moraine trail to the foot of the snow at 6700 feet.

From here there is no routefinding, just a straight line of bootprints up the middle of the snowfield. A few crevasses were open at 8200 feet, but not in the ascent path. The route veers south to reach Camp Curtis, 8700 feet, on the edge of the great wedge which splits the Emmons and Winthrop Glaciers.

The view across the jumbled Emmons to Little Tahoma from this little patch of rubble is fantastic. A cloudcap streamed over the summit on this warm day, and I looked back toward Sunrise, where I knew Shannon was grading papers and napping in the sun, so nearby it seemed. I pulled on wind pants and gloves and ratcheted down the buckles on my boots.

Little patches of week-old snow filled in the dips, elsewhere the skiing surface was half-inch scallops softened by the heat. I swished back and forth down the middle of the slope, the thickening row of Camp Schurman-bound climbers on my left. All too soon I was watching a creek issue forth from the end of my ski run.

The hike out was peppered by questions from the National Park day-tripper crowd: "Were you skiing on the snow up there?"—Peter Krystad, Seattle, 9/4.

**▲▲ CLIFF LAKE (USGS Mt Rainier East)**—1.3 miles and about an hour to Pinnacle Pass from Reflection Lakes. Gain about 860 feet. From Pinnacle Pass, hang a left to summit Pinnacle Peak, gain another 840 feet. Hang a right, lose about 840 feet to get to Cliff Lake, just south of Lane Peak.

Alternative to returning would be devolve to a tadpole and stay at the lake. Boot track from Pinnacle Saddle crosses on the north face of the ridge, steep snow to cross with care. Pond on Plummer is still a snow field.

From here the track drops to the saddle between Plummer and Denman. Beyond Denman the track becomes a trace across the south slope of Denman. Then drops and meanders down to the saddle between Denman and Lane.

Cliff Lake is a narrow lake, virtually no ends, both sides are talus slopes, no shore per se. From the saddle it's about 1¼ hours to the lake. A little longer on the uphill haul back. Small snow patches, avalanche lilies, mosquitoes, horseflies. Lots of valerian along the

trail.—Paul G. Schaufler, Olympia, 9/8.

**▲ SHRINER PEAK (USGS Chinook Pass)**—The bracken fern is pretty tall but there is very little more shade on this hike than there was when Ira wrote it up in the 1969 50 Hikes in Mt. Rainier National Park.

Since the trail leads to a lookout it was built to a standard that would accommodate pack mules to carry in construction materials and to supply the lookout. Anyhow, trail is in good condition, spotty snow in the trees between the lookout water source at around 5400 feet and where the trail again breaks out into the open.

The lookout catwalk has collapsed even more since last viewed in '97. A solar panel has been mounted on a pole to supply power but there is no evidence of an attempt to repair the lookout. As for views, the eye popper as you first crest the ridge makes the whole trip worthwhile; often wonder why I bother to go on to the lookout.—Paul G. Schaufler, Olympia, 8/22.

**▲ SHRINER PEAK (USGS Chinook Pass)**—This great (and lonely) hike was reported by Leigh Champlin in the September issue. It is now snowfree to the top.

I think it's best done early in the day to avoid the heat in the exposed parts. I started at 7:30 and when I popped out of the clouds at about 4500 feet the views were great the rest of the way. No one else on trail all morning.—Phil Evans, Mukilteo, 9/16.

**▲▲ PINNACLE PEAK (USGS Mt Rainier East)**—An eclectic mix of climbers, scramblers, and scramble students left the Reflection Lakes parking lot about 8:15am.

Encountered a few well consolidated patches of snow enroute to Pinnacle Peak saddle, along with spring flowers. It's about an hour's hike on this well trodden trail.

Another two hours found us on top of Pinnacle in cold blowing fog, 50 foot visibility. One of the really heartening aspects of the ascent was the way the experienced climbers provided coaching and moral support to the somewhat apprehensive students.

Long lunch at the summit, back at Reflection Lakes at 2pm after an uneventful descent. Beat the forecast rain out.—Paul G. Schaufler, Olympia, 8/29.

**▲ PANHANDLE GAP (USGS Mt Rainier East)**—I was here a month ago with my kids wallowing through snow and wanted to see what it

really looks like, so went back alone today. No snow on trail until past Summerland now, and even then most of the trail was exposed up to the Gap.

Not many flowers at Summerland. One hour, 40 minutes to Summerland vs. 5½ hours a month ago! What a difference a little snow can make!—Phil Evans, Mukilteo, 9/16.

**▲ SUNRISE LOOP (USGS White River Park, Sunrise)**—I walked a pleasant loop I haven't seen described before though I'm sure many have done it. I got a campsite about noon at White River Campground and left the car there, heading up the Wonderland Trail to Sunrise where I lunched before going to the Mount Fremont Lookout.

Next, by way of Frozen Lake, I climbed to Second Burroughs then down to the Glacier Basin trail. Here I headed west toward Interglacier and found a peaceful place for supper on the climbing trail before returning east to my campsite at White River.

The weather and views were perfect. This made about a 15-mile trip with probably 4000 feet total elevation gain. Highly recommended!—Phil Evans, Mukilteo, 9/15.

**▲ WONDERLAND TRAIL (USGS Mt Rainier West, Mt Wov, Golden Lks, Mowich Lk, Sunrise, White River Park, Chinook Pass, Mt Rainier East)**—My companions on this trip were Doris and Dayton Curtis of Burien. We hiked the Wonderland Trail clockwise starting from Longmire.

The complete loop took us 9 days, August 22-30. Winnie Becker joined us for two days, providing resupply at Mowich Lake and Sunrise. The following are conditions we found along the trail.

Indian Henry's: patchy snow with early season flowers.

Emerald Ridge: trail was snow-free. Residual snowbanks were useful for topping off water bottles on this hot section of trail. The views here more than lived up to the glowing accounts in the trail guides.

South Puyallup River: trail crossing has a temporary bypass around bridge under construction. It is poorly done with a rough scramble down the rocky stream bank. Park Service says a trail crew will work on it this fall.

St. Andrews Park: still snow-covered. Three windfalls were awkward to climb over wearing a heavy pack. St. Andrews Lake was completely frozen.

Klapatche Park: very buggy. It is worth a night here to experience the

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Paul G. Schauflier

Interglacier and Steamboat Prow from Third Burroughs. Mount Rainier National Park.

fabulous sunset view.

**Golden Lakes:** extremely buggy. I found an abandoned trail to the old Sunset Park lookout site. Views of the South Mowich Glacier were well worth a side trip. I tried hiking farther up the ridge. Passing near a small melt pond, I surprised a large black bear. He splashed out into a flower meadow then turned and glared at me. I hastily backed away with apologies for disturbing the wilderness solitude.

**South Mowich River:** the trail descending from Aurora Park has numerous messy blowdowns. We passed a trail crew working to clear the biggest logs. The bridge crossing at the river is partially flooded on one end. Best to cross early in the morning before the water level rises.

**Spray Park:** trail snow-free to the crest. One easy snowfield descending above Mist Park.

**Mystic Camp:** one of the most pleasant stops during the trip. The lake was fairly warm and very refreshing after 5 days on the trail.

**West Fork White River:** a short section of trail looping below the Winthrop Glacier is washed out. A rough bypass has been constructed.

**Granite Creek Camp:** had the best lupine display during the trip.

**Summerland:** several icy snow patches on the switchbacks going up. Flowers here were just getting started.

**Panhandle Gap:** one moderately steep snow patch coming out of Summerland. The middle section of trail was

melted out. The final push over the gap was on snow with well beaten footsteps.

The next mile was mostly snow-covered. The route was easy to follow. After 30 minutes on snow, I rounded the corner above Ohanapeosh Park to find a dazzling display of colorful flowers. The pallet of purple heather, magenta paintbrush, blue lupine and yellow buttercups was the finest of our trip.

**Indian Bar:** snow prevailed here, with only one campsite melted out. An amazing run of seven sunny days came to an end as we hiked out the next morning in fog. As consolation, all the open ground was covered with blooming anemones. I have never seen such a prolific display of this flower. The trail was obscure going up to Cowlitz Divide, but once on the ridge, it was mostly snow-free.

**Nickel Creek:** a very pleasant spot to rest for the final push to Longmire. Light rain moved in during the night. We even got a few snowflakes while hiking past Reflection Lakes the next afternoon. This change in weather made it easier to say goodbye to the aptly named Wonderland Trail.—Ken Hoping, Bellevue, 8/22-30.

**IPSUT PASS, WONDERLAND TRAIL** (USGS Mowich Lk)—If you haven't had the pleasure of hiking out of Ipsut Campground, give it a try. The timber is tall, the air is sweet, the flowers are striking, and the red huckleberries abound. The trails are soft and the creeks run swift.

My son and his friend were doing the Wonderland Trail. We were at the campground to supply them and decided to hike south to Ipsut Pass and try to intercept them.

The first 3 miles of the trail are wonderful. Big trees, and all of the amenities an old forest has to offer, abound. At the top of the pass and a few yards east, people were everywhere. Most people were going to Tolmie Peak Lookout and the nearby lake.

The next day my son and his friend headed for Redstone Camp at 9:48. I hiked with them 3 miles and was back at the campground by noon.—Wanderbuns and Shortstop, Kirkland, 9/11-12.

**TATOOSH RIDGE** (USGS Tatoosh Lks)—Sister Jacki and I figured that this trail, which is in the Tatoosh Wilderness, should finally be free of snow—or almost. Taking two cars, we began the hike at the north trailhead (road 5270) and walked toward the south trailhead (road 5290), thereby saving 500 feet of gain.

Gaining the ridge in a long 2 miles, we were treated to fields of green interspersed with all varieties and colors of wildflowers. Turning south at the ridge, in just under 2 miles we took the short side trail to the old lookout site for abundant views of Mount Rainier front and center, Mount Adams, St. Helens, the Goat Rocks, and many more.

Not too far south of the lookout junction, the trail begins to alternate between forest and meadow until it finally just becomes heavy forest. Here the way becomes ugly with a steep, dry, rocky trail and zero views.

Looking down upon Tatoosh Lakes from the ridge, we noticed that they were still ringed with snow. There was quite a bit of snow on the north side of the ridge all along. When the trail switched from the south side to the north side of the ridge, we began walking in large snow patches but not so large that we ever lost the trail completely. Below 5000 feet, the snow vanished.

When we parked the cars at the two trailheads around 11am (we really got a late start on this trail), there were no others in sight but upon returning, three cars were at the north trailhead. However, we saw no one else the entire day.—Ginny Evans, Renton, 8/25.

**FLATIRON LAKE** (USGS Old Scab Mtn)—From our campsite at Soda Springs on the Bumping River we followed this seldom used trail nearly 3000 feet vertical feet out of the valley to Flatiron Lake. Nice forest,

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nice views of Old Scab, nice meadows teeming with elk scat and mosquitoes!

Trail hasn't been maintained in years—easy to follow but I recorded the blowdowns on the way back: 96! We were greeted at our car with a big east coast style thunderstorm! Heather and I had just spent a week in northern Maine where we had these types of storms every day. Sheesh—not here too!—Craig Romano, Seattle, 8/7.

**GOAT PEAK** (USGS *Bumping Lk, Old Scab Mtn*)—This high point on American Ridge can be reached from several trailheads: the Hells Crossing trailhead on Highway 410 across from the Hells Crossing Campground, from either end of the American Ridge trail, and from the Goat Creek trailhead. We chose the latter.

The trailhead is about 5½ miles along the Bumping River road from Highway 410, across from the Goat Creek campground. The trailhead seems to have been relocated since we last did this hike, with marked parking spaces for about 4 or 5 cars.

The trail begins in woods and switchbacks in about 4 miles to the ridgetop where it joins the American Ridge trail. There were a lot of blowdowns but they did not pose a problem. Someone had cleared a few, but there are lots more to go.

At the junction with the American Ridge trail the summit (6473 feet) is about another mile. At this point are lots of open meadows and lots of wildflowers. We had views of Fifes Ridge, Mount Aix and other nearby peaks as well as Bumping Lake. The clouds and fog obscured the view of the Cascades and Mount Rainier to the west. About 10 minutes after reaching the summit the clouds closed in on us and brought a light drizzle so we did not remain long, returning by the same trail.

If transportation can be arranged it is possible to return on one of the other trails. We were surprised to see lots of snow around Chinook Pass.—Leigh Champlin, Seattle, 8/29.

## SOUTH



**POMPEY PEAK** (*Green Trails Packwood, Blue Lake, Randle*)—This is a no-hands hike, and

is far enough south to be sunnier and warmer than Seattle or the central Cascades.

We went down I-5 to Highway 7 and then 12 toward White Pass. (The Forest Service station is east of Randle and their road map may be a worthwhile \$3 if your quad maps are older; logging roads seem to be added and subtracted frequently.)

Turn off on road 20, a steep and long dirt road, but in good condition—if you don't mind slaloming around potholes. Although the ranger said to drive to Jackpot Lake, we never saw it.

When the road turns north, you have just passed the connecting trail, which is at an obvious campsite at the margin of a large clearcut. The map claims it is 4700 feet but our altimeters both read 4400. The trail is to your right, and after a short distance connects to trail 7, which goes up very steeply to the ridge at 5300 feet.

In .6-mile is a sizable tarn—the only water. Look back to your left and you will see a short trail to an overlook of the Cispus River, an old lookout site. It's reasonably level thereafter, and at 1.1 miles is the origin of the Pompey trail 128 on your right.

When you come to an open spot on the ridge that looks down to the Cowlitz, keep to the right on the bare ridge and walk a few hundred feet uphill until it quits going up, and you are then on the summit, such as it is, at 5177 feet.

The ridge top was still green and with numerous patches of snow. The flowers were peaking at the end of August; I quit counting after 20 varieties.

For climbers, there are two moderately challenging peaks that you pass on the trail, Castle Butte and Twin Sisters, both of which have short class 4 sections, but can be done in a couple of hours each.—Warren Guntheroth, Ed Emery, and Sasha, Seattle, 8/31.



## CISPUS PEAK LO, CASTLE BUTTE, TWIN SISTERS,

**LITTLE VESUVIUS** (*USGS Blue Lake*)—These peaks are on the Cowlitz River-North Fork Cispus divide just east-southeast of Randle. Reliable Dick Michelson met me at 6am in Bellevue, and drove us 111 miles (via Elbe/Randle) to road 20 which took us up Smith Creek, south of Highway 12—we calculated that it's 10 miles shorter to this point via Packwood/Cayuse Pass on our way home.

It's 13 miles up the Smith Creek road to the "Klickitat Trail" (4600 feet), just west of Jackpot Lake.

Hiking 1.8 miles, and less than an

hour from the car, we stood atop Cispus Peak, 5656 feet, the site of a long-gone lookout built in 1925, passing a dilapidated A-frame and a pleasant meadow with a pond along the cutoff trail.

We hiked back to the main trail and continued over to west of Castle Butte, then scrambled it, up this side, occasionally spotting a boot and paw print that we ascribed to Warren Guntheroth and Sasha.

So we returned to the trail and hoofed it cross-country over to both of the Twin Sisters. The south Sister, at 5818 feet, is the highest thing around for miles, but its summit was treed enough to make us scuff and quickly descend its north ridge to a full-view summit, and lunch, on the lower north Sister, 5647 feet, 3.25 hours from the car.

The original plan was to continue to Pompey Peak, which would have been a trail hike, but we both had early obligations back home, so we quit at an intermediate Peak 5482, "Little Vesuvius," a mile north of Twin Sisters, which had impressed us with its east-face volcanic palisade from Castle. From here we hiked straight back to the car on the trail. We were back to Bellevue in less than 12 hours round trip.—John Roper, Bellevue, 9/2.



## LAVA CANYON TRAIL

(*USGS Smith Creek Butte*)—What a fun and interesting little trail. Beginning at Lahar at the end of road 83, this trail loses 1200 feet elevation in 2.5 miles to its end at the junction with the Smith Creek trail. The trailhead sign said the trail is 3 miles long but the guidebook and map say 2.5; it seemed more like 2.5 to us.

This very narrow and steep path follows the turbulent Muddy River as it plummets down a slot canyon. Walls of columnar basalt rise steeply on both sides of the river making it necessary to use metal ladders in two spots and suspension bridges where the trail crosses the river. The river is still quite high and it was fascinating to watch the swirling water carve its way downstream.

There are two must-do side trips along the way. About halfway is a short side trail called the Ship which leads to an overlook upstream with a view of a tall basaltic wall resembling the bow of an ocean liner.

On the return trip, cross the Muddy on the new suspension bridge and take the parallel trail on the south side of the river back to the trailhead. Climb the easy rock alongside the river up high for commanding views both up and downstream.

Near its junction with the Smith

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

Creek trail, our trail leveled out, and we found a nice shady spot under some trees overlooking the Muddy for a lunch break. The area opened up and behind us stood Mount St. Helens with a light dusting of new snow on her upper flanks.—Ginny Evans, Renton, 9/2.



## BIRD CREEK MEADOWS (USGS Mt Adams East)—

Meadows not as spectacular this year as previously. Only a few paintbrush, lupine, phlox and buttercup. Road from reservation boundary to Mirror Lake greatly improved by the Yakama Nation although very dusty, and if wet very muddy. From Mirror Lake to Bird Creek Meadows trailhead somewhat improved.

\$5 day use fee being collected. \$10 overnight fee. \$25 annual permit. Payable to attendant at Mirror Lake or at administration office at Bird Lake.—Dale Graves, Des Moines, 9/2.

## UTAH



### SUNSET PEAK (USGS Brighton)—

Sunset Peak (10,648 feet) is easily reached via trail and climbers' path from Albion Basin at Alta ski area in the central Wasatch Mountains. The trailhead is but 30 minutes from downtown Salt Lake City up Little Cottonwood Canyon. There is a small parking area at the start of the Catherine Pass trail at about 9400 feet.

The maintained trail climbs easterly 1.1 miles to Catherine Pass (10,200+ feet). Heading south from the pass, a good climbers' track nearly tops Point Supreme (10,480+ feet). The path then drops east slightly before switchbacking up to the summit of Sunset Peak, .6-miles from the pass.

Sunset Peak affords good views in all directions, with many nearby mountains, lakes and canyons. It has a clean prominence of 408 feet, the next higher peak being Mount Wolverine (10,795 feet) just northwest of Catherine Pass.

The round trip distance to Sunset Peak from Albion Basin is 3.4 miles, with a total gain of about 1400 feet, all class 1. From Sunset Peak a crude path drops northeast 400 feet, then climbs Pioneer Peak (10,440+ feet). From Catherine Pass, a short scramble north leads to gentle upper slopes of Mount Wolverine.—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 9/4.



### MOUNT BALDY (USGS Dromedary Peak)—

Mount Baldy (11,068 feet) is the highest point on the periphery of two major ski areas in Little Cottonwood Canyon in the

Wasatch Mountains. Its cliffy north face forms the end of Collins Gulch at Alta, and its west slope rims upper Peruvian Gulch at Snowbird.

The easiest means to the top, if you want to spend the bucks, is to ride the Snowbird tram to Hidden Peak (10,992 feet) on the ridge between Baldy and American Fork Twin Peaks; from here the round trip is a hike of only 1.2 miles with a total gain of about 650 feet.

More economical is the hike and simple scramble from Alta's Albion Basin. From the campground parking lot at about 9400 feet, a popular trail climbs .8-mile to Secret (sometimes spelled "Cecret") Lake.

From the northwest corner of the lake, a climbers' track climbs southwest, reaching a chairlift at about 10,150 feet. From a short ways up the ski run, both a path and a road can be taken to Germania Pass (about 10,500 feet).

From here a path west climbs very steeply up loose brushy scree (class 2) to gentle open slopes at 10,700 feet, then easily on to the summit. This round trip is about 5 miles with a gain of approximately 1700 feet. Views from the top are spectacular.—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 9/5.



### SUGARLOAF (USGS Dromedary Peak)—

Sugarloaf (11,051 feet) forms part of the southern rim of Albion Basin at Alta ski area. It has a clean prominence of 531 feet above Germania Pass to the west, the next higher point being Mount Baldy (11,068 feet), .7-mile away. Sugarloaf's east slope leads to a col (10,760- feet), just beyond which begins the rugged crags of Devils Castle (10,920+ feet).

Albion Basin is at the end of Little Cottonwood Canyon. From the campground parking lot (about 9400 feet) a busy trail leads to Secret (or "Cecret") Lake (9,840+ feet); the lake is directly north of the summit cliffs.

From here are two class 1 routes to the top; these make a nice loop trip. The regional guidebooks describe the climbers' path starting off along the east side of lake; this climbs steep loose scree to the east col. Only a few traces of path can be found from the col to the summit, but the goal is obvious and the grade gentle.

An alternate route starts from the northwest side of the lake, a rocky foot track climbing southwest over to a ski slope and a maintenance road. Either of these can be followed to Germania Pass, as can an obscure trail in between them. From the pass an obvious climbers' path zig-zags up the steeper west slope to the top. Views abound in all di-

rections. Round trip, with or without doing a loop, is about 4 miles with a total gain of about 1700 feet.

Attractive additional explorations will extend this, of course. Mount Baldy is particularly inviting, and will add another couple of miles, about 600 feet and a bit of scrambling to the day. One could also attempt approaching Devils Castle; however, although one of the guidebooks assures that a fit hiker can, with coaching from an experienced scrambler or rock climber, make it along the knife-edge ridge to the first summit, it also points out that the route is extremely exposed and that the consequences of a fall would be serious.

I concur with the last phrase, and would regard this as a roped climb.—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 9/5.

## OREGON



### TOP LAKE LOOP—

From Peninsula campground on Olallie Lake, just north of Mount Jefferson, we hiked about 1 mile along the west shore of Olallie Lake (mostly road) to a trailhead across the road from the Olallie Lake Guard Station. We then hiked west on the PCT for 1.4 miles to a four-way junction.

At the junction we went left on the Red Lake trail. (I don't know where the name comes from. We saw several lakes but none of them, as nearly as we could tell, was named Red.) The trail dropped steeply to Top Lake.

Our plan was to drop down the Red Lake trail to the road and complete our loop but we managed to miss our junction and ended up at Cigar Lake. Actually none of us minded the mistake because Cigar Lake turned out to be the prettiest and most fascinating that we saw on our entire trip. I recommend the side trip.

We backtracked, found our elusive junction, and dropped to the road on the Red Lake trail for a little over 5 miles total. A very pretty trip.—Kim Hyatt, Salem, 9/1.



### RUDDY HILL—

The plan was to drive to the PCT trailhead parking lot near Breitenbush Lake and hike to the top of Pyramid Butte. We were told that the road was okay as far as Horseshoe Lake and then it got bad. Well, the road from Monon Lake to Horseshoe Lake was as bad as anything I have driven on since we got rid of our 4x4 Suburban a few years back. It was drivable—we drove it—but plenty of power and a lot of road clearance are necessities. If the road past



# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

Horseshoe Lake was worse we decided we didn't really want any.

There was a trailhead at Horseshoe Lake for the Horseshoe saddle trail and we decided to hike this instead. Turned out to be a great choice. The 1-mile-long trail was mostly level at first and then climbed steeply for the last ¼-mile to the PCT. We went right and hiked about a ¼-mile to a junction with the Ruddy Hill trail. This junction is easy to miss. One of our party did miss it. Luckily we could see him make his mistake and we hollered at him to come back.

The extremely steep Ruddy Hill trail climbed the side of the cinder cone to a far more gentle upper slope and then angled diagonally toward the summit. Near the top we went around a large snowbank and scrambled to the summit. The view was absolutely stunning! We could almost reach out and touch Mount Jefferson.—Kim Hyatt, Salem, 9/2.



## SOUTH BRIETENBUSH TRAIL

—We drove into the Olallie Scenic Area on Sunday afternoon. The last 20 miles are on a very narrow, winding road and we met about 40 vehicles coming out. We were afraid of the same problem in reverse on Friday so after our Ruddy Hill hike on Thursday we drove out and found a campsite in the Breitenbush campground.

Friday morning we hiked the South Breitenbush trail from the first trailhead on road 4685 to the bridge over Roaring Creek, about 4 miles round trip. A lovely, gentle hike through gorgeous old growth. Good trail. Very enjoyable. After the hike my wife Paula and I checked things out and found that apparently the trail has now been considerably extended up the canyon. One of these days we will have to try the whole hike, one way.

Friday afternoon we drove home, on adequately wide two-lane highways, past 197 zillion vehicles coming the other way. As is our custom we spent Labor Day weekend at home watching the US Open.—Kim Hyatt, Salem, 9/3.

## CANADA



**WHISTLER**—Sherron and I took the Whistler Mountain gondola up to the top station. The ride is spectacular and probably close to 3 miles and just about 4000 feet vertical. After lunch at the lodge overlooking the valley, and almost losing my sandwich to a whiskey jack (local name for a Canada jay), we started up the summit trail. Whistler is named after the numerous marmots, but we didn't see or hear any.

We planned to just go up the road/trail a ways to see some better views south, but each turn drew us on. The views were really something! We summited Little Whistler, continued on the road dipping down about 100 feet then summited Whistler proper at 7160 feet.

The road was very steep in many places but the views were some of the best I've enjoyed and it was particularly nice to share them with my seldom-hiking wife. We hiked about 5 miles round trip and gained about 1200 feet.

No snow on the road but some 4-foot banks still by the sides in places. Footing was mostly firm with occasional gravel. No drinking water above the lodge.—Tom Karasek, Stanwood, 9/13.

## MAINE



### GULF HAGAS SCENIC AREA

—Heather and I connected with various family members for a week of hiking, canoeing, and whitewater rafting in the Moosehead Lake region of Maine. One highlight was the Gulf Hagas Scenic Area.

Gulf Hagas is an area that includes miles of waterfalls, glacial potholes, and narrow clefts in a beautiful gorge. An 8 mile loop using the Appalachian Trail takes you to all of the scenic overlooks and features. Due to the East Coast's drought, the ford of the Pleasant River was a cake walk.

Even though Gulf Hagas is public land administered by the National Park Service, day visitors must pay a steep \$8 a person user fee to the private timber companies that own the road and parking area that accesses the trail. The Trail Park Pass is a bargain in comparison.—Craig Romano, Seattle, August.

## WYOMING



### CASCADE CANYON

(Grand Teton National Park)—In an attempt to get used to altitude for our upcoming backpack in the Wind Rivers and also just to see some of this magnificent park, Alan and Jeanie Mcbane suggested this popular hike. For \$5 per person, we took the shuttle boat both ways across Jenny Lake, thereby saving 4 miles of trail

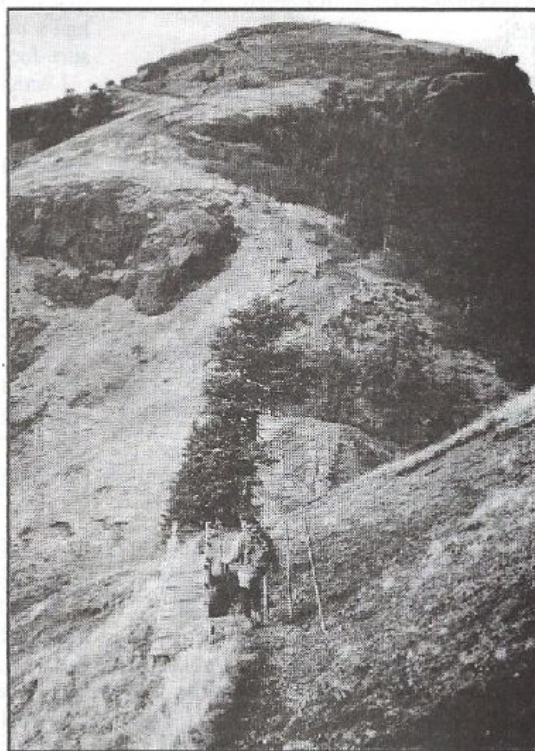
around the lake.

After being deposited at the boat dock on the far side of Jenny Lake, we immediately began hiking uphill. In short order we came upon Hidden Falls, a 200-foot cascade, and then Inspiration Point which overlooks Jenny Lake and Jackson Hole. After that, the trail levels out and follows Cascade Canyon and creek of the same name west to Canyon Forks for a total of 9 miles round trip with 1100 feet gain.

Towering above to the south, we had views of Tecwinot Mountain, Mount Owen and Grand Teton all the way up the canyon. The canyon itself is actually quite wide, and we were in the sun all day as we hiked alternatively through small forests and broad meadows full of wildflowers.

After Inspiration Point the crowds began to thin out just as the mosquito population began to pick up. By the time we reached Cascade Forks, we were being eaten alive as were the few other hikers we encountered.

The highlight of the hike occurred on our way back down the canyon. Grazing in the middle of a meadow were a cow moose and two calves. WOW! We've never seen a moose on a trail before. What a treat!—Ginny Evans, Renton, 8/16.



Bill Lynch on the final leg of the Saddle Mountain trail. Oregon Coast Range.

Jane Habegger

MADELEINE BEATY

## Mishap in Devils Gulch

—I WATCHED IN HORROR AS HE FELL INTO THE CREEK—

It was a gorgeous day last June 9th as Jim and I started out to make our annual 17.5-mile Mission Ridge-Devils Gulch loop, a great early season hike.

It is a long grind to the high point on the ridge but the many species of flowers, some very rare, and the beautiful green slopes through the open mostly pine forest made the effort more than worth while.

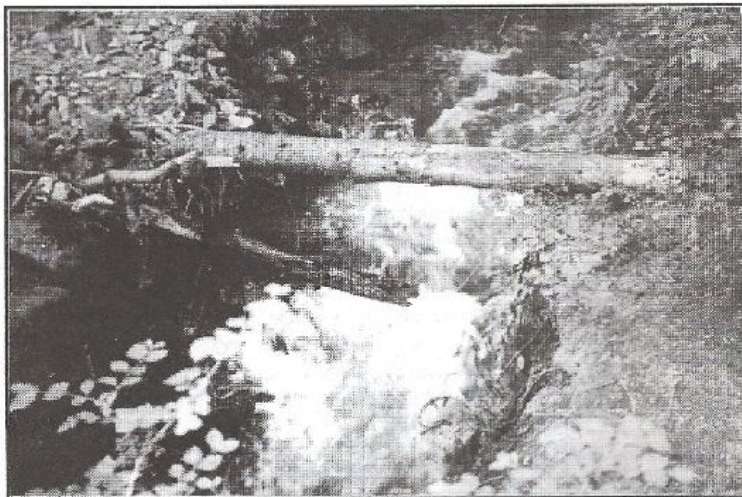
The views from the ridge are superb. There was still quite a bit of snow on the slopes of Mount Lillian and over toward Beehive Look-out. The trail was basically snowfree. We had to bundle up when we ate lunch near a snow patch at the high point on the ridge before we started downhill toward Devils Gulch.

When we got down to the valley floor we noticed that Mission Creek had recently been at flood stage but now seemed to be back in its normal creek bed. It was flowing very strong, however, which made me somewhat nervous about the coming creek crossings.

The first crossing was on a log fairly close to the water, but still quite manageable. The second crossing looked a bit more dangerous and I had Jim hold onto my hand as we edged our way across the log, I was relieved when we got on the other side.

As we hiked down the trail toward the third crossing of Mission Creek, I commented to Jim that I was glad that this crossing had a good bridge. This all the more so as several creeks joined the main one and added to its volume.

Well, so I thought. We soon found out that the bridge there for many years was gone and the creek had cut a new channel. Someone had thrown a log across the creek that was possibly 6 feet above the water. The log was small and



The log over Mission Creek that was Jim's undoing.

didn't look very stable on one end.

I didn't like the set up and told Jim that I would not cross on the log. Jim had a lot more courage and being more sure-footed he decided to cross the log.

I watched his every step and was glad when he made it to the other side of the creek, almost running at the end. He turned left to get back to the trail and that's when the mishap occurred.

The creek had undermined the bank and the ground gave way as he stepped down with his left foot. He lost his balance and fell backward into the rushing creek, as I watched with horror.

I ran down to the bank below the log and called to him, "Hang on, Jim, I am coming." He was hanging on all right, since the heel of his left boot got caught in a root like in a sling about half the way down the bank. The rest of his body was submerged in the creek except for his head.

At that point I had no fear of the swift water or the depth of it. I knew I had to get over to the other side to unhitch Jim's foot. After that was accomplished Jim asked if I could help him get his pack off since he still couldn't get up. I looked and told him there was

a reason for it since he was literally hanging on a large stick that had gone through the back of his T-shirt under the neck band from the inside to the outside. That was what kept his head out of the water.

I had to tug him upstream some to get him unhitched from the stick. He was finally able to get up. The bank was too high to get out right there so we had to wade downstream a bit.

After some push-me pull-you we finally managed to get up on top of the bank.

Now it was a matter of getting Jim into some dry clothes to prevent hypothermia. I got wet up to the waist but my pack stayed dry. I had polypropylene top and bottoms, a hat and neck piece, mittens and socks plus a warm fleece coat for Jim to change into. For some reason, I didn't get cold at all in spite of the frigid waters and I hiked out in shorts and T-shirt.

Jim's day pack usually weighs 20 or 30 pounds but now it was so heavy that I could hardly lift it. It would have been a good idea to wring out the wet stuff in the pack but Jim was too cold and we needed to get moving.

One thing he mentioned before we left was that he lost his Leki Makalu hiking pole. The current ripped it right out of his hand the minute he hit the water.

I quickly looked around but didn't see it so we left, thankful that we were able to walk away from the scene. Jim only had a scratch on the back of his neck where the stick went through the T-shirt.

As we trudged the remaining 2.5 miles back to the car with heavy packs and soggy boots, I thought of all the

Madeleine Beaty

things that could have happened—like Jim hitting his head on a rock or breaking bones in the fall. I do believe in guardian angels!

Once we got to our Vanagon, Jim changed into dry clothes since his drippy pack soaked him all the way to the car. I fixed something hot to eat and then helped Jim go through his pack. Everything was full of water, including bottles in his first aid kit. The contents in his wallet were all stuck together. We had things strung all over the parking lot to dry out.

We spent the night there and the next morning I left the Vanagon early to hike back up to the creek crossing to look for the lost hiking stick.

I promised I wouldn't set foot into the creek by myself.

When I got there I started to look downstream from the log crossing. A short distance from where we exited the creek the day before, the creek cut a very narrow and deep channel with a mass of roots dangling down under both undercut banks.

I thought the stick would never make

it through that raging gulch without getting hung up in the loose roots.

I walked a few feet farther and then noticed what looked like a black strap flapping back and forth in the middle of the creek. I could hardly believe my eyes! Apparently the stick went over a little waterfall and the point got stuck under a big rock with the top barely sticking out of the frothy water.

It was too far across to reach the strap from the bank and remembering my promise to Jim, I found a big heavy stick and put it through the strap. I tried to wiggle the pole loose, but it didn't budge.

I left the stick in the loop and hiked back to the car to get Jim. After a good breakfast we both hiked back up to retrieve the Leki pole. We first secured the loop with a cord and then Jim jerked the pole loose without getting wet. The pole was in excellent condition and Jim was mighty happy to get it back.

On the way back to the car I saw a rattlesnake crawling into the grass between Jim and me, and about a foot off

the trail. I'm sure the vibration from the hiking pole made it run off. The snake was at least 3 feet long and we watched it for a while until it crawled under a bush.

We hiked for two more days (in wet boots) before we returned home.

#### Lessons learned from the mishap:

1. It is best not to hike alone.
2. Take plenty of extra clothes.
3. Line the pack with a plastic bag that can be tied securely to keep the essentials dry if a hike includes creek crossings.
4. It is probably better to wade than cross on a dangerous log.

△

*Madeleine Beaty, of Federal Way, is an avid skier and hiker. She and Jim are both retired and have hiked a minimum of 500 miles a year for the past 13 years.*

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

**FOUND**—Daypack on trail to Kionaqua Lakes. Identify contents to claim. 425-861-1762 (Bellevue).

**FOUND**—Sport watch in chute going up Granite Mountain. Call to identify. 425-881-5443 (Redmond)

**FOR RENT**—Frantzian Mt. Hideaway apartment at Alpentail/Snoqualmie Pass. Popular with hikers and climbers, useful for PCT hikers. Call Pat, 425-434-6370, leave message (Snoqualmie Pass).

**FOR SALE**—Bell bicycle helmet (racing style small), MKS pedals, two pairs new performance neoprene booties (size 39,

small), REI and cycle pro touring bags like new, cables, shifters and other assorted goodies. First \$30 takes all. 253-862-4215 (Sumner).

**FOR SALE**—Rodriguez custom-built 23" road bicycle. 18 speed, tip shifters, frame pump and bottle racks, fenders, leather saddle, Blackburn racks and bags. Perfect shape. \$600. 206-329-1065 (Seattle).

**FOR SALE**—Mainer I 18-foot expedition sea kayak. Older boat, 2 bulkheads, watertight hatches, sliding seat, double glass on bottom. Selling with Lightning paddle, pvc Snapdragon skirt, and all the other gear needed for a big trip. Boat is in Port Townsend.

Contact Cory, 207-646-8007 (Maine), weldonius@hotmail.com. Make me an offer!

**JUST CRANK IT!**—New rock climbing guidebook to Mount Erie and Fidalgo

Island. Most routes range from 10 to 25 feet. Great for beginners and experts alike.

Price is \$12 plus \$1.50 for shipping (\$13.50 total). Dallas Kloke, 4012 M Ave, Anacortes WA 98221. 360-293-2904.

**OSAT**—A clean and sober climbing and mountaineering club, 206-236-967 or on the web: [www.osat.org](http://www.osat.org)

**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, 425-821-5752 (Kirkland).

JOHN and NICOLE RANDALL

## One Hiker's Pack

—TRASH BAGS AND BUG NETS MOST VALUABLE—

From the flat, hot, humid edge of *Pack & Paddle's* mailing list—Vestavia Hills, Alabama—comes this contribution to the gear column.

Daughter Nicole (17) and I (older) returned from our 7th annual 65-mile hike along the PCT and have made our selections for the best and worst of gear of the year.

### Most Valuable Item in Our Pack

Bug head net, black. \$9 from REI. While it adds +10 degrees temperature around your head, the joy of stopping after a tough climb and not having mosquitoes swarm over your sweaty face, nor have a no-see-um fly up your nose will change your outlook for the positive.

### Second Most Valuable Item in Our Pack

30 gallon trash bags, Hefty, black. 35 cents each. We had rain for 7 of 8 nights in the High Sierras (unusual for July). Sleeping bags and vital clothes remained dry. Used two of them in place of soaked Thermarests to keep our bags dry on a very stormy night above 11,000 feet.



At 13,200-foot Forester Pass on the PCT in California. John (55) and Robert (15) in back, with Nicole (17) and Darell (19) in front.

### Dad's new gear

Montrail Java GTX Gore-tex "trail-running" shoes. (The first time you see Dad running on the trail will be the last. Please take plenty of pictures.) These shoes simply worked. Lightweight and dry. Wore one pair of Thorlos (\$10/pair) and two pairs of undersocks the whole wet week. Purely a testament. This is a quality product, and will easily support a backpacker with a 55 to 60 pound pack, no matter what the naysayers say.

This is the second year Dad's worn the expensive Thorlo brand socks and they earn repeat kudos.

### Nicole's new gear

Kelty WS Tioga. With an "outty" spine, Nicole suffered every year with an internal frame pack. This year she switched. The women's WS Tioga not only eliminated the yearly abuse to the skin on her back, but the women's design also eliminated the dreaded Dead Hip Syndrome she's experienced every other year.

### Food

After three days our appetites returned. We both give third-year raves to

the Mountain House line of freeze-dried food. However, we each eat one of their 20-ounce "two-person" meals.

This year we changed up a bit. Mountain House offers Beef Chunks and Chicken Chunks in separate packages. Add one package to two meals and you're bulking up for relatively low cost and minimal weight.

Both their Corn and Garden Peas are delicious sides that we'd just throw into whatever meal we'd decided upon. The peas take longer to hydrate than advertised (by 5 minutes) but they are good.

### Peeves

Teva brand sandals. Dad is right-handed and not very flexible. The ankle snap is designed for left-handers and for folks who can bend their legs enough to see the clasp snap. Why didn't they have the snap on the right side of the ankle instead of the left? It would have been so simple. Instead, Dad grumbles every time he has to change into them at a stream crossing.

The MSR Dragonfly Stove. Dad realizes that it's virtually sacreligious to criticize MSR, especially since he's been so happy with the Bunson-burner Whisperlite that he's used for so many years, but he was not at all happy with the Dragonfly.

Perhaps it is the low altitude of Alabama but he has never been able to get the stove to work right. The "fly" part of the burner control never worked right, neither did the pump.

Dad says he's going to try to use the Ray Jardine method next year when we do the Muir Trail, but I doubt it.

△

Readers are invited to submit their own columns for "One Hiker's Gear." Follow the format in the August issue, or contact the P&P office for an easy form to guide you.

photo courtesy of Flat Rock

# PANORAMA

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

**SCHAUFLEER PRINTS**—On Friday, October 1st, 5 to 9pm, Paul Schaufleer (P&P contributor) will have a number of prints on display in Olympia for a "Celebrating Mount Rainier" exhibit.

The location is Steve Vento Photography, 109 Capitol Way North, in Olympia's fall Art Walk. Drop in and say hello.

**EVEREST CLIMBER TO SPEAK**—Don Beavon, who reached the summit of Mount Everest with the Everest Environmental Expedition of 1998 (see July 1998, page 29) will show slides and talk about his adventure at the Theler Community Center in Belfair on October 9.

Don, who lives in Lynnwood and is a P&P reader, has also climbed peaks in the Andes, and in 1997 climbed 26,906-foot Cho Oyu without supplemental oxygen.

The Theler Community Center is located at East 22871 Highway 3 in Belfair (between Bremerton and Shelton). The program will begin at 7:30pm. It is free (program organizers will pass the hat for donations).

**USER FEE DISCUSSION**—The Mountaineers Club will sponsor a panel discussion on recreational user fees on Thursday, October 14, from 7 to 9pm. The discussion will be held at the club building, 300 Third Avenue West, in Seattle.

For each of the past three years while pilot projects have been in place, The Mountaineers has hosted a user fee conference to discuss implementation of the fee demonstration law with federal land managers in the Pacific Northwest. The law itself and the concept of "pay to play" is now under renewed scrutiny by Congress, so instead of looking at the inner machinations of individual fee projects, this year's discussion is aimed at exploring the merits of the law itself.

By answering a series of questions posed by The Mountaineers Recreation Access Committee and audience participants, panelists Derrick Crandall of the American Recreation Coalition, Armando Menocal of the Public Access and Resource Coalition, and Scott Silver of Wild Wilderness will provide an overview of opinions on the user fees law so that audience participants can

formulate their own views and, hopefully, participate in the important policy discussions now taking place in Washington, DC.

There is no cost to attend, and non-club members are welcome to attend. If you have questions or need more information, call Brooke Drury at The Mountaineers, 206-284-6310.

**GONDOLA ON MOUNT HOOD**—The Timberline Ski Area at Mount Hood is kicking around the idea of a gondola from Government Camp to Timberline Lodge.

It would be built in the corridor of the former "gondola" (a city bus hoisted up on a logging cable) of almost 50 years ago.

The road to Timberline is hazardous in winter storms, and crowded with traffic jams on nice days, so the gondola would serve not only as a shortcut up the mountain for skiers and others, but also as a way to reduce the hazards and crowding of driving the road.

If discussions with various groups over the summer are positive, a proposal for public comment will be developed later this year.

**DARRINGTON**—A group to promote recreation in Darrington as formed. Called Darrington Area Recreation Partners, the group will host a commu-

nity open house on Saturday, October 9 from 2pm to 7pm at the Community Center Gym, 530 Sauk Avenue. Events will include a treasure hunt, trail walk, ballfield contest and other fun things.

If you are interested in recreation in the Darrington area, call for more information:

Dawn Erickson (Forest Service), 360-436-1155; Leila Dempsey (Town of Darrington), 360-436-1131; Shari Brewer (Community Member), 360-436-1771.

**DEVIL BEAR**—For the last three years, the bear up the Elwha has been causing so many problems that he has become known as "Devil Bear."

He has never attacked a person, but his appetite for freeze-dried dinners, GORP and toothpaste is the stuff of legend. His behavior has resulted in the camping ban along a 7-mile stretch of the Elwha trail, so frustrating Olympic National Park officials that a death sentence was reluctantly issued in August: DB would be shot on sight.

After the word went out, however, DB has made himself scarce. He hasn't been sighted since. Park superintendent Dave Morris says DB is not being hunted, and if he can stay away from backpackers and their goodies, he can live.



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**NEW PACK**—I really enjoyed my new McHale pack on our August trip into the Pasayten Wilderness.

Custom made to fit me, it rode painlessly where my other pack used to bind and weigh and drag against me. Almost seems to float on the upper body.

It has multiple adjustments, which I kept tweaking until I got the weight just where I wanted it: mostly on my hips, which are well able to carry it. The shoulder straps can be set so they don't pull down on the top of the shoulders at all, which is beyond wonderful, according to me.

I've wanted one of these packs for years, having read numerous testimonials about how they can make 40 pounds feel like 20, etc. I'd say that is true for the upper body, but the knees, ankles, and feet still know what they are hauling around. (Gravity remains unchanged, alas.)

One feature I really like about the pack is that it converts easily to a capacious day pack, with the removal of a couple of pieces of metal in the frame. Another part detaches for a fanny pack.

Anyone who is considering a new McHale line. Dan McHale is now down at Shilshole, fits and makes all the packs himself, right here.

He's a wonderful character, and it's a trip to have him fit a pack onto you. He speaks of 1/4-inch sizes and lengths and adjustments, clearly aware of fine points beyond my ken ... a Pack Magician of sorts, I'd say, but he claims the pack is "a machine." (But mechanics have always seemed like wizards to me anyway, so you see where I'm coming from.)

And no, I am not a personal friend of Mr. McHale, and no, I am not getting paid to write advertising copy. But I am really, really happy with this new pack!  
—Peg Ferm, Monroe.

#### GLACIER PEAK GRANOLA—

Good for breakfast or on the trail.

- 3 cups regular oats
- 2 cups sweetened puffed-wheat cereal (such as Kellogg's Smacks)
- 1/2 cup wheat bran
- 2 tablespoons slivered almonds
- 1/2 cup applesauce
- 1/3 cup honey
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 cup dried apricots

#### OR Bivvy Bags

In the June issue, page 26, we reviewed OR's Advanced Bivvy. An error was made in describing the poles; they are made of flexible Delrin, not pre-bent aluminum.

The bag comes with a sewn-in label warning the user to keep the zipper open at least 6 inches (we can't imagine that anyone would close themselves completely into any bivvy bag). Susan Wilson of OR wanted us to emphasize that bivvies should never be completely sealed.

#### 1/2 cup sweetened dried cranberries (such as Craisins)

Combine oats, cereal, bran and almonds in a large bowl. In a saucepan heat applesauce, honey, oil, cinnamon and ginger until honey is melted. Pour honey mixture over oats and stir well.

Place mixture in a jelly-roll pan and bake at 375 degrees for 20. Stir gently and bake another 15 minutes or until dry. Cool and stir in dried fruit. Store in an airtight container.—Manita Nery, Freeland.

**ICE CREAM**—At Ipsut Campground, when we resupplied my son and his friend on their Wonderland Trail hike recently, we surprised them with ice cream. I'll testify that I have never seen ice cream so thoroughly enjoyed as that was. Here's how we did it. Dry ice can be purchased at most QFC stores for 99 cents a pound. A pound and a half will keep a half gallon of ice cream frozen for a full hot day.

To make it last, get a small Styrofoam cooler. Line the bottom with aluminum foil and put the ice cream on the bottom. Place the dry ice on top of the ice cream. Place a towel over the

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dry ice.

Do not remove the butcher paper from around the dry ice. Do not handle dry ice without gloves, even when it is wrapped in paper. Never place dry ice in a closed container as it will blow up like a bomb. And never put dry ice next to hard plastic in larger coolers. It freezes the plastic which will then break.—Wanderbuns and Shortstop, Kirkland.

**ZIPPERS**—Be kind to your zippers, especially those curved ones in your tent door. Keep them free of mud and peanut butter, and undue stress such as staking out the tent too tightly.

If a zipper doesn't stay zipped and separates in the middle, it may be that the slider has worn out. It's easier and much cheaper to replace the slider than the entire zipper. Take or mail the item to Rainy Pass Repair (800-733-4340) in Seattle (or to your local outdoor shop, if they do repairs) for a slider replacement.

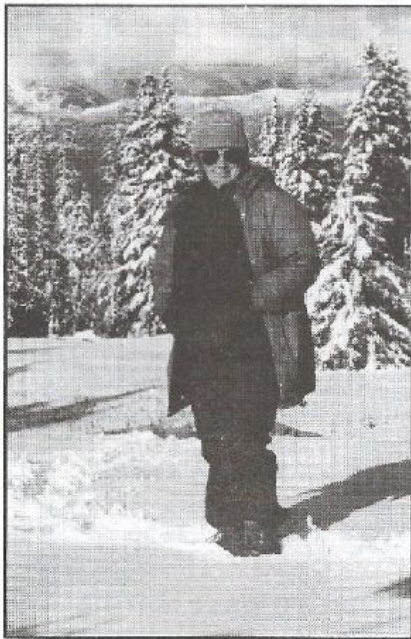
**COMPUTER MAPS**—If you have one of those map programs that can print topographic maps or nautical charts, be aware that a print-out on regular paper will smear when wet. [Guess how they found that out?—YC]

**TRAFFIC JAM**—The new traffic light on Highway 2 in Sultan is causing huge backups on Highway 2 on Sunday afternoons. It might be worthwhile to come back from east of the Cascades by way of Blewett Pass (Highway 97) if your destination is the Puget Sound Basin.

#### 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

# EDITOR'S JOURNAL



After the storm—August 31 in Pygmy Basin, Pasayten Wilderness.

**FROM THE MAILBOX**—"What a year for hikers! I'm also worried that huckleberries won't ripen in time!"—*Mercer Island*

"We are not hiking or skiing as far as we like anymore but we still cherish your *Pack & Paddle*."—*Bellevue*

"I still remember the old Red Barn, and you were a kid! Signpost cost \$5 for two years. And I told your mom that I hated her for *100 Hikes*. We have both seen a lot of changes."—*Bellevue*

**GLAD TO HAVE MITTENS IN AUGUST**—Lee and I usually take a long trip into the Pasayten Wilderness in late fall to catch the larch trees turning gold. Late fall trips are usually cold, and sometimes snowy, so we decided this year that we would treat ourselves to a warm, flowery summer Pasayten trip.

We made camp in Pygmy Basin, at the north end of Sand Ridge, and during the night a storm came in. The temperature dropped, the wind howled, and we hunkered down and watched about 8 inches of snow pile up during the next day. Plenty of fuel, lots of hot drinks, interesting books, and a tarp made the storm bearable.

And what I really appreciated having was that item on the Ten Essentials list: "Extra Clothes." Even though this

was an August trip, I had stuffed in two pairs of mittens, a balaclava, some chemical heat packets, a set of long underwear and an old wool shirt, as well as my regular rain gear and polypro.

That night we made a few trips outside to keep the snow knocked off the tent, but by morning it had stopped snowing. We were in a winter wonderland. The beautiful flowers in the meadow were up to their pistils and stamens in white stuff. So much for our warm, summer trip.

The freezing temperatures, however, did reduce the population of bugs. Only three mosquitoes came out toward the end of the week, and not a single yellowjacket.

**PARADE**—This year my mother, Louise, was Grand Marshal for the City of Lynnwood's Trolley Days Parade.

She led the procession of floats and marching bands on her motorized scooter, escorted by a contingent of REI employees from the Lynnwood store in full regalia—a backcountry skier, some mountain bikers, a paddler (towing a canoe), a backpacker and a climber—who handed out flowers to people along the parade route.

It didn't rain on the parade and we all enjoyed the festivities.

**NEW PROGRAM THIS ISSUE**—Several months ago, Lee updated all our computer parts and programs so we

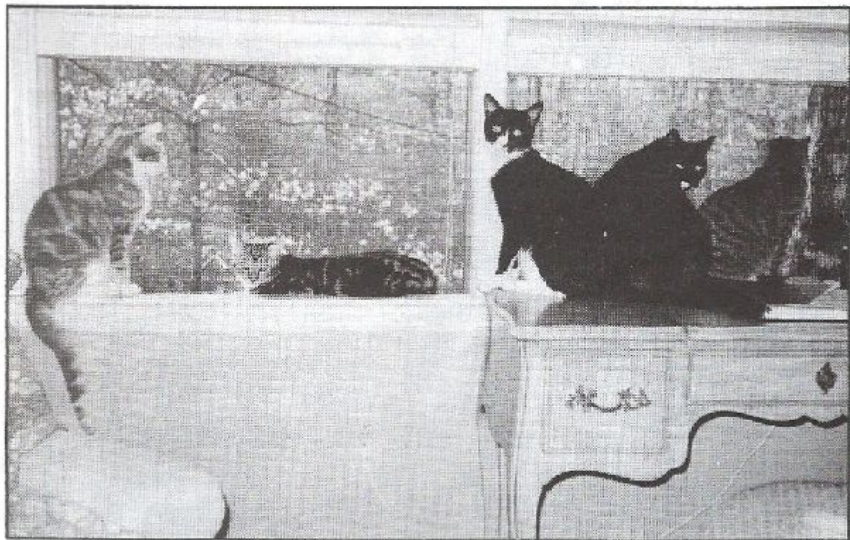
would be prepared for Y2K. But Yellow Cat and I didn't actually have to start using the updated program that does the typesetting and layout for the magazine until this issue, and of course we postponed learning its new features until we absolutely had to, which was about three weeks ago.

We have tried to catch all the funny hyphens and stuff, but if you notice some odd things or errors (more than the usual amount, that is) it's because of the new program.

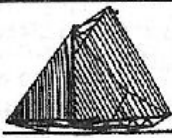
**THE BROTHERS FIRE**—This forest fire in The Brothers Wilderness on the east side of the Olympics was very visible from the heights in our town of Port Orchard, and from the checkout counters at the local Thriftway, where it was the topic of conversation as my groceries were bagged. At last report, the blaze was finally under control.

See you in the backcountry,

Ann Marshall



"Did you say it was a yellow cat?" The cats of the Randall household in Vestavia, Alabama, check out the view.



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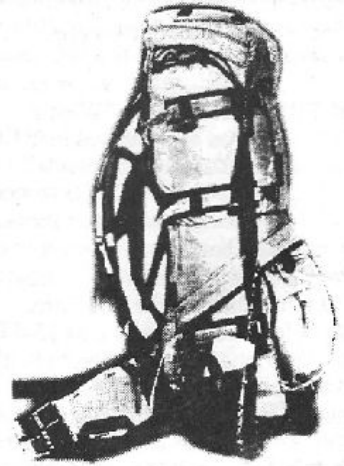
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