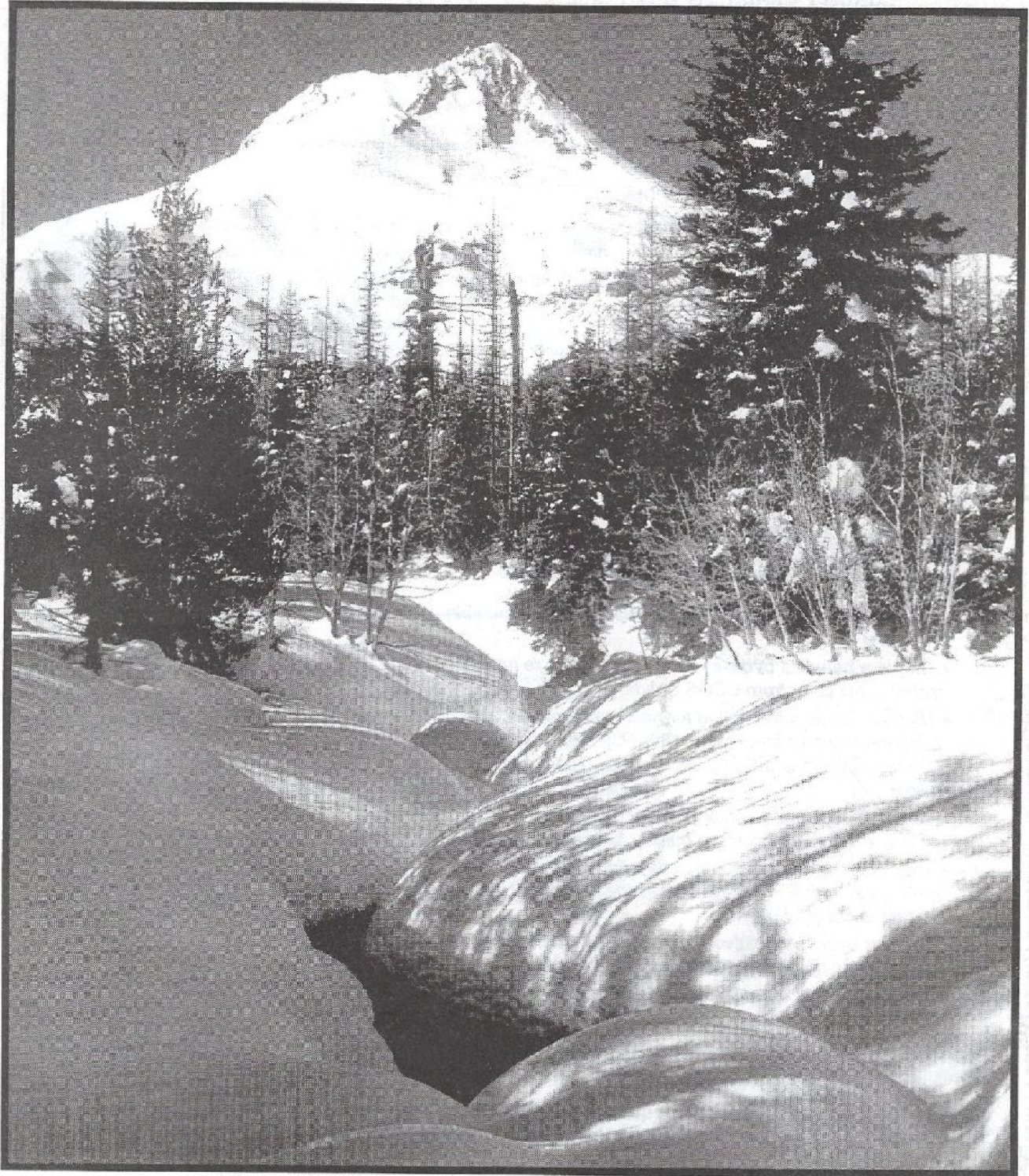


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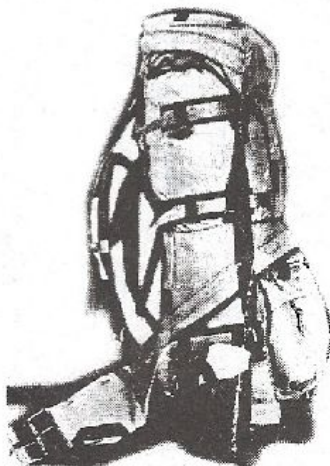


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RANDOM VIEW—



VB on Rainbow Ridge; Mount Baker Wilderness.

VB/MA

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### COVER PHOTO:

The east side of Mount Hood from the Newton Creek trail, out of Pocket Creek Sno-Park, south of Hood River, Oregon.  
Photo by Darryl Lloyd.

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

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Need more guidance? We'll send our Writers' Guidelines; just ask. And we're always happy to discuss an idea with you on the phone: 360-871-1862 or e-mail: [ycat@packandpaddlemagazine.com](mailto:ycat@packandpaddlemagazine.com)

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### Staff

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

With help from: All Readers

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# LETTERS to the EDITOR

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

## SASHA

To Warren Guntheroth

Dear Warren,

Your poignant remembrance of Sasha (*Pack & Paddle*, January, page 23) was a moving reminder of the wonderful times I enjoyed with Winchester (see *Pack & Paddle*, March 97, page 4). Your lovely memorial article has probably touched the hearts of many other mountaineers whose canine companions make their trips more meaningful, quiet, enjoyable and safe.

Recent letters and articles critical of "mountain dogs" bring dismay to those of us whose well-behaved partners have been better and more courteous companions than most humans.

As a fellow physician, I share your pragmatic view of life and death. I have found a new companion, Hanna, who has now topped over 100 Washington summits; she isn't Winchester, but is wonderful in her own way. I hope you too soon find another canine mountaineer to join you in our wonderful wilderness.

Mick Campbell  
Puyallup, Washington

## MOUNTAIN NUMBERS

In 1998 *P&P* discussed a possible 15th 8000-meter mountain (July '98, page 29). This 8011m peak ("Zhongyang Peak") is located on the northwest ridge of Broad Peak. The landform only has about 181m (594 feet) of prominence, and thus qualifies as a minor mountain. Certainly not enough prominence to be deemed a prized "8000-meter" mountain.

Three peaks on Kangchenjunga likely have more rise above saddle (prominence) than Zhongyang Peak, and yet are not considered "8000-meter" peaks. They are "Central Peak," 8482m; "South Peak," 8476m; and "Yalung Kang," 8433m. Yalung Kang may have greater than 1000 feet prominence, and may be most deserving of the "8000-meter" status. Detailed topos for Kangchenjunga are unavailable to me.

Lhotse's prominence = 8516 - 7986 m = 530m (1739 feet), therefore establishing the lowest protuberance of an "8000-meter" mountain.

A more recent *P&P* article (*August 1998*, page 32) listed Washington's

mountains with at least 4000 feet of prominence. The authors chose to evaluate Whitehorse Mountain's elevation as 6840 feet, lower than Three Fingers 6850 feet, and thus left Whitehorse off the 4000-foot list. Whitehorse can also be estimated to = 6860 feet + or - 20 feet, a statistically sound method. Therefore, Whitehorse may actually deserve to replace Three Fingers on the 4000-foot list. Certainly, these two outstanding mountains are very close in elevation. I think they both deserve notoriety.

Regarding a fall 1999 article (*December*, page 9) about "The Ark" (Peak 5339, "Marten Peak"), I've been to the summit twice, (1973 and 1974). My friend Scott Dobrowski and I also scampered up the northwest tower of "The Ark" in 1974.

Finally, I've been remiss in not acknowledging that John Lixvar and Jeff Howbert found two significant errors in my Washington's 100 highest 2000-foot prominence mountain list. They found the errors during the '90s after I published the list in the 1983-1990 *Mountaineers Annual*.

John found that "Rogers Crest" was 5 feet higher than Gillette Mountain, thus replacing Gillette. Jeff discovered that I'd left Lennox Mountain off the list. I thanked them for the corrections, and published the corrected list in the 1996 *The Washington Backcountry Almanac* (The Mountaineers).

I don't know if we will ever have perfect mountain numbers. But the landforms themselves are sure fun to study, view and explore.

Steve Fry  
Edmonds, Washington

## PICKET RANGE

I am finally getting around to comment on the article by Mitch Blanton on his Pickets trip in the January 2000 issue, and on the comments by John Roper in the February issue, page 31.

I was a member of the 1970 trip Roper mentions. Carla Firey was 18 at the time (not 16—I checked with her) and it is likely, but not certain, that Joan and Carla Firey made the first female traverse of Pioneer Ridge on that 1970 trip (from Picket Pass to Jasper Pass) 29 years prior to the 1999 trip.

An additional minor point. Blanton seems to imply in his article that there have been only four ascents of the out-rigger peak West Challenger in 1999. Actually, the peak is likely to have at least 20 ascents (my guess). Joan and Joe Firey climbed it in the late '60s, Irene and John Meulemans in the '80s, I climbed it in 1982 and 1985, and I know of at least two ascents in the early '90s.

Never underestimate what the Firey clan explored and climbed in the Cascades and, in particular, the Picket Range in the '50s, '60s, and '70s.

Since I'm finally writing you, perhaps I should discuss the origin of some other names in the Pickets due to Joan and Joe.

In 1961, Joan, Joe, Ed Cooper, Glen Denny, and George Whitmore (a very tough crew) made first ascents of most of the remaining unclimbed spires of the Crescent Creek (western) side of the Southern Pickets.

Naturally, the question arose as to what to name these peaks. (You need to know that Joe loves puns.) The party had a jar of German mustard with them. The mustard was made by Otto Frenzel whose factory was located on Himmelgeister Strasse in Dusseldorf, West Germany. (You may still obtain this brand at the Continental Store in Seattle at NE 50th and Roosevelt NE).

Hence the names "Mustard Glacier" (north side of the South Pickets), "Frenzel Spitz," "Otto Horn" (itself a pun), "Dusseldorfer Spitz," and "Himmelgeister Horn."

Unfortunately, Fred Beckey decided to modify the last two names as Dusseldorfspez and Himmelhorn. Perhaps the Firey names are less than ideal (whatever that may be) but their names make more sense than Beckey's versions.

David Knudson  
Seattle, Washington

## APPALLED BY FEES

Dear Yellow Cat,

As the efficient Office Manager that I know you are, I am sure that you were appalled by the figures in the "Reviewing Fee Demo" article (*February issue*, page 14). The Recreation Fee Demonstration Program is really just addi-

*continued on page 6*







## 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.

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## PENINSULA



### FORT FLAGLER STATE PARK (USGS Nordland)

Located on the northern tip of Marrowstone Island across the bay from Port Townsend. Drive across the Hood Canal Bridge, turning right on Highway 19 (Beaver Valley road) to Hadlock, then follow the signs to the state park.

We parked near the beach near the Marrowstone Light and the fisheries center. The tide was right so we followed the beach for about 2 miles to the camping and picnic area where we had lunch. We could look across the water to Port Townsend and to Whidbey Island. We returned to the car via a series of trails and roads through the woods.

There are some views across the water. There are numerous old bunkers and fortifications to explore. The trail comes out in the main part of the park

near the barracks where there is an interesting museum with old photos of the fort and a short video.

A brief hike along the road brought us back to the car. The weather was pleasant, although a bit windy at times. This makes an interesting winter hike. Our group makes use of the many state parks in the area for winter hikes.—Leigh Champlin, Seattle, 1/23.



### HOPE ISLAND (NOAA

18448)—The tide was at 13.5 feet and not quite at its high for the day when three of us set off from Boston Harbor (see *South Puget Sound Afoot & Afloat* for directions) in single sea kayaks destined for Hope Island.

The water we were paddling through is the meeting point of Budd Inlet, Eld Inlet, Squaxin Passage, Peale Passage, and Dana Passage. As a result the currents can go in a variety of directions. Our timing was such that the current was in the last stages of the flood—heading toward slack—so we had little current effect for the initial crossing to Hunter Point on the mainland southeast of Hope.

Past Hunter Point, we noticed the current starting to ebb as we made the  $\frac{3}{4}$  nm crossing to the south end of Hope. After a short stop to stretch legs, we did a counter-clockwise circumnavigation of the island before stopping at the main picnic area and site of the Cascadia Marine Trail campsite on the southwest end of the island.

The tide was just past its high of 14.5 feet, and there was virtually no shoreline to land on. Finally finding a spot,

we scrambled through some brush to get to the picnic area where we enjoyed a lunch while being warmed by the winter sun. Although this was the start of the third week of February, the clear sky and sun rivaled many a summer day—except for the temperature of the air which was in the low 40s!

A lot of work has been done by Washington State Parks over the last several years on Hope Island. The area where we were contains the Cascadia Marine Trail camp, picnic tables for day use, a toilet, and a caretaker's house.

A trail leads to six other campsites on the east side of the island where there is a second toilet. I would expect that Hope Island will now become as popular a destination for the boating community as Blake Island is!

By 1230 lunch and exploration were complete so we started back to Boston Harbor. A wind had come up out of the north creating a small chop and the ebb current was building. Rounding Hunter Point, we kept to the shoreline initially before starting the crossing to Boston Harbor.

Not certain how the currents would set us, we picked out a natural range consisting of Doflemeyer Point by Boston Harbor and a dip in a ridge line farther south to keep track of our relative motion as we crossed. About two-thirds of the way across we passed through a small section of 1 foot waves with occasional whitecaps before reaching the calm water of the harbor.—LGM, Port Orchard, 2/13.

## BACKCOUNTRY NEWS DEADLINE: March 21

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



**HOH RIVER**—Patchy snow at Five Mile Island becomes continuous at milepost 7. Eight inches of snow at Olympus Guard Station with 12 inches by milepost 12.4. It is soft and wet. Snow depth increases dramatically with elevation such that there is two to four feet by the 3500-foot elevation on the Hoh Lake Trail.

The footlog crossing a seasonal creek at MP 2.3 has collapsed midspan and is in the creek.

Area staff have constructed a re-route skirting a 10 meter washout at MP 5.3. Likewise, in the same area, a short reroute was constructed around an enormous windfall. In the last month, six trees have come down between the trailhead and OGS with two more in the first three miles of the Hoh Lake trail. No windfall between OGS and milepost 12.4.

Near Lewis Meadow a creek which normally skirts the trail made a run at it and cuts the trail in two places. Just downstream of this is another 30 meter washout which is badly exposed into the river. No reroutes have been constructed and hikers will scramble on exposed roots with 10 vertical meters below them.—Ranger, 2/7.

**BOGACHIEL**—Trailhead is accessible to vehicular traffic, though one lane in places owing to last month's flooding. First 2 miles from trailhead to Park boundary are very muddy with several alder and one large hemlock blocking trail just after Kaukwa Creek. Rumor is that Forest Service will be turnpiking and bridge building on this section this spring or summer.

Most creek crossings were blown out by the flooding six weeks ago and the hiker is faced with deep pools at most of the fords at Kaukwa, Indian and Mosquito to name just three. Broken and rotten punchcon on first bridge just inside Park. Windfall from boundary to Warkum Creek is limited to large limbs and snow-heaved vine maple. Root wads on high route just west of Mosquito Creek have shifted and volunteer Beth Rossow dug steps to facilitate foot traffic.

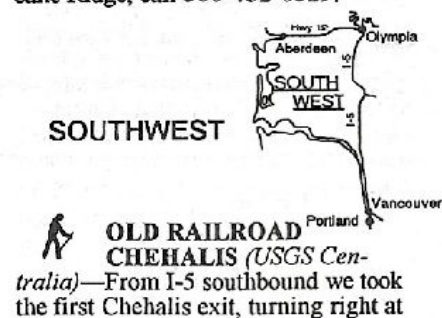
At old Bogachiel Guard Station meadows, the river continues to make an incursion and another 20 feet of trail and a campsite have become cutbank.

At Warkum Creek a rootwad has been washed down on the new pony bridge causing damage to the bull rail. Another flood victim tree is washing into

the bridge. Two large and difficult-to-remove trees block the trail just downstream of Flapjack since last winter. Above Warkum Creek is terra incognita with a foot of snow.—Ranger, 2/7.

**SOUTH FORK HOH**—DNR has cleared the road to trailhead. As of two weeks ago, there were 6 to 8 inches of crusty snow at trailhead with no windfall blocking the 4 miles of maintained trail. Researchers in area reported no problems following the trail to this point.—Ranger, 2/6.

**ROAD CONDITIONS**—For current conditions on ONP roads and on Hurricane Ridge, call 360-452-0329.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR *continued from page 4*

tional fees. Since I am probably older than you, YC, let me assure you that during my lifetime there have always been fees to enter and use park facilities. Fees are being added; and added in more places.

The largest single spending item for both Mount Rainier and Olympic National Parks is the cost to collect the fees, approximately 20% of the fees collected. That means it costs one dollar to collect five dollars, leaving four dollars for projects. Now I ask, "Is this efficiency?" YC, I know you keep a sharper eye on your expenses and revenue.

If demonstration fees are allowed to continue then all public roads will someday become toll roads. All public schools will charge tuition. Even dog and cat owners will have to pay a fee for the animal control officers in their area. ... Oh, I'm sorry YC, that was probably too close to home. But, as you can see we can have fees for everything and the nightmare of accounting headaches to be sure that each fee is paid to the right agency at the right time, em-

ploying thousands of additional bureaucrats. Not to mention the number of stickers and tags one must have, just to go for an overnight hike.

Sometimes I think I feel like you must feel with a collar, a license, a vaccination tag, etc., hanging around your neck. Personally, I'm trying to lighten my pack load and I would like my government to simplify, not complicate, the matter.

Well, YC, you can see that I can get pretty wound up chasing my tail about this subject. So like you, I think I'll take a nap until the vernal equinox and, who knows, by then we'll have a whole new set of rules and fees to sort out.

Rand Palmer  
Nine Mile Falls, Washington

### LET'S HELP OUT

We very much enjoyed Ann's article regarding the Recreation Fee Results for 1999 (February, page 14).

Fellow hikers express constringing opinions regarding this subject.

Some feel that as our tax dollars originally paid for these trails and parks, then by cracky, we shouldn't have to pay for them all over again.

We feel differently. We are not paying for them again, we're helping in paying for their maintenance just as users of the highways, ferry systems and airports do; sometimes directly as in ferry fares, others indirectly via Port of Seattle and gas taxes.

The user fees as charged for trail and Park usage are not high in comparison to what we get in return.

Even with subtracting out fee collection expense, the published figures in P&P indicate that the fees collected make up a very significant part of USFS and NPS expenditure.

We also do not think that the "nay sayers" should dwell upon previous government wastage. Let's help out in this small but apparently effective way.

Martin and Mary Jean Paup  
Seattle, Washington

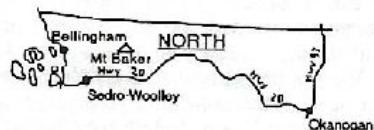


the end of the off ramp then left at the first road, following along until it crosses the old Burlington Northern Railroad; parking for two or three cars. We believe this was originally the Yakima Western Railroad. The rails were taken up some time ago and it is now a trail. There have not been any improvements other than barricades to keep vehicles off it. There are a couple of long bridges which I do not recommend for people with height problems.

We followed the trail for about 5 miles to the town of Adna where we ate lunch in a picnic shelter near the Little League field/park. After lunch we did some exploring in the area, visiting an old pioneer cemetery and the oldest protestant church building in the state which is now an historical monument.

We then returned via the trail, which crosses, and then follows for a while, the Chehalis River. It is mostly farm country with interesting old barns and other buildings. It makes for an interesting winter hike. A storm was moving in and it began to rain before we reached the car, otherwise a fine hike.—Leigh Champlin, Seattle, 1/30

## NORTH



### METHOW VALLEY (USGS) Thompson Ridge, Lewis Butte,

*Rendezvous Mtn*, but all you really need is the map you pick up when you buy your trail pass—This is my 14th visit to the MVSTA groomed trail system in the last 16 years. Snow conditions excellent, especially if you like it squeaky and not too fast.

Arrived early afternoon, 1/18. Check to see which restaurants are open, purchase 3-day passes (\$33), which is very little for the number of miles of groomed trail available. Do brief excursion from Winthrop Inn up the Winthrop trail to check snow conditions and our equipment and clothing. Ski up to where we see the trail crossing the road to Sun Mountain and back to the Inn convinces us our equipment works but will need more clothing.

1/19, being wimps we let it warm up a bit before we start out. Leave Chickadee trailhead (formerly Snoasis) at 9am. It had warmed to minus-12F. Did the Meadowlark/Thompson Ridge loop, about 7 miles and 500 feet of elevation gain. Hoarfrost crystals on Meadowlark reflected every color of the rainbow.



Ginny Evans skis at Mazama.

Hit the high point of the loop, where a speedy downhill called Inside Passage offers a quick way down at 1pm. That alternative is fun but can be too fast unless it is ungroomed and considering the fact that our noses went numb from windchill on even the moderate downhills we opted for the long easy grade down Thompson Ridge. Options there from reaching terminal velocity in the set track to lazy snowplow turns.

Back to start at 1:40pm to find it had warmed to plus-2 degrees F. Time for hot shower and baked potato.

1/20, at Chickadee again at 9am. Up to minus-7 degrees F. High fog that sun never really penetrated all day. Snow still very squeaky. Did the whole package of low trails in the Sun Mountain area. Totals up to about 12 miles, with ups and downs that gross about 300 feet of elevation gain; net gain of course is zero. Trails vary from easiest to most difficult, mostly rolling with a few screamers thrown in. Quit shortly after 3pm. It had warmed to minus-4.

1/21, at Cub Creek trailhead, northwest of Winthrop, at 9am. Don't really want to know the temperature. Head up fairly steep Little Cub Creek trail, intercept Cow Creek trail at noon. Overcast and faint flurries. Cruise down Cow Creek back to the trailhead is a delight. Gentle grade, just lean back and glide, only a few spots where a little double poling is needed to keep

moving all the way to the valley bottom. From there out a couple of screamer sections and some kick and glide but nothing difficult. About an 11-mile round trip with nearly 1000 feet of elevation gain, rewarded with a beverage and one of Three Fingred Jack's hamburgers.

For those of you familiar with the area, Three Fingred Jack's has taken over the Thursday steak night until Sam's reopens in the summer; great place for baked potatoes.

1/22, return to Olympia, new snow and a winter wonderland over Blewett (Swauk) pass.—Paul G Schaufler & sidekick Carol, Olympia, 1/18-22.

### MAZAMA and valley (USGS) Mazama

Jacki and I joined 21 others for five days of glorious skiing in Mazama. Our group took over Mazama's North Cascades Basecamp where we were housed, fed, and otherwise pampered for the entire time. The temperature remained well below freezing and we lucked out with the weather: mostly sunny to partly cloudy and windless days greeted us each morning.

After gathering for a hearty breakfast in Cle Elum Monday morning, we drove to Mazama, arriving mid-afternoon.

After 3:30pm we could ski the groomed runs for free and took advantage of the opportunity to stretch our legs and enjoy the beautiful countryside.

Dick took Jacki and me on a level run along the Methow River on the River Run Trail which began right from the lodge. That evening we gathered in the lodge living room and had a wonderful time singing along with Ralph and his guitar.

The Methow Valley has an extensive winter trail system with more than 200km of groomed ski and snowshoe trails. The entire winter trail system is maintained by the Methow Valley Sport Trails Association (MVSTA). The trails are well signed, and between the trail signs and a map we got at the Basecamp, we found it impossible to get lost. We got three-day passes Tuesday morning and wore them whenever we skied.

Pass costs are as follows: 1 day—\$14; 3 days—\$33; half day (after 1pm)—\$11; teen (12-17)—\$7/day; and snowshoe—\$3/day.

Tuesday dawned sunny and most of us took off for Sun Mountain. We drove to Chickadee trailhead and skied from there. Jacki and I skied the Thompson Ridge road, Overland, Criss Cross and Little Wolf Creek runs, meeting others for lunch at Hough Homestead, a screened-in warming hut. After lunch we took the Sunnyside trail to Sun





Peter Krystad

Eric Krystad skis through the entrance to the slopes above the Hairpin on Highway 20.

Mountain Lodge for incredible winter views. I'm used to seeing this area only in summer and it is just as beautiful under a blanket of snow. We took the short View Ridge trail above the lodge for a higher overall view. By the time we skied back to the car, it was almost dark.

On Wednesday, the better skiers took off for Rendezvous while the rest of us skied Mazama. Under clear skies and warm sun, Jacki, Doris, Janet, and I skied the River Run trail past Cow Beach warming hut to Cassal Ranch at the head of the valley.

The trails were flat and we saw many "skaters." Ski skating sure seems to be the up and coming way. It looks so easy but according to one lady we met, it is a lot of hard work especially when you are just learning. The return trip was on Jack's Trail to the Rattlesnake Cut-

off and back to Basecamp. Since it was still early and we returned before the Rendezvous crowd, the four of us drove the 2 miles to the Mazama Store for soup and coffee.

On Thursday our foursome skied a section of the Methow Community Trail from Brown's Farm back toward Mazama to the suspension bridge over the Methow River where we turned around. The experienced skiers did another, more challenging section of the same trail. On our drive back to Basecamp, we of course had to stop at the Mazama Store for hot chocolate. Jacki and I decided to finally do a "More Difficult" blue trail in the Mazama system. We chose Doe Canyon Spur and while the going up part was relatively easy, we started off downhill by falling every time we began going just a little bit fast.

After awhile we sort of got the hang of it by snowplowing down real slow. Why are there always turns at the bottom of the steep hills? If it just went straight, we'd feel more confident about going a wee bit faster. But we did get back down in slightly less time than it took to go up.

This evening we had a visit from Marilyn and Denny O'Callaghan, old time Mountaineer friends who retired to Winthrop and whom many of us knew.

Friday came all too fast, and it was time to return home. Bea and Andrea took one last run from Basecamp but the rest of us reluctantly packed up and left. It was an unforgettable week which will be long remembered. The

Methow Valley offers something for every level of skier, and is a place that should not be missed.—Ginny Evans, Renton, 1/17-21.

## ❄️ RENDEZVOUS MOUNTAIN TRAVERSE (USGS

*Lewis Butte, Rendezvous Mtn*)—On the day after the Big Dump, Lee and I arrived in the Methow Valley for several days of skiing. The weather, now beautiful after the storm, was perfect for a traverse of the Rendezvous trail system from Cub Creek to Goat Creek.

Finally, there is a trailhead taxi service in the valley! This is wonderful as it saves us from imposing on friends for frigid, early-morning rides to trailheads. We called and made reservations, and the driver met us promptly the next morning at the Goat Creek Sno-Park in a large, heated van and whisked us to the Cub Creek trailhead. We are enthusiastic about this service, called Mountain Transporter. See below for more details.

The traverse is about 15 or 16 miles, which makes a long day, but we took our time, looked at the scenery, and enjoyed the trip. I had forgotten my skins at the cabin and was regretting it as we started up the black diamond Little Cub Creek "short-cut" in the morning, but the snow softened enough that traction was not a problem.

We stopped at beautiful Gardner Hut for lunch, then continued down into Rendezvous Basin, and up the other side to Fawn Creek. From Fawn Creek it's always a fast and fun downhill run, with ½-mile or so of flat at the very end. We were on groomed trails from start to finish and saw not another soul all day.—Ann Marshall, Port Orchard, 2/3.

**MOUNTAIN TRANSPORTER**—A trailhead shuttle service is up and running in the Methow Valley. Passenger vans run on a regular schedule on weekends, and by appointment during the week.

Prices from Winthrop to Mazama, Freestone, Sun Mountain or Wolfridge are \$5 per person; to Brown's Farm is \$3. In the afternoon a van makes a run from Winthrop to Sun Mountain, allowing parties to ski from Sun Mountain to town.

The mid-week price is \$10 per person, with a two-person minimum. For trips to trailheads not on the regular schedule, or for large parties, you can make special arrangements.

Owner/operator Johnny Haase is a life-long resident of the Methow valley. Besides the trailhead taxi during ski season, his fleet of vans will do trail-

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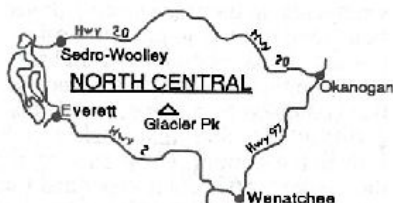
1. extra food
2. extra clothing
3. map
4. compass
5. knife
6. matches
7. fire starter
8. first aid kit
9. sun protection
10. flashlight



head shuttles during the summer, and is set up for mountain bike shuttles and scenic tours as well.

For information, call 509-996-TAXI (8294). Flyers and weekend schedules are available in the valley at most shops and inns.

## NORTH CENTRAL



### DECEPTION PASS (NOAA 18427)

—Today was the day 10 of us in single sea kayaks set aside to practice boat control in moving water. The current in Deception Pass was ebbing until 11:30 when it would switch to a flood. To account for this current direction we launched a little after 10am from Cornet Bay on the east side of the pass (see *North Puget Sound Afoot and Afloat* for directions). After taking a few minutes to practice bracing and to discuss rescue techniques should a capsize occur, we headed out.

First crossing over in the direction of Yokeko Point to avoid a tug with low and to account for the ebbing current, we next aligned ourselves with the entrance to Canoe Pass. Canoe Pass makes a bend in the middle so we were watchful of what the current was doing. By now the current was decreasing quite a bit so we had no problem getting through the pass and eddying out in the eddy that develops on the northwest entrance to Canoe Pass. Here we spent the next 30 minutes or so practicing crossing eddy lines before taking a break on shore for lunch and to let the flood start.

There is virtually no slack water time at Deception Pass. The water slows down momentarily before switching to the opposite direction. With the current now switched to a flood, we were back in the boats and made the crossing to the south shore of Deception Pass itself. The predicted current was in the neighborhood of 4 knots as we passed under the highway bridge and eddied out in the eddy that forms behind a rock cliff that juts out into the water from the south shoreline near the bridge support.

Here we again practiced eddy turns for a short until the current built to a point where we decided to look for another place to practice.

Leaving the pass itself, we made our

way down to the northwest end of Strawberry Island to continue our practicing. Here a sharp eddy line forms just off the west end of the island then forms a very broad eddyline along the north shore which contains a variety of currents going in most any direction.

Here one of our group got turned over as a small whirlpool developed in the water he was paddling in. This was my first experience with a rescue resulting from a whirlpool formation. By the time one of our group was able to get to the capsized boat the whirlpool had disappeared. Before long, the swimmer was back in his boat, and we were once more involved in practice.

Deciding to look for another place to practice, we headed around the east end of Strawberry Island to check out the eddy that forms from the west end along the south shore. The eddy line that forms is not as broad as the one that forms along the north shoreline.

By now a number of us were ready to call it quits, so after some discussion we crossed the current over to the east end of Ben Ure Island. Even though we had had an opportunity for some "real" rescues, several of us opted to get do some rescue practice in the calm waters before heading back to the take-out.

Deception Pass is a good place to practice boat control in moving water; however, make sure to go with a group that has experience in current, is ready and able to do rescue recoveries, and dress for immersion!—LGM, Port Orchard, 1/23.



### PASS LAKE HILL (USGS Deception Pass)

—Decided to do a little exploring. The trek around Pass Lake on Fidalgo Island looked in-

teresting, but somehow we missed that trail and wound up doing trail Pass Lake Hill.

My son and 4-year-old grandson joined Shortstop and me. We had to watch the trail carefully as it disappears into the fern in places. Don't pass the two stacked logs across the trail. If you do and you find blue markers near the edge of the meadow, they appear to be a property line for the nearby house, not a trail.

By following the trail to the left, we came to a short trail on the right that goes to a ridge where we could look over Pass Lake.

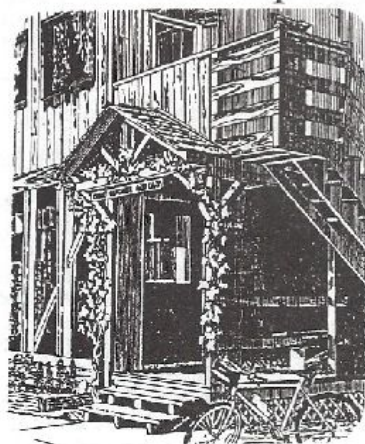
Following the overgrowing road, we went up and over the hill. The road/trail eventually emerged on the highway that goes to Anacortes and passes Rosario Head Park. Good exercise but you won't find it listed among Washington's 100 highest peaks.—Wanderbuns and Shortstop, Kirkland, 1/22.



### MOUNT ERIE (USGS Anacortes South, Deception Pass)

—This is located in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. We parked near where the road to the summit

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turns off of the main road, which I believe is Heart Lake Road.

We followed a trail which leads to the summit of Sugar Loaf. It climbs steeply through woods and reaches the summit in about 1½ miles. Several junctions are unmarked but we seemed to keep to the trails that were leading up. From the Sugar Loaf summit you have to backtrack a short bit to pick up a trail which contours around, dropping down and joining the road.

A few hundred feet up the road is the Mount Erie Summit trail which leads in another 1½ miles or so to the top. The major junctions along this trail are well marked. At the top are several viewpoints where you can get views to the east across March Point to Mount Baker when it is clear.

Another viewpoint looks southwest across Whidbey Island over to the Olympic Peninsula and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. There is a good lunch spot among the rocks near this viewpoint. This area is used by rock climbers and by hang glider people. We watched two of the latter take off while we were having lunch.

We returned on the road. Another viewpoint part-way down looks west out to the San Juan Islands. This is a great winter hike when it is not too windy.—Leigh Champlin, Seattle, 2/6.

#### ❄️ EAST LONG and VIKING HORNS (USGS Silverton)—

Getting here: Drive the Mountain Loop highway to Silverton and park on the south side of the highway.

The trail: Stefan, the Goodmans, Matt, Christine, Juan, Kevin, Ian and I headed out to do Long Mountain on a beautiful Sunday morning. The goal was to climb Long and maybe the Viking Horns, time permitting.

Our route began just a few hundred yards east of the town of Silverton. We ascended north-northwest up a seriously treed ridge. Stefan led most of the way and after an arduous ascent we found ourselves sitting on the ridge between East Long (4829 feet) and the easternmost Viking Horn. Long Mountain looked to be a "long" way away at this point along a ridge that had some extremely difficult thin corniced ridges, with some vertical looking walls to get around.

Stefan headed out west toward Long while the rest of us hunkered down in a little grove of mountain hemlocks waiting to find out if the route looked possible to him. A few moments later we saw him sitting on top of the Eastern Horn. The rest of us decided to do East Long. Natalia and Juan took the lead up

to the gentle summit. En route we looked back and saw Christine on top of the Horn. Stefan had just been on about ¼-mile west of where we now were.

The views from the summit were 360 degrees of pure unadulterated glory. The eastern walls of Three Fingers and Whitehorse dominated the views to the north and Hall, Marble, Big Four and hundreds of others to the south. Natalia handed out summit treats while we watched Stefan and Christine work their way back to the saddle and on up to our peak. Stefan then coerced me to walk over to climb the heavily corniced East Peak of the East Peak to see if it was higher than the one the rest of us were on. I belayed him out onto the cornice and we determined that the rest of our party was on the higher summit.

After an hour we went back down to the saddle. At this point Don and the rest of the gang wanted to go for the Horn that Stefan and Christine had already done. So we said our good-byes to those two while the rest of us traversed over to climb the Horn. Don got us all to the airy summit where we snapped off some photos and hollered like Vikings. We then descended the route (which had a couple of tricky spots). Fortunately Don had brought along a rope that he fixed from a small but sturdy mountain hemlock near the summit. We then traversed back to our packs where we glissaded down to 4000 feet where Stefan was patiently waiting for us. The trip down was uneventful except for the awful post-holing down low.—Everyone's favorite climbing kitty, Pilar, Monroe, 1/23.

#### ❄️ LONG and BALD (USGS Silverton)—Getting there:

Drive the Mountain Loop highway to the Marten Creek trailhead to begin.

The trail: Don G, Mitch B, Matt G, Steve (Mitch's friend from Antarctica), James, Juan, Stefan and I headed up the trail on another picture perfect day around 7:30am. We began by hiking along Marten Creek for 1.75 miles to about 2640 feet. At this point we headed northeast for the Bald-Long saddle at 4040+ feet.

Stefan led the entire way up the south ridge of Bald Mountain (4760+ feet) to its knife-edged summit. The top wasn't corniced but it did drop away a thousand feet on either side of the ridge! We made single visits to the top of the snow crest and then descended the ridge a ways for a little lunch break. The views were limitless in all directions.

We continued toward Long (5113 feet). The ridge went along swimmingly until we seemingly hit an impasse at

5000+ feet just 100 or so feet below the summit ... there we stood with heads hung low. Things were looking a little bleak at this particular juncture when out of the blue our hero Mitch spoke up: "I'll lead it, fellas!"

So with ropes flying hither and yon Mitch began ascending a 2.5-foot-wide rotten ridge of rock that fell away hundreds of feet on either side. Nimbly he scampered up the ridge placing protection along the way to provide a safe passage for us. Fortunately Don had also brought along 100 feet of rope so that combined with Stefan's we had a 260-foot "handline" that reached exactly to the summit! Upon arriving at the top we spotted John Roper and Co. over on the East Peak of Long.

Don was the last one to leave the summit as Juan and Stefan belayed him back to safety. The descent went very well except for a little fall I took attempting to glissade down from the Bald-Long saddle. I didn't tell anyone at the time but my forearm and elbow had been cut during the fall (trying to self-arrest) and I could feel the blood soaking up my shirt. It was painful but I knew it was only superficial. After watching my descent, the others followed Mitch down a better gully than the one I'd chosen. Everyone arrived safely back at the cars satisfied with a wonderful day filled with some exhilarating climbing and tremendous views.—Everyone's favorite climbing kitty, Pilar, Monroe, 1/29.

#### ❄️ MINERAL BUTTE (USGS Monte Cristo)—Getting there:

Drive Highway 2 toward Index and park where road 6330 crosses the North Fork Skykomish River.

The trail: Steve Fox and I began slog-ging up road 6330 (at 1058 feet), crossing the river and following it high up the southeast ridge of Mineral Butte (5255 feet). The going was arduous at times but by sharing the lead we made quick work of the very gentle ridge. It was snowing as we began and it snowed off and on for most of the morning.

The road goes even higher than it shows on the 7.5 minute map, to at least 4000 feet (the map shows the road going to 3400+ feet). Eventually you leave the clearcuts which then give way to some more mature forest. At around 4600 feet the ridge finally becomes distinct some 600 feet below the summit. Here Steve took the lead and we found ourselves sitting on the summit by 11:30 under continually clearing skies.

With the sun now beginning to shine we were granted great views across the valley to Spire Peak, the cliffy upper



western face of "Bear Mountain," and the Mount Index peaks.

Nothing fancy, just a nice, easy, straightforward snow slog, with a low avalanche potential that would be great for beginning snowshoers, in the historic vicinity of Monte Cristo. The entire trip is between 8 to 10 miles in length with about 4200 feet of gain. We arrived back at the car around 2:15 pm.—Pilar, Monroe, 1/30.

**❄️ LICHTENBERG and McCAUSLAND (USGS Labyrinth Mtn)**—Getting there: Drive Highway 2 east of the pass to the Yodelin cabins. Park on the south side of the highway in a Stevens Pass ski overflow area about 3600 feet. Walk across the highway (carefully!) and begin up the road to the cabins.

The trip: Stefan, Mitch and I were prepared for the worst on this trip with ropes, harnesses, crampons and what not for the final summit pinnacle.

We walked past many cabins taking a rightward fork that drops and crosses Nason Creek. Once across we headed up the gentle south ridge of point 5737. Stefan led the entire way to the ridge while Mitch and I took strategic stops to keep Stefan breaking trail in front. We made extremely steady progress in this fashion.

Once on the ridge it is an easy walk northwest to the summit of Lichtenberg Mountain, 5844 feet. Beyond the summit is the "Great Pinnacle," a 5800+-foot horn that is recognizable from the highway and from below at Lake Valhalla. The pinnacle is easily climbed by traversing on its east side and up a short steep snow slope to its apex (no rope needed).

Backtracking along the ridge we glistaded easy slopes and traversed over to Lake Valhalla which was blanketed with a layer of fog. In the zero visibility Mitch led us in zig-zags across the frozen lake. After arriving on the other side we dropped the hardware and headed northeast to the very gentle ridge leading to the summit of McCausland Mountain, 5747 feet (this peak is unnamed on the 7.5 minute Labyrinth quad and on older GT maps).

Upon arriving at the saddle we ran into a group of skiers who were ascending McCausland having come up from the Smithbrook road. We continued to the gently treed summit of McCausland. We sat atop McCausland in the middle of that fog I was talking about. A bit later we headed down the mountain when we came across the skiers again.

We made great time descending to the lake where we let Mitch zig-zag his

way back across. We followed his tracks to humor him (we saw a lot of the lake this way!). The descent was easy and quick and we found ourselves following many tracks leading us back to Yodelin.

To summarize: Stefan led on all the uphill, Mitch on all the downhill (including the circumnavigation of the lake), and I led whenever there were tracks already in front of me! This was an easy trip with about 3700 feet of gain and 6 miles round-trip.—Pilar, Monroe, 2/6.

**❄️ PATTERSON MOUNTAIN (USGS Winthrop)**—Haven't ever heard of this summit? Nor had I, prior to now. But it is most definitely worth a visit, especially if you are bound for Winthrop and/or Sun Mountain Lodge in the winter.

This 3511-foot landform is just southeast of the famed Sun Mountain Lodge. I was here for a medical education course in sports medicine topics with a bunch of my doc buddies at the end of January. Most of my friends opted to spend \$14 this day to shuffle the well-groomed Sun Mountain trails. Boring. Luckily for me, Dr. Pete Seyl happily accepted my idea to spend nothing more than sweat equity to climb Patterson Mountain.

Pete and I started at a plowed "Boat Ramp" pullout at Patterson Lake at 2400 feet. Others had figured out the same route and preceded us, and shortly after the start there was even a "Patterson Mtn" sign. We shuffled on

up the northwest slopes along previous snowshoe tracks, Pete on skinned skis and me on Sherpa snowshoes.

The views along the way and from the top were classic. This is a 1000+ foot prominence summit, so there is nothing blocking your view. We could look down on the mini-town of Winthrop and beyond up the Chewuch River valley. North was Mazama itself, and the fabulous Devils-Robinson-Beauty cluster, which led clockwise to Goat Mountain Lookout and Rendezvous Mountain and on to Sunrise and Sherman and Tiffany and Granite, and Lookout Mountain, Raven Ridge, Hoodoo, Star, Oval, and Gardner and Milton and Virginian Ridge. Wow! Try it, you'll like it!

From the north sub-summit of Patterson, we continued south to the 3511-foot high point shown on the map. Between the north and south bumps, we followed fat ski tracks that descended as snowboard tracks to the east. Pete figured out that they were skis that could be hooked together as a snowboard.

On the way down, Pete, slithering expertly his downhill skis, had a ton of fun, while I repeated the uphill trudge on my snowshoes. At the car, we ran into a 50ish(!) woman who made those fabulous snowboard tracks. Most impressive.—John Roper, Bellevue, 1/27.

**❄️ ECHO RIDGE (USGS Cooper Ridge)**—Our annual trip to the Methow started out bumpy with both passes closed. Changed plans and



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left very early morning for a planned stop in Chelan to check out Echo Ridge ski area. Even with the large snow dump the day before, the road was plowed clean, and the sun shining.

At 9am, the low parking near the downhill slope was busy with snowmobiles. A not obvious road on the right heads uphill. Narrow and steep in places, make sure you have chains.

We were the only people there on a beautiful, sunny Wednesday morning. Maps available and \$5 trail fee. Everything we skied was freshly groomed. The terrain is high, rolling, open pine forest with great views of the Cascades. We never heard any of the snowmobiles due to a good job of separation.

Skied several loops for 6 or 7 miles of very pleasant, sunny skiing. Various length connecting loops with clearly signed intersections and arrows. We sat in the sun at the 3800-foot viewpoint and ate lunch before heading back down to continue on our drive.

In the parking lot we met two pleasant forest service personnel from Chelan who wanted our impression of the area. We were told a snowmobile had trespassed in "skier only" area and that they tried to track down the culprit. Music to our ears!

In short, a very nice place to ski, better weather than the passes, groomed, and not crowded.—VB/MA, Arlington, 2/8.



### LAKE WENATCHEE

(USGS Plain)—As we drove into the main parking area at the Lake Wenatchee Sno-Park, we were greeted by a polite officer who wanted to make sure we had the proper Sno-Park stickers (this is an area where the extra "grooming fee" is required). With all our paperwork in order, we were allowed to proceed.

The trails made a great morning ski. We did the long loop around the golf course, followed road 111 south for a short way, then headed back to the Sno-Park. Being a Saturday, trail traffic was beginning to pick up. Trails were nicely groomed.

The campground remains open here in the winter and would be a good

place to try winter camping with the comfort of one's automobile nearby.—Ann Marshall, Port Orchard, 1/29.

**LEAVENWORTH DISTRICT**—509-548-6977. The Icicle road is plowed up to the road 7601 intersection, with limited parking at the end. No Sno-Park required. Walk-in winter camping is available at Eightmile Campground; park outside the gates and don't block the main road.

**Enchantments:** Overnight permits are required from 6/15 through 10/15. Processing of this year's applications will begin 3/1.—Ranger, 2/3.



### CCC TRUCK ROAD (USGS

*Lk Philippa, Mt Si, Chester Morse Lk*)—This is a great winter hike. The combination of rain forest/moss-draped old trees and the more open spots with views out to snow-draped mountains is great.

We started out on the east end (2.3 miles past the Bessemer road off the Middle Fork Snoqualmie road) and headed west intending to do a one-way hike of about 9 or 10 miles to the other end and our cars parked at the Teneriffe trailhead. However, the Middle Fork Road's potholes slowed us down enough that we didn't have enough daylight, so we shortened this to a loop: west along the old road, now a nice trail to the Bessemer road and then down to the Middle Fork road and back along the road to our cars; probably a little under 6 miles.

The trail is in pretty good shape with some small trees/logs across that are easily climbed over or under. There is snow along most of it, but never more than a few inches deep. We'll be back to do the other section.

We'll also be back to explore various

sections of the Middle Fork trail and possible connections up to the trails heading up into the various drainages above such as the Pratt River and Rock Creek. Don't let the legendary potholes stop you. Just take it slow and it's passable for passenger cars.—SIE, Bellevue, 1/22.



### CCC TRUCK ROAD, the sequel (USGS *Lk Philippa, Mt Si, Chester Morse Lk*)

—We dropped 2 cars at the Mount Teneriffe trailhead at the school bus turnaround on the Mount Si Road and then headed over to the Mid Fork Snoqualmie road. Five miles past Valley Camp is the Bessemer road (gated this time, but not 2 weeks ago) and our starting point.

At 1.1 miles up this road is a cairn in the middle at a sharp right hand turn. If you want to do the section that goes upvalley, follow the road to the right a short distance and find the CCC Truck Road trail heading off straight at a left turn about half a mile up. This section is more trail-like with a very rainforest feel to the woods.

Our journey, however was to the left and across Blowcut Creek which was running high enough for some of us to wade while others more nimble of foot and balance managed to hop over on rocks. The route continues for about 3 miles along the old road with many open spots for views across and up the valley. We even got to sit in the sunshine in February!

The trail/road merges onto an old logging road on top of the moraine that blocks the Middle Fork Valley. Another 3 miles along that road through an old clearcut with trees growing up and down off the moraine brought us to another gate and a paved road down to our cars.

This is a very nice winter hike, especially the section farthest up the valley. I recommend starting at the east end and hiking west as far as the spirit moves you. The first 3 miles or so has plenty of tree cover for a rain break and the next few miles have lots of open spots for views.—SIE, Bellevue, 2/6.



### MOOLOCK (USGS *Mt Si*)

Getting there: Drive the Middle Fork road to the South Bessemer logging road and park.

The trail: Knowing that I had to go it alone I figured that I'd go for Moolock (point 4965) almost due west of South Bessemer less than 1.5 air miles away. From around 2800 feet it was untracked snow, fresh but fortunately not too deep. Having gotten a late start for a winter trip (10:45 am) I was lucky that the weather was picture perfect. I

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# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

slogged my way to the saddle at 4000+ feet with only one stop to put on my snowshoes. I then continued west (staying on the south side of the ridge) up and over a couple of bumps in some gorgeous deep powder, where I eventually hit an old road going up the peak's east ridge.

The air was clear and cold and the large mountain hemlocks were adorned in thick ice on the last 900 feet to the top. The final two hundred feet I did without snowshoes or crampons. I reached the summit a little after 2:30. The summit was roomy, uncorniced and in an absolutely supreme spot for views.

Quickly I wolfed down some Power Bars, and drank some water. Directly below were three frozen lakes, the ridge over to Green and Teneriffe glistened in the sunlight, the spires of Garfield and the Russian Buttes were plastered with fresh snow and the hills out to the downtown silhouettes of Seattle and Bellevue rose out of the greenery—spectacular! This really was one of my best winter trips of all time.

For my descent I dropped due south from the saddle directly below the summit, to a little above 3200 feet where I hit a road that I followed east to hit my up route. I returned to my car at 5:30pm; I left the summit around 3:15. The entire trip was 6.75 hours long with over 4000 feet of gain, maybe 11 miles in length.—Pilar, Monroe, 1/18.

## ❄️ THE ARK (USGS Lake Philippa)—Getting there:

Drive up the Middle Fork Snoqualmie road to its junction with the Taylor River road at 1087 feet and park.

The trail: Stefan, the Fellstroms, Christine, Chris and I set out to do The Ark, the 5339-foot high point that is a little over a mile due west from Marten Lake. Begin up the Taylor River road and where it forks with the Quartz Creek road and go left (up Quartz Creek). It was snowshoes almost immediately with Chris and Christine in the lead most of the way.

We continued up Quartz Creek about ¼ mile past the second switchback where a spur road angled off to our right. Follow this old road up to around 3700 feet where it is now easy to begin heading up into the basin. At this point my snowshoe broke (this becomes a recurring theme...). Chris, Christine and Stefan headed off while I stayed back and repaired my shoe. Steve and Liz waited for me. The views were awful, the snow was powdery (about a foot deep) but it was nice following Christine's amazing lead that began at 3700 feet and ended close to 4800 feet

on the south ridge of The Ark. At this point the summit was north-northeast and about 500 feet higher.

We made short work of that final bit and found ourselves sitting on the airy summit around 1pm. As we prepared to descend I noticed that my snowshoes had broken again. I jury-rigged them back together as the others descended.

Knowing that I was walking on "thin ice," so to speak, I did most of the descent "shoeless" (not a great idea). After getting back to the main Quartz road I tried wearing them again but they again broke so down I hobbled with the Fellstroms keeping me company most of the way. Stefan and the others had been waiting for a good 45 minutes by the time we got back to the vehicles and I felt bad for holding everyone up.

The whole trip took about 8 hours with about 4200 feet of gain. It was about 10 miles in length.—Everyone's favorite climbing kitty, Pilar, Monroe, 1/22.

## ❄️ TWIN PEAKS (USGS Mt Phelps, Lk Philippa)—Getting there:

Drive the North Fork Snoqualmie road to the gated road that goes up Philippa Creek.

The trail: Twin Peaks is about 2 miles south of Loch Katrine if the weather cooperated. Steve Fellstrom and I began the trip about 20 minutes late as I was a little slow on the up-take this nippy Thursday morning.

We donned snowshoes at the trailhead around 7:45am and made quick work of the logging road which begins at about 1520 feet and ends at the outlet to Loch Katrine at about 2900. Once you exit the logging road and step out onto the frozen shores of the "Loch" you are transformed into a different world. Beautiful virgin old-growth surrounds the lake with towering cliffs above, an absolutely pristine scene.

Once on the south end of the lake we ascended the spur ridge just west of the outlet stream coming down from Upper Loch Katrine. The ridge is a little bit steep in places but it is completely treed and it eased up as we got higher on the ridge. The most direct way to the lake is to continue to a minor 4240+ foot saddle above the lake's northern shores and then to descend 100 feet or so to the lake.

Once at the lake we could see our destination, the southernmost Twin Peak at 5325 feet. After an arduous climb in deep unconsolidated snow we hit the ridge (and the full-on sun).

Basking in the sun's glory we decided this was indeed a fine day and proceeded to the corniced summit. The

views to the northeast were absolutely fantastic; things were still a bit socked in to the west and directly north (though we could see the Olympics). The summit was cold so we went over to our second summit, North Twin at 5245 feet.

Here the weather had improved and it was at least 10 degrees warmer. We spent a good deal of time here knowing that it would be the last time we'd see or feel the sun for the rest of the day (all of the up route was on northeast facing slopes). The descent went well and was straightforward. The entire trip was done with snowshoes except for the last 100 feet of North Twin, no crampons necessary. As we arrived at the lower lake fog had already begun settling in. We arrived back at the cars around 5pm. This was a 9 hour trip with about 4000 feet of gain, maybe 10 miles in length. Great adventure.—the climbing kitty, Pilar, Monroe, 1/27.

## ❄️ HANCOCK'S COMB (USGS Mt Si)—Getting there:

Drive up the North Fork Snoqualmie road and park at the spur 10 gate.

The trail: "Hancock's Comb" is a lone island of old-growth in a sea of utter forest destruction. The summit (4680+ feet) is a mere mile northeast from the eastern end of Lake Hancock. The poor summit is encompassed by endless miles of logging roads. Steve Fellstrom and I started at the spur 10 gate (1000 feet) and began the 4¼ mile slog to the outlet of the lake.

At the outlet (2200 feet) our intent was to cut off as much road walking as possible. Standing at the northwest end of the lake we could see our little wooded second-growth spur ridge off to the left isolated by a stream on either side. Getting there wasn't easy.

Once on the narrow ridge we followed it northeast, through the second-growth that isn't all that bad, relative to what we just went through! We followed the straight spur road to its junction with another main road and went right for a couple of hundred yards. From here it was again time to go off-road heading due east (always upward) to hit the "mainest" logging road (3680+ feet) that goes beneath Hancock's Comb.

We didn't put on snowshoes until 3300 feet or so, and didn't really need them once hitting the "mainest" logging road due to the fact that the winds were blowing so fiercely that it was wind-packed hard as a rock! We followed the main road southeastward to the "Comb's" southwest ridge.

The wind was really howling now on



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the summit ridge. Steve led bravely, snowshoeless, to the top which is a little semi-bald spot on Hancock's northernmost end. Since there was no lingering on top we found a spot below the summit to have a lunch break. Here we basked in the 50+ degree weather and chowed some grub, looking out to Rattlesnake and the Tigers along with splendid views of Seattle and Bellevue rising out of the lowland haze.

Content with our little trip it was now time to descend. Once on the main trail behind the cabins we saw two people standing at a door. Steve and I talked to the couple and they agreed to give us a ride back down to the spur 10 gate, gratis! We arrived back to our car a little before 2pm.—Pilar, Monroe, 2/3.



## THE PULPIT, CHOIRBOY (USGS Lk Philippa)

Getting there: Drive up the Middle Fork Snoqualmie road and park at the main Middle Fork "parking lot" on the right side of the road at about 1000 feet.

The trail: Stefan, Christine and I parked at the new bridge and crossed the river en route to "The Pulpit" (Point 4523). At the beginning of this trip we also went up "Choirboy" (Point 2120+). To climb this very short prominent peak cross the new bridge, go right a few hundred feet and immediately begin heading up the northwest ridge. This is a nice short trip with open easy forest except for a salal bash the last couple of hundred feet or so.

There are filtered views across the valley to the enormous unclimbable walls of Garfield. After this glorious summit we descended to 1400 feet and began traversing northward to Rainy Creek. Follow up the creek on its north side in semi-open forest until it is feasible to cross.

We crossed at about 1250 feet and headed uphill where you'll hit a great trail going up Rainy Creek on the south side of the creek. The trail is in great shape. We followed it until we hit snow at about 2000 feet. Christine turned around here. Stefan and I continued up the main stream bed heading almost due south to about 2800 feet where we began a steep upward traverse to the false summit just east of the true summit. From here it is an easy slog west to the high point at 4523 feet.

After summiting and taking in the views it was an easy descent, no snowshoes were needed and we followed the old "Rainy Creek" trail to its inauspicious beginnings. Through a little trial and error we were able to cross Rainy Creek and follow the old tread, which at one point disappears completely into

the Middle Fork riverbed, back to the Middle Fork Bridge. We arrived back at the car at 3:30. 4200 feet of elevation and maybe 8 miles in length.

The low point of the trip was Stefan's inadvertently locking his keys in his truck, which happened at the very beginning of the trip. This in itself is no big deal but shattering a window to "unlock" the vehicle is! —Pilar, Monroe, 2/13.



**MILL CREEK (USGS Labyrinth Mtn, Stevens Pass)**—Mill Creek has been the site of the Stevens Pass Nordic Center for several years now but this was the first time Lee and I had tried the trails. A trail pass is about \$9.

The trails are shown on the GT maps but it's also handy to pick up a brochure from the ski shop. Intersections were mostly well-marked and the side loops provided plenty of interest.

Heading up-valley on the main Mill Creek trail, we were interrupted four times by snowmobiles passing us! Yes, they smiled and waved and slowed down to go by, but there is still the noise and the noxious fumes long after they have passed. For a system that is supposed to be machine-free, we were disappointed.

The sun dropped behind the Cascade Crest as we were still heading up-valley. By the time we reached the end, it was getting downright cold. On the way back we took some black diamond loops on the south side of Mill Creek. Unfortunately, the snow machines had been here, too, and their treads had chopped up the center ski-way which had refrozen into lumps, making it difficult to ski down the steep sections.

I don't mind paying for good groomed tracks, but I sure grumble about paying to ski with snowmobiles.—Ann Marshall, Port Orchard, 1/28.

## SOUTH CENTRAL



**MANNING'S REACH (GT Tiger Mtn 204S)**—We dropped a car at the landing field below Poo Poo Point and then headed around to the High Point Trail (take the High Point exit 20 off I-90 and instead of turning right to the more popular trailhead, turn left to the road end). There used to be a short distance on a dirt road before

accessing the trail at the powerlines, but somebody has put a lot of work into changing the road into a real trail.

Cross the powerline swath and head into the trees and the start of the High Point Trail. We turned left at the intersection with the Tiger Mountain Trail and continued climbing up to Tom's Crossing for a sunny rest stop and views north.

Continue along the TMT (it drops into the trees to the right; not the trail that takes you straight up to W Tiger 2) to the saddle between W Tiger 2 and 3. The TMT crosses the road and very shortly breaks out into an open area with views of Mount Rainier. This is Manning's Reach (though the new Green Trails map has located it down the Seattle View trail along the West Tiger RRgrade instead). This was our lunch spot with sunshine and views.

Another mile and a half down the TMT brings you to the One View Trail and our connection over to Poo Poo Point Trail. There are lots of stakes along this trail that I hope don't mean they are going to log this area as they did South Tiger!

From the intersection with the One View Trail, W Tiger RRgrade and Poo Poo Point trail, we headed to Poo Poo Point and then down the new trail to our cars. The clouds were moving in, but one brave soul took off in a parachute as we arrived at the lower spot for take-offs. His friends decided against it and walked down. We saw a lightning flash part way down as the rain started and hope he arrived down safely (they were gone by the time we got to the cars). About 8 miles and 2500 feet of gain with the ups and downs.—SIE, Seattle, 2/7



## WHITE RIVER BOTTOM (USGS Enumclaw)

This is what I call an extension of the White River Rim trail. It is a fun exploratory trip for anyone who wants to see how far they can go upriver from Mud Mountain Dam. We gave it our best shot in the time allowed and managed around 10 miles and 400 feet gain according to Jim's GPS/Topo//computer readouts.

Jim and I parked the car at the large dirt lot on the left side of the road just a little ways in on the Mud Mountain Dam road off Highway 410. Heading south on a dirt road just west of the parking lot, we crossed the Weyerhaeuser mainline and walked down to the White River where we headed upstream toward Scatter Creek.

The creek wasn't especially high, and we were able to cross it on a log. Even Shadow crossed it without falling



although he did slip once in the middle. The entire area has been under water at times as there was muddy sand and large round rocks along the route.

Following the river bank on roads and trails, we hiked until a cliff forced us onto a road heading back up to the rim. Lo and behold, there was an outhouse on the road along with a trail sign just like the outhouse and trail signs way back on the "official" Rim trail. Attempting to continue our trek upstream, we took the next road fork to the right (east).

There were no signs at that junction; however, about a mile down that road was another familiar looking trail sign. The trail signs just seemed to pop up wherever with no continuity. This road continued on a gentle grade back down to the river where we hiked a trail a mile or so to a horse camp complete with two hitching rails and fire pit.

The trail ended there so we headed to the "beach" and walked until a cliff face halted our progress. Since we didn't see any real way around this obstacle and it was getting late, we headed back.

Retracing our steps back to the "outhouse" road, we continued uphill to the Weyerhaeuser mainline road which we walked back 3 miles to our car. An easy, fun day exploring in the warm sunshine.—Ginny Evans, Renton, 2/5.



## PEAK 2080+ (USGS Mineral)

—The small lakeside village of Mineral lies just east of the highway between Elbe and Morton in the south-central cascade western foothills. Several peaks with 400 or more feet of prominence can be found nearby, all but one (Roundtop Mountain) having an old logging road reaching the top. Most of these are between 2000 and 3000 feet high, good for winter walks.

Peak 2080+, the most diminutive of the group, lies immediately west of Mineral Lake and has just over 480 feet of clean prominence. A network of gated logging roads through second and third growth affords miles of walking, with many good views of snowbound higher terrain. The handiest approach for a stroll to the summit is from Mineral Hill Road, which crosses the pass on the northeast shoulder of the peak.

The logging road shown on the USGS map at the northwest end of the pass is gated, and appears to be in occasional use. If starting here it would be best to park across the highway to avoid blocking the gate. Better, find an old bermed logging road 200 yard southeast, where you can park off-road, elevation just under 1600 feet.

The two roads join in a variety of

ways (explore). Soon encounter a major Y junction at about 1640 feet. Take the left branch to the east and follow it 1.6 miles to just south of the forested summit, ignoring 4 side roads left and passing an old rock quarry before the final ascent. Beat through brush a few dozen yards to the very summit, upon which stands a huge old growth stump. My altimeter read 2110 feet at this point. No views from the top, but plenty on the way up.

Try the side roads for extra winter exercise and more snooping. Counting the dead-end branches, the round trip gains about 800 feet with a total distance of 5 miles. Take snowshoes as needed.—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 2/5.



**LONGMIRE (USGS Wahpen-ayo Pk)**—The avalanche danger was too high to ski very far down the Paradise Valley road, so Laura and I took another route with no avalanche danger.

A ranger at the Museum at Longmire suggested a tour that started in the Park and ended in the National Forest. We drove back behind the museum over the suspension bridge to where the road dead-ended (past the trailhead to Eagle Peak Saddle).

The tour began where the plowing ended. We skied for about 1½ hours, then stopped under some trees and out of the elements (sort of) to eat our lunch. Soon after we knew that we were in



Coby Farnham on the West Champion trail in the MTTA system.

the National Forest, not the Park, as the obnoxious sound of snowmobiles sounded quite close to us. This was a mostly flat route which was pretty as it wound through some beautiful trees.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 1/15.



## CHAMPION TRAIL to COPPER CREEK HUT

(USGS Mt Wow)—I was surprised to see that the Sno-park on road 92 is now 5 miles up from Highway 706, not 6.3 miles from the highway as it has been in years gone by. This means that you have to ski an additional 1.3 miles (2.6 miles round trip) to get to the beginning of this trail. It added about ½ hour to the start of the tour for Coby and me. The milcage to the hut is now 8.6 miles round trip and the elevation gain is around 1000 feet.

We had a really nice day. It was sunny for the most part and warm enough for Coby to ski uphill in short sleeves and me in a turtleneck and vest. The snow was nearly perfect, light and powdery.

We started shortly after a group of 12 who were spending the night at the hut. They said they had reserved the hut at the MTTA Gala dinner and that you pretty much had to attend the dinner to reserve the hut for a weekend. They had tried the year before with no success. We saw only about 6 other day skiers on the trail.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 1/22.



## CASTLE-FOSS (USGS Mt Rainier East)

—Getting there: Drive to the Nisqually entrance and park at the Narada Falls lot.

The trail: This was to be Don Beavon's last big trip before heading off to Iran to do Damavand (the highest peak in Iran). Originally we were going to try Camp Muir. We got an early start... ate our Wheaties... paid our fees... only to be stopped by a locked gate at Longmire. The people at the Inn said that they weren't going to open it until 10am or so. So we all sat down for a cup of java at the restaurant and came up with Foss Peak as an alternate.

We were the first party out on the trail that day but as we were heading out another group was getting back... so there was a nicely beaten path to the lakes! There are Park Service wands the entire route.

After arriving at the lakes we headed up toward the Castle-Foss saddle. A party in front of us headed down and we asked them if they had made it to the saddle but as they entered the basin white-out conditions and blowing snow had turned them around (this party had been camped at the lake).



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As we entered the basin we experienced what they were talking about. The winds really picked up and visibility turned to nil. The wind-packed snow was actually fairly easy to kick steps in and we made slow steady progress toward the saddle.

Eventually Don, I and one other found ourselves atop the ridge at 6000+ feet just below the Castle. There was definitely no shelter from the storm at this juncture so we broke out the hot soup and apple cider to try to warm up. Don's wife and her friend had had enough sense to turn around before reaching the saddle. We caught up to them on the way down, took some pictures together, including one of an alien snow creature! Hopefully the picture will turn out... unfortunately the ones of aliens never do!

We arrived back at the cars around 3:30 giving us plenty of time to head up to Paradise to check things out. The power was out at Paradise and they were keeping the Jackson Visitor Center open only because of some sort of back up power system. After awhile it was time to start heading down. It was extremely windy, snowing and getting dark, a long slow drive out. This was a great ending to a very pleasant social trip with some great people. Good luck on Damavand, Don.—Pilar, Monroe, 1/20.

## REFLECTION LAKES (USGS Mt Rainier East)—

Laura and I had a picture-perfect day to ski to Reflection Lakes. We started at the parking lot at Paradise and skied down the Paradise Valley road. The sky was blue and we were surprised to find powder snow, too!

The avalanche danger was low, so we went all the way to the lake past the avalanche chute. We saw quite a few other people coming from Narada Falls and Mazama Ridge as well as the route we took.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 1/29.

## MOWICH LAKE (USGS Golden Lakes)—

Coby, his mom Janice and I skied up the Mowich Lake road. The snow was soft and deep in places on the road up and we were forced to stop about 2 miles short of the Paul Peak trailhead.

Although the snow left much to be desired for skiing as well as driving, the weather was great—sunny and warm. We stopped skiing up at a bend in the road with a magnificent view of the mountain.

After our lunch break we skied up for another couple of hours before turning around and heading back down to the car.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 2/5.

**WEST SIDE ROAD (USGS  
Mt Wow)—**A road grader has gone up the road and ruined it for skiing. I have no idea why the Park did it, nor did the Park Ranger I asked about it.—Paul Schaufler, Olympia, 2/4.



**COLDWATER VC (USGS  
Elk Rock)—**Jacki and I went "snow-walking" at St. Helens just above the Coldwater Visitor Center. Due to the high winds that always seem to buffet the area, new light snow blows away leaving just the hard packed snow underneath. We were prepared to snowshoe but the snow was so well consolidated that we hardly sunk in with our boots.

We began by following a road and then snowmobile tracks up to the top of a hill above the road. We had good views in all directions and especially of Coldwater Peak and St. Helens. We managed to get back to the car before the clouds and rain moved in.

The area above Highway 504 and the Coldwater Visitor Center is fairly open and consists of gently rolling terrain, perfect for skiing and snowshoeing. However, there is this Monument rule about not getting one inch off the trails or roads even in winter. We were warned to snowshoe only on roads. But believe me, when you are up there in such terrain, it is extremely difficult to tell where the roads are sometimes. And snowmobile tracks look like roads when everything is covered with snow.—Ginny Evans, Renton, 1/31

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

**MONUMENT 78, MANNING PARK (92 H/12 Manning Park)—**24 to 30 km round-trip on metal-edged waxless touring skis.

Manning Park is the Canadian side of the Pasayten Wilderness. The 2½ hour drive from Bellingham climbs up out of the Fraser Valley, past Hope on Highway 3 and through Allison Pass at 4436 feet. The Manning Park Lodge is located on the right (south side) 41 miles east of Hope. The Park Visitor Centre (250-840-8836) is located a

short distance farther on the left. It is a good source of trail information, directions, and current snow conditions, but it is only open on weekdays from about 8:30 to 4pm. When closed some information is available at the Lodge (250-840-8822; www.manningparkresort.com).

Continue east past the visitor center and turn off to the right/south at about 2 miles. Deep roadside snow may obscure the turnoff. This is the parking lot for Boyd's Meadow, Monuments 78 and 83. Overnight parking is allowed and there are no registration or passes required.

Ski the trail from the east end of the lot. In a few minutes the trail crosses the Similkameen River. Directly after the bridge go right. (If you go straight you may take a 2km side trip to Boyd's Meadow. On this day large surface hoar crystals were on every branch and blade of grass—some over an inch long. The bright sun and cold dry snow made it possible to identify many of the animal tracks including lynx. Return to the bridge and original junction.)

The right fork trail leads to a second bridge which spans Chuwanteen Creek (called Chuchuwanteen on the US side). The trail goes south on an easy to follow road and soon comes to the 78/83 fork. Go right—the trail now presents a series of short steep bumps requiring herring-bone climbing. From a minor high point in the trail three gentle descents end in a T at Castle Creek. The right fork is the East Similkameen trail which is in poor condition and should be avoided with skis. The 90 degree left goes up the Castle Creek drainage generally to the southwest for the remainder of the trip.

Beautiful valley views appear with glimpses of high snow covered peaks. On the other side of the creek the PCT drops into the valley and parallels your route but the high avalanche danger prevents using it in winter. Current Park handouts describe the last part of the trail as bad skiing but they are out of date and in fact the trail continues in good condition.

In a pleasantly wooded area a horse camp with a large primitive corral marks the junction with the PCT. Now, only a few minutes from Monument 78 you will encounter a high avalanche potential from the left/east side. It crosses the trail for only a short distance but it is imperative that you can see and evaluate the danger from the higher slopes.

At 4260 feet the tip of the monument obelisk was just visible above the snow. Various signs provided information in-



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cluding the northern US terminus of the PCT and that it was only 2627 miles to Mexico. To the east the typical border clearing led back a short distance to the avalanche slope but to the west the familiar border strip was cleared through the forest up and over the adjacent mountain. A single set of bear tracks continued on the smaller PCT into the US.

The 12 km from vehicle to monument took about 2½ hours up and 1½ hours down but conditions were just about perfect. The heavier metal-edged skis, though slower going up, made fast easy descents on the "bumps" in the trail.—Bud Hardwick, Bellingham, 1/28.

## ALASKA



### MOUNT BAROMETER (USGS Kodiak Island)—I

took advantage of a beautiful clear Alaskan day to get in a quick winter

climb. During the winter months I am always away from my beloved Cascades. I get to view plenty of peaks from the deck of our fishing boat in the cold North Pacific; however, rarely do I get to do any climbing.

This time taking advantage of a breakdown on the fishing boat, I headed to the hills. I was dropped off next to the road and about 45 minutes of post-holing brought me to the base of small but magnificent Mount Barometer. In the summer it is a simple steep walk to the summit. In the winter it is a different peak altogether.

The temperature was well below freezing and there was a cold easterly wind blowing. I followed the east ridge to a position above the brush and deep snow, and traversed directly to the north face couloir. Here the terrain quickly steepens and the wind-scoured snow made for excellent crampon conditions. I followed the gully to steeper terrain on a combination of hard snow

and ice.

I exited the couloir and attempted a mixed line among the rock bands. Here the ice upon the rock was weak and brittle. I was afraid if my ice tool placements blew, my feet would shear off. Without a belay, I backed off and down climbed back to the couloir. The couloir turned out to be an enjoyable 60 to 70 degree climb. Once on the summit ridge it was an easy 10 minutes to the top.

The views were spectacular but after about 20 minutes, the bitter wind chased me off. I descended the east ridge and hitchhiked back to town. Time up was 2 hours and 20 minutes. Descent took 40 minutes.

Even if I can't be climbing mountains with Dallas Kloke all year, I still get to bag that occasional Alaskan summit while I finance the rest of the year's climbing and bills. Soon it's off to Prince William Sound and hopefully some waterfall ice around Cordova.—Scott Bingen, Anacortes, 1/28.

## 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.

**LOST**—Camera on Pratt Lake/Granite Mountain trail 2/13. If found please call 206-546-0172 (Seattle).

**FOUND**—Climbing gear on Sauk Mountain, 12/4. Call to identify. 206-523-7733 (Seattle).

**FOUND**—On West Tiger, 11/22, Goran and I stopped at the "hiker's hut" and found a stuff sack with clothing on the bench. I took them home and washed them—they were damp and smelly—now I have them waiting for the owner to identify and claim. Call Fred, 425-885-3749 (Woodinville).

**HIKING PARTNERS**—Looking for women hiking partners for day trips and backpack trips. Gig Harbor, Port Orchard area. Amy, 253-857-6958.

**FOR SALE**: Sorel boots, never worn (too small); black, waterproof bottoms, warm removable liners, suede leather uppers, men's size 7 (women's 8 to 8½). Paid \$70, will sell for \$35. 425-868-7601 (Redmond).

**FOR SALE**—1989 Life Link shovel. This is the "breakdown" model—the blade detaches from the handle for easy packing. Strong shovel. Good condition. \$25 plus \$10 postage.

1988 Lowe "Latok" fleece-lined salopette knickers. One-of-a-kind, designed by Alex Lowe. Wonderful bivi and climbing pants. Blue/red knee and rear patches made with nylon Armor Cloth. HUGE and smooth non-icing YKK zippers. Full side zips. Full crotch zips (bellybutton to tailbone). Approximately 32-34 inch stretchy waist. A nice piece of gear, lightweight and warm. I'm too darn big for them now. Mint condition. Paid \$100+, will sell for \$40 plus \$10 postage.

Larry Smith, 360-876-7788, leave message during the day (Port Orchard).

**FOR SALE**—Fischer Crown in-track skis with crown waxless base, size 210cm, mounted with Rottefella NNN-BC automatic bindings. Dark purple. Well maintained, used 2 seasons. Great for beginner/casual skier on groomed track. \$55/offer Call Bob at 360-697-2573 (Poulsbo) or email bobble@web-o.net.

**FOR SALE**—Kazama Outback Soft Telemark/Backcountry skis. Size 198cm. Traditional sizing, touring/turning ski. Waxable bases, full metal edges. Comes with Voile climbing

skins. Used 2 seasons, well maintained. No bindings, previously mounted with Rainey Superloops. \$45/offer. Knock off \$10 if you don't want the skins. Call Bob at 360-697-2573 (Poulsbo) or email bobble@web-o.net.

**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.

**WSTC**—Washington Ski Touring Club offers a variety of trips, clinics and volunteer opportunities for cross-country and backcountry skiers. Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month, November through April, at Seattle REI, 7pm. For more information, call 206-525-4451, or visit our website, [www.wstc.org](http://www.wstc.org)

**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).



JOE SCHUSTER

# the Lost Coast

—BACKPACKING ALONG THE CALIFORNIA COAST—

Claudia Gillis, Len and Unson Roughgarden, Doug Varga and I leave Bellevue at 6am on August 21 last summer. It is cloudy with some rain as we travel south but by the time we reach California it is sunny and 90 degrees. We leave I-5 and take Highway 96 to Eureka, a beautiful but very curvy road. Supper in Eureka at 7pm then drive the very curvy road to Shelter Cove, arriving at 11pm. Sleep at the campground in Shelter Cove.

**Sunday**, the 22nd, we are up at 0630 but do not get ride to trailhead until 10am because of some confusion about our arrangements. Ken, a vacationing air controller, agrees to drive us the 2 hours of bad back roads to the Mattole River and trailhead. We start hiking at noon, heading south along the beach toward Shelter Cove where our van will be waiting for us.

Most of the walking is on very soft sand or gravel—difficult. The day is perfect, 65 to 70 degrees and sunshine. We hike 8 miles to Randall Creek arriving at 5:30pm.

We have seen a lot of sea lions, and cormorants and other birds. We have encountered only one other group of 3 hikers all day. After dinner we watch a



Joe Schuster

The trail crosses headlands.

beautiful sunset. The night is warm, about 55 degrees, good star gazing after the half-moon goes down. Some dew in the morning.

**Monday**, I am up at 7am and after a leisurely breakfast we are hiking about 9:30. The fog rolls in and even though it is 70 to 75 degrees, we hike in fog all day. We get about 30 minutes of sun at 2:30pm. Today we hike on an aban-

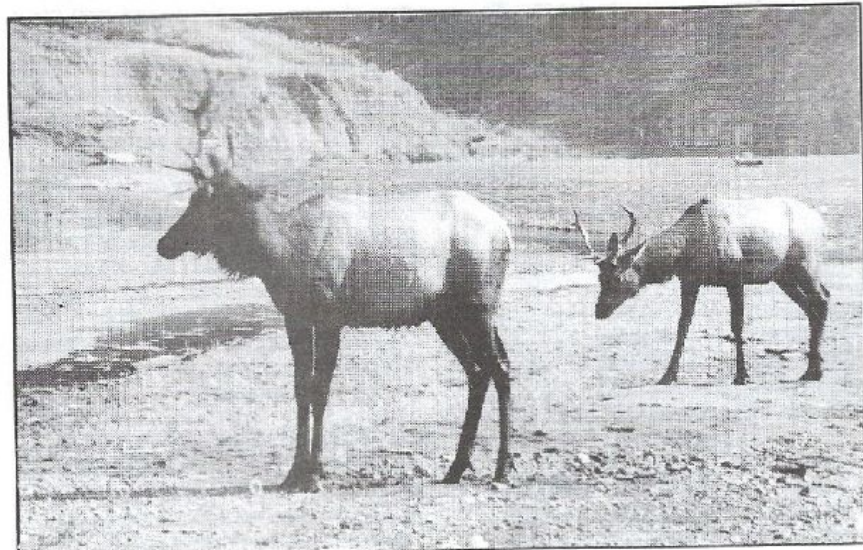
doned jeep road next to the beach and the walking is easier. We pass three private, very remote, cabins.

We see no one until Big Flat Creek where we plan to camp. At Big Flat there is no water and lots of people who have apparently boated in. We hike on, arriving at Shipman Creek at 5pm. We have hiked 9 miles today.

We have seen more sea lions, lots of deer, a very large jack rabbit, diving pelicans, cormorants, assorted birds. In the evening we watch a feeding frenzy—a group of sea lions jumping completely out of the water as they chase an invisible (to us) fish. A large deer watches us from the bluff 100 feet above us.

To bed at 9pm with thick fog rolling in. Doug and I sleep in a large driftwood lean-to which keeps some of the dew off. It was cooler during the night.

**Tuesday**. Not in any hurry, we stay in sleeping bags until 9am. We start hiking about 10:30am. First stop is Buck Creek where we take pictures of "hoodoos" (large stacks of rocks made by previous hikers). We hike to Getchell Creek arriving at noon for lunch and the rest of the day. The fog lifts and we can see Shelter Cove in the distance. Watch



Joe Schuster

Elk visit the campsite.





seagulls bathe in a pond—quite a ritual. In the evening we are in bed by 9pm in the fog. In the middle of the night it clears up and we can see stars.

**Wednesday.** Hiking about 9:40am. It is an easy day. We hike the 6 miles to Shelter Cove arriving at 12:30pm. Shower, wash clothes. Eat in the restaurant. At dusk six deer cross the golf course we are camped next to. To bed at 8:30 in the campground. It is 61 degrees. In spite of a clear night there is lots of dew. I felt like I was in a sauna all night.

**Thursday.** Up at 6:30am to get organized. Breakfast at campground restaurant then Tom goes with us to the Usal Creek campground, our next trailhead. It is a 2.5 hour drive. We see a large bull elk on the road. We are hiking by 10:30am.

This next 17 miles gains 5300+ feet. We rapidly gain 1250 feet in elevation. It is 70 degrees in the shade and hot in the sun. I am drenched in sweat. We pass hikers who say we should not camp at Anderson Camp but go on to Little Jackass Creek camp, an extra 2.5 miles and more up and down.

As we hike we come upon two large bull elk occupying the trail. We take photos and ease by them as they move slightly off the trail. They are not afraid of us at all. They are nearing the rut and seem somewhat aggressive, kicking the ground and rubbing antlers in the dirt. We are less than 30 feet from the elk, too close for my comfort zone.

We arrive at Little Jackass camp, a beautiful, secluded, beach, at 3:30pm. This is the best beach yet. Explore caves, hole-in-the-rock. There are seals, very large pelicans roosting nearby. The surf is too big to swim but we get wet and then bathe in the creek.

What a great day! We go to bed at

9pm. It is slightly overcast and warmer. It is a warm night, no dew.

**Friday.** Up at 8:30 and hiking by 9:30. Immediately gain 1000 feet very steep and quick. Stop for lunch at 11am on top of knoll with incredible view of the coast and of our camp for tonight, Wheeler Beach.

We are at Wheeler by 12:30pm having hiked 4.5 miles and gained 1500 feet elevation. It has been overcast and 75 degrees. The sun comes out about 4pm. We spend the afternoon relaxing and playing.

The best part of the afternoon is about 45 minutes of "entertainment" by two bull elk who wander through the area. They do not seem to mind us at all. They eat, then stop and butt heads, playing, and then return to eating again. One takes a "bath" in the creek rolling in a small pond and putting his head into the water. We take lots of pictures.

Wheeler Beach is a beautiful spot to camp. We have a few drops of rain today then the sky clears for a while. In the evening it gets very foggy. We see 2 does and 2 fawns grazing nearby. To bed at 9:30pm. A lot of dew tonight.

**Saturday.** Up at 8am. Hiking by 8:50am. 4.5 miles and 1000 feet elevation gain in 2.5 hours. At the trailhead there is no van. Doug jogs 2 miles to the visitors center and returns with the van.

We start home, camping in Oregon. We take Highway 101 north to Grants



Deep forest and ferns.

Joe Schuster

Pass, a much better drive. Arrive home Sunday about 4:30pm.

#### Comments:

The ocean beach hike in the King Range National Conservation Area could be done in 3 days and 2 nights.

The 17 miles in the Sinkyone Wilderness is in deep redwood forest and is extremely beautiful. While it could be done in 2 days and one night, it would be a shame to do so and not do this part as a very relaxing hike and camp on the two beaches as we did.

I slept every night without a tent in my 40 degree bag and was quite comfortable.

For more information, write:  
Sinkyone State Park  
PO Box 245  
Whitethorn CA 95489

BLM, Arcata Field Office  
1695 Heindon Road  
Arcata CA 95521

or e-mail the author, Joe Schuster:  
JAS737@aol.com

*Joe Schuster, of Bellevue, is a former Scout leader who has hiked extensively in Washington and organizes trips to interesting places in the West.*



A hiker tries a little surf-fishing.

Joe Schuster



LEE MCKEE

## Rosedale to Gig Harbor

—A WINTER PADDLE IN SOUTH SOUND—

This is a roughly 17nm one-way trip around the south end of the Kitsap Peninsula. It starts on a street end in Rosedale by Raft Island in Carr Inlet and ends at a launch ramp in Gig Harbor (see *Kayaking Puget Sound, the San Juans, and Gulf Islands* by Washburne and *South Puget Sound Afoot and Afloat* by the Muellers for directions to the put-in and take-out). The route involves paddling through Hale Passage and The Narrows so timing the trip to account for currents is a must.

David, our trip leader, set a 7am meet time at the street end to allow time for setting up a car shuttle as well as getting boats ready. By 8:30 cars were positioned, boats ready, and six of us in single set kayaks set out.

There was no wind and the water was perfectly calm this January 22 as we paddled around the east side of Raft Island and headed over to Cutts Island. Since there were no restrooms available at the put-in, we opted for a short stop at Cutts to use the facilities (a pretty well dilapidated outhouse).

Back on the water we continued south, past the opening to Horsehead

Bay, and shortly before 10am rounded Green Point and headed into the entrance of Hale Passage. The predicted current was ebbing at a little over a knot and a half which helped us along. Before long we were at the bridge which connects the mainland to Fox Island. At a boat ramp on the Fox Island side we took a short stop to stretch our legs. Unfortunately there are no restroom facilities here which is a surprise due to the amount of use the place gets from boaters.

We continued on our way southward. To get the most out of the current we opted to stay close to mid-channel. Shortly before 11:30 we were at Point Fosdick, which marks the southern entrance to The Narrows. The route David had selected crossed The Narrows here to Titlow Beach Park where we stopped for lunch. There are restrooms at the park; however, they are locked for the winter which makes for quite an inconvenience.

By 12:45 we were back on the water and heading northward into The Narrows. David's plan had been to take advantage of an ebbing current as we

made our way along the Tacoma side of The Narrows to Point Defiance. Unfortunately, the current changed sooner than expected which resulted in more paddle work than we had hoped for. Hugging the rocky shoreline, we took advantage of any small eddies we could find.

An up-side

to this was we spent more time getting past the small waterfront community of Salmon Beach than we would normally do with the current pushing us along. There sure is a variety of houses there built on pilings, and as we paddled by we had a short visit with one person who was in the process of carving a totem pole.

By 2:30 we had reached Point Defiance. A fairly strong eddy line/rip can form off the point and was in the process of doing so. Offshore in the middle of The Narrows the predicted current was about 2½ knots. The crossing from here to the entrance of Gig Harbor is just over 1nm. To keep from getting swept back into The Narrows and to avoid the rip off the point, we paddled a short way around the point before beginning the crossing.

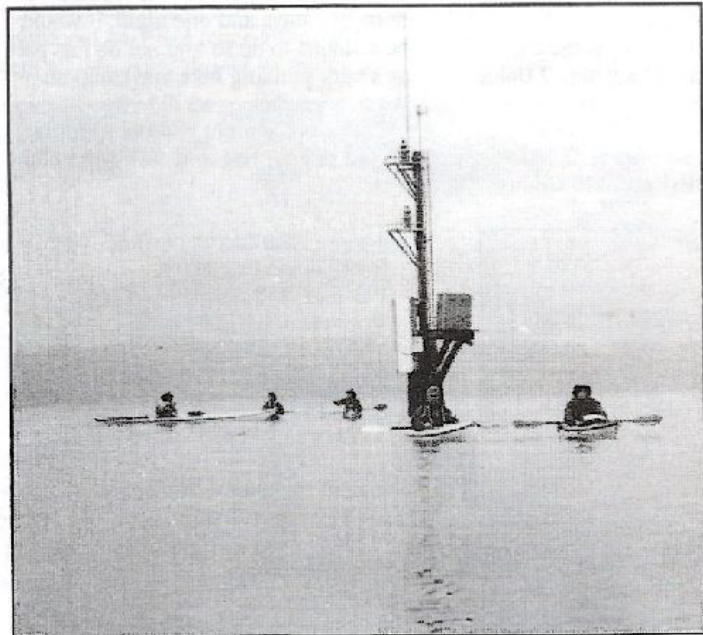
Leaving the shore line, we set a course toward the entrance to Colvos Passage to offset the flooding current and began a ferry glide toward the entrance to Gig Harbor. About half way across, the current slackened, and we adjusted our heading accordingly until we were soon heading directly toward the entrance to the harbor.

The current was flooding into the harbor at just under 1 knot which was a welcome benefit after having it against us for most of the way through The Narrows. Shortly before 3:30 we reached the boat ramp at the north end of the harbor.

The total trip had taken about 7 hours, including time for lunch and stops along the way. The weather had been just about perfect with no wind and the sun breaking out of the overcast as we entered the harbor. Quite a trip for the end of January!

△

*Lee McKee, of Port Orchard, is a member of The Mountaineers Sea Kayak Committee.*



Kayakers at Green Point.

Lee McKee



MIKE TOROK

# Rainy Pass to Bridge Creek

—A SELDOM-DONE TRAVERSE OVER FISHER PASS—

Mitch planned a four-day trip to do prominent peaks between Black Peak and Mount Logan for September 16 through 19, 1999.

The trip was scheduled several months in advance. With the year's poor La Nina weather most of the summer, we wondered what the weather gods would give us. They turned out to give us the best weekend of the summer.

We started at Rainy Pass and returned by way of the Bridge Creek trail. We hiked to Maple Pass, headed cross-country to Last Chance Pass, then down to the intersection of Woody Creek and Grizzly Creek, up Grizzly Creek and onto the saddle south of Indecision Peak, to the ridge west of Natal Peak, down the ridge and down to Fisher Pass, up to Peak 7910 (across from Goode), down to North Fork Bridge Creek trail and out.

We followed part of the Logan cross-country route noted in Beckey's *CAG* (green book), page 314. We climbed or scrambled Benzarino, Indecision, Meulefire, Natal, Peak 7112, and Outpost (Peak 7910).

We did not see any sign of previous parties on the route or any wildlife. Two of the three camps were high on ridges and had picture perfect views. Most of the summits had cairns but not registers. The lack of registers was a big disappointment.

## DAY 1

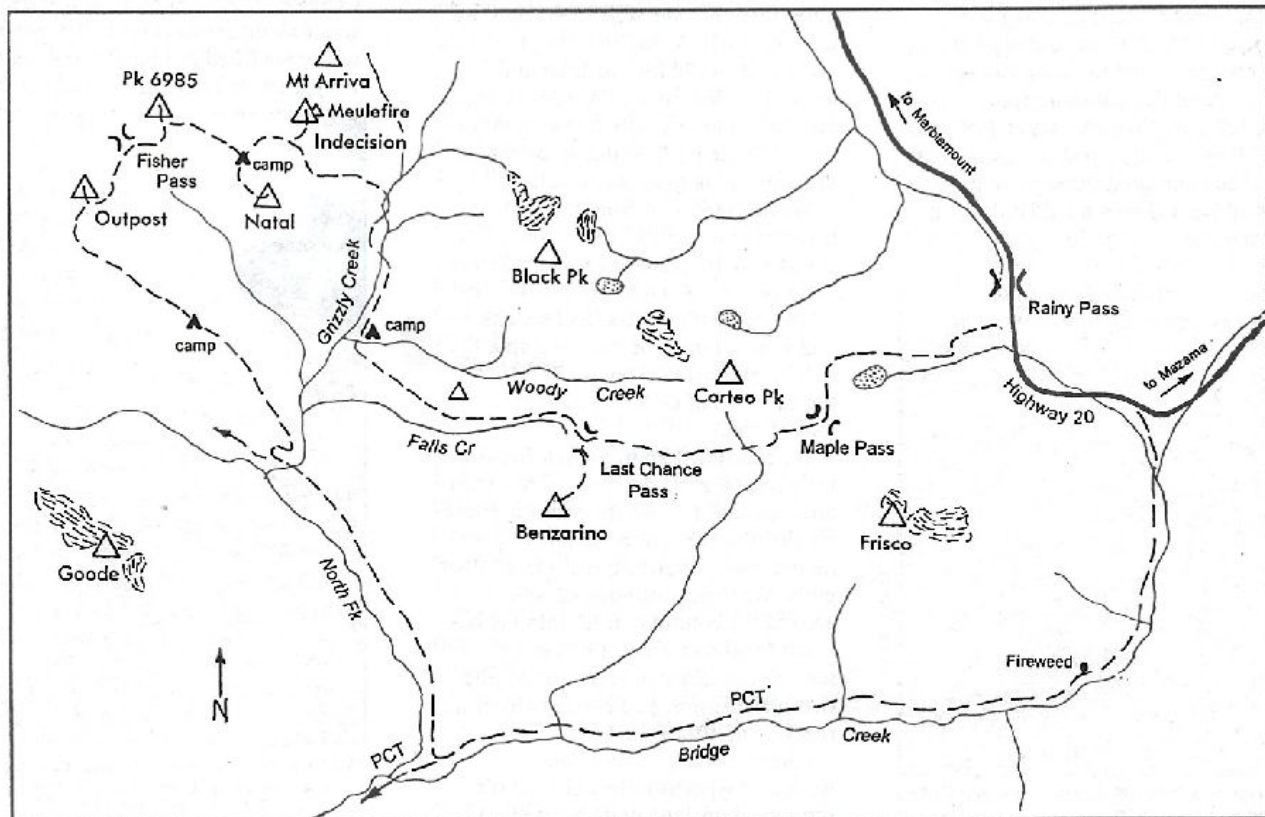
We started at 9am from Rainy Pass and followed the trail to Maple Pass. At the trailhead was a warning note about work occurring on the trail. Enroute we met the trail crew. They were using a little tractor to smooth the trail and dynamite to remove large rocks. The trail

looked great.

About a mile before meeting them, we heard the sound of blasting. We didn't know if the trail was closed, if we would have to wait, or if we would have to do a detour. The concern was solved when we passed by without a problem. We chatted a while with one worker. One person was a member of the Courtney family out of Stehekin and the other person I recognized as a Stehekin Valley bus driver. Maple Pass had one snow patch remaining. The surrounding views were wonderful and the beautiful clear blue skies were a joy.

We headed off-trail from Maple Pass down to the basin below Horsefly Pass and contoured at 6000 feet to a small lake, then on to Last Chance Pass. Here we dumped our packs and scrambled to Mount Benzarino.

We scrambled upslope to the base







Mike Torok

Mitch at the summit of Outpost as sunset approaches, with Black Peak and Cortez Peak in the background.

of the northeast face, then climbed the face to the summit, working our way through small gullies and ledges (Class 4) to the summit. We were presented with fine views of the area and were able to study the route we were going to follow for the remainder of the trip.

I ran over to check out the west summit. This summit was a few feet lower and also had no register. Enroute back to the packs, I scramble over Peak 7680+.

We noticed some wonderful camping sites near a small lake ¼-mile southwest of Last Chance Pass. For someone interested in doing Benzarino, I recommend this camping spot.

We left Last Chance Pass at 4:50pm and followed Falls Creek to about 5600 feet, then contoured through an unpleasant burned area a half-mile long and south of Point 5870.

We dropped off the nose to Woody Creek, encountering some thick fir trees that were little problem. After reaching the creek we looked for the



Mike Torok

Mitch hunts for the Indecision register at the summit cairn.

first camping site. It was getting late and we were not going to be too fussy.

We found a spot where we could make do at about 4250 feet next to Woody Creek. It was now 7:10pm and darkness was coming soon. We set up camp, and ate dinner in the dark.

#### DAY 2

The next morning we got up at first light and were out of camp by 7:18am. We followed Grizzly Creek for a little less than a mile, then hit a large slide alder field at about 4500 feet. Here we discussed which way to go, and chose a gully that would lead us high and around the brush. We crossed the creek and got up high below rocks, then traversed to the gully going up below Indecision. This route went well.

We dropped a bit from the high traverse to Grizzly Creek at 4800 feet. It was now 10:22am and it had taken us 3 hours to go about 1.5 miles. We enjoyed the surroundings, had snacks, and watered up. The camping spot the CAG mentions is about 4820 feet on the east side of Grizzly Creek and looked good.

We continued up to the northeast, going across a rock slope into trees, then around 5600 feet we traversed left into a gully, then followed the gully up (about 5900), then left again to another gully. We then continued up and around the bottom of a rib into the basin at 6100 feet. Here it was easy scrambling to a saddle (6940 feet) between Indecision and Natal, which we reached at 12:40pm.

After enjoying lunch at the saddle, we took daypacks to Indecision. We scrambled upslope until it got more

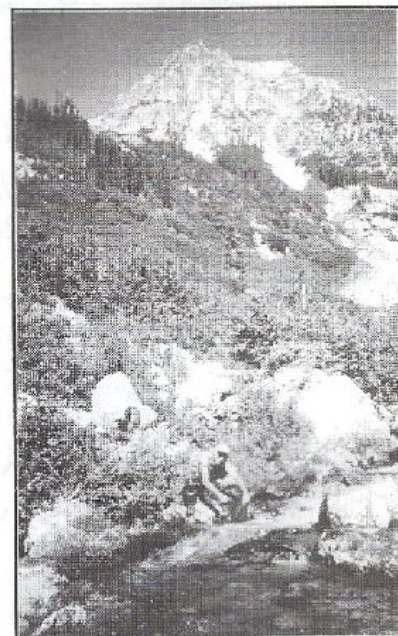
technical, then we went right on a ledge to a ridge, and on to the summit.

The CAG indicates it is Class 4 but depending on the route, it's not. The summit of Indecision presented us with wonderful views of the surrounding area. The view of Mount Arriva and Silent Lake looked great (too bad we did not have time to visit).

Mitch tore the summit cairn apart looking for the register, but came up empty-handed. He managed to talk me out of my only film container. Mitch left it as a register with a note accusing the NCNP of removing the original register (J. Roper indicated there was a register in '81).

I was interested in doing Meulefire but Mitch was not. The CAG mentioned it was Class 4 from Indecision. I looked the route over carefully and determined it looked like a Class 4 scramble. So, I decided to scramble Meulefire and the only problem I encountered was an exposed step about half way down off Indecision. It took us about 3.5 hours round trip with an hour on the summit to do Indecision from the saddle.

We headed west from the saddle dropping about 500 feet, then continued upslope to the flat ridge northwest of Natal. It took us about 1.5 hours and we encountered no problems. We found water about 200 feet below the ridge where we filled our bottles and hauled 1.5 gallons to the ridge (we did not think



Mike Torok

Mitch soaks his shirt to keep cool before we head up Indecision, in the background.





Mitch Blanton

Mike on the west sub-summit of Benzarino, with Goode, Stormking, Buckner and Eldorado in the background.

the ridge would have running water, but it did have a bit of snowmelt).

The ridge (6080+ feet) was not very smooth but we found an acceptable spot (we later found great camping west-northwest of Peak 7135 at 6800 feet). It was great to be getting into camp early, at 5:15pm (it's always a concern of mine we are going to use the whole day peakbagging). From our camping spot, we had wonderful views of Logan, Goode, and Ragged Ridge.

### DAY 3

Now it was the beginning of the third day and the trip was half over. I didn't know if this was good or bad. Things had been going too well.

The plan was to climb Natal from the northwest and move camp to a high spot below Outpost. We took our time relaxing in the morning enjoying the wonderful surroundings in perfect weather. We studied the route for Natal.

The CAG had few words; John Roper tipped us with some additional details. We left camp at 8am. We scrambled about three-fourths of the way without problem. Then we encountered, in order, one 50-foot Class 4 pitch and three 50 to 100-foot Class 5 pitches.

It took us a lot longer to summit than we were expecting. We spent a little

time enjoying the summit. Mitch guessed we were the second ascent party. The descent went well with four rappels. The information we had failed to highlight the fine details of the pitches. They were fun and solid but were much more technical and in greater number than we expected. We were very happy to be back at camp at 12:40pm.

While on Natal, we were given a wonderful view of Fisher Pass. This Pass puzzled us. Both sides of the pass have creeks named Fisher Creek. Very odd, and it's the only place where I have seen this.

The wide stream going northwest from the pass also deceived us. It looked like it was flowing southeast. We discovered the stream was really flowing northwest when we were able to look right down on the Pass. This could have been a very time-consuming error if Mitch had not found this while I did Peak 7112.

We headed out down the spectacular ridge at 1:40pm to Peak 6985 above Fisher Pass. The CAG names this ridge "Spectacular Ridge." I had my eye on a neat summit, Peak 7112. Mitch took a break while I ran over to it. Peak 7112 had great views, but of course so did everything else.

We dropped from Peak 6985 heading slightly left on fairly steep terrain. We followed game trails, which led us a couple of hundred yards southeast of the pass. We encountered one 200 foot section of thick brush.

The black flies were bad so we continued across the valley, up to the right of a stream, and through some light brush. The terrain was steep and holding onto the brush made for easier going. When we reached a small lake, the terrain lay back and it was no problem getting to the summit of Outpost (Outpost is not shown in the CAG).

We reached the summit of Outpost at 6:35pm. Mitch of course tore the cairn apart looking for the register, which he did not find. Whoever took all the registers did a complete job. Outpost had breathtaking views of Goode. The view to the North Fork Bridge Creek was about 4000 feet below.

Too bad we did not get here an hour earlier to enjoy this seldom-visited summit. In hindsight, we should have got moving earlier so we would have had time to enjoy Outpost longer. I took my boots off to dry my damp feet, watching the sun dip off the shoulder of Mount Logan. The lighting was poor for photos. Mitch was long gone when I left the summit at 7pm.

Mitch found a wonderful camping area a bit before Point 7135. I arrived at 7:30pm and we had just enough light to set up camp but we ate in the dark again. Rocks gave us chairs to enjoy the evening meal, moon, and the views in a bug free environment.



Mike Torok

Looking back at Natal from Spectacular Ridge.



MICHAEL FEAGIN  
Washington Online Weather

## SNOW: Are We Ahead or Behind Last Year?

WOW has been asked this many times this winter. Most people want to try to make sure that we don't have a late hiking and climbing season like last year.

There are several ways to measure snow. There is snow on the ground and snow water equivalent (SWE). The water resource community uses SWE for many reasons. They use this data for flood potential, and water available for the late spring and summer for the agricultural community and for urban areas. The totals we have listed below are not cumulative snowfall for the season.

Here are the totals for snowpack (SWE). The number listed is the snowpack as a percent of normal. These numbers are for 2-1-1999 and 2-1-2000.

- Blewett Pass: 1999 86%, 2000 71%
- Paradise: 1999 156%, 2000 154%
- Snoqualmie Pass: 1999 173%,

2000 164%

- Rainy Pass: 1999 164%, 2000 102%
- Stevens Pass: 1999 131%, 2000 85%

The following number is for snow on the ground. The number listed is snow on the ground in inches with the number in parenthesis the percent of normal.

- Mount Baker: 1999 210" (210%), 2000 155" (125%)
- Stevens Pass: 1999 130" (149%), 2000 119" (137%)
- Snoqualmie Pass: 1999 118" (151%), 2000 104" (132%)
- Paradise: 1999 194" (147%), 2000 156" (118%)

What can be made of these numbers? The main message is all the above locations show the snow amounts were higher last year. However, the amounts for this year for many of the locations are still above normal.

Will the backcountry snow melt out faster than last year? It should; however, time will solve that mystery. Last year the snow was slow to melt due to a cold and wet spring and early summer. Also, last year the snowfall was heavy in February and March. On April 1 of 1999 Mount Baker had 311" on the ground and Paradise had 280". It is very doubtful if these totals will be reached this year.

Most experts believe the La Nina pattern (cool and wet) will continue until June of 2000. We will see what happens. Don't plan any backpack trips yet. △

*This information was provided by Washington Online Weather, <http://www.wowweather.com> (425-450-4901).*

### Rainy Pass to Bridge Creek *continued from previous page*

#### DAY 4

The fourth day came early. It was hard to believe our weather—another clear day. We enjoyed breakfast with good colors on Goode during the sunrise. Camp broke easily and we were headed out at 6:58am.

We dropped following the ridge to the southeast to meet the North Fork Bridge Creek trail at Grizzly creek. We found another wonderful camp spot at about 6450 feet with water nearby. We did encounter a few patches brush on the ridge but they were no problem.

We made a mistake at the toe of the ridge. Grizzly Creek heads back west and we should have left the ridge around 3400 feet and headed straight down. We followed the ridge to the toe at the creek, then had to fight a bit of brush and downed timber to intersect the trail.

It took about 3 hours to reach Grizzly Creek. The major course of Grizzly Creek has a new footbridge 150 feet downstream that makes the crossing

much easier than the ford, which Mitch did.

It took us 6.5 hours to hike out the North Fork Bridge Creek and Bridge Creek trails to Highway 20. The section of trail between the North Fork trail junction and Fireweed camp is exposed to the sun during the heat of the day. I had memories of this experience from previous trips where the heat made it tough going. It was no different this time. It's best to travel this section at the beginning or end of the day.

The first people we met were two nice women at Maple Creek enjoying lunch near the stream. They were visiting from their homes in Chicago and Montana and were doing a trip from Bridge Creek to Sahale Arm and returning the same way. They picked the best week of the summer to come out and enjoy our North Cascades.

We also met a group of three heading to Stehekin with light packs, and a single fellow sightseeing. The sightseer was from Louisiana and was on a cam-

paign to visit all the National Parks.

Mitch's car was parked at Rainy Pass and the plan was for him to hitchhike to the Pass. This plan failed. After four days without the comforts of a shower and clean clothes, the cars seemed to pass him by like he didn't exist. The problem was solved when the sightseer we met on the trail returned to the trailhead and gave Mitch a ride back to his car.

I finally was getting out early enough to stop at Birdview Burgers for dinner. I had heard, from a chef friend, that they made great burgers. He was right. We were lucky to get our order in before the masses arrived. This was a great way to end a wonderful adventure. I was sorry to even think about returning to work the next day and leave behind the best weather of the summer. △

*Mike Torok lives and works in Seattle. He has been exploring the backcountry for more than 20 years.*



BOB MCBRIDE

# A Tour of the Eastern Islands

—A SUMMER KAYAK TRIP FROM ANACORTES—

Three of us in single kayaks took off from the beach just to the west of the ferry terminal in Anacortes that provides service to Guemes Island. It was about 11am on August 9, 1999. We headed across Guemes Channel. The current at the west entrance to Guemes Channel was just starting to flood.

We paddled to the southwest corner of Guemes Island on our way to Strawberry Island. As we approached the southern tip of Cypress Island we encountered the flood starting up Bellingham Channel.

We rounded the southern tip of Cypress and caught the flood going up Rosario Strait. We landed on the southeast tip of Strawberry Island around 1330. The beach is rocky and the kayaks need to be put up on the shore to prevent waves caused by passing ships from reaching the kayaks.

Kayaks can be landed on the southwest edge of the island but the beach is very small and rocky. There are three campsites and a trail that leads to different parts of the island.

We left at 11am on the 10th to go to Pelican Beach on Cypress Island. This

was 2 hours past the peak ebb of a 4.3 knot current. We took off in the fog heading for Strawberry Bay on Cypress.

After reaching Cypress, we headed up the western shore catching the back eddies and rounded the northern tip of Cypress Island. We arrived at Pelican Beach at around 12:30. We were very surprised to see two trucks parked on the beach.

A new composting toilet was being built, along with boardwalks. The construction would be completed by September. We took a hike up to the top of Eagle Cliff. This is a great place to watch the setting sun and the boats on Rosario Strait. We watched an Outward Bound boat come across the Strait. They took awhile to get across because of the current and lack of wind. It is about a 2 mile hike from Pelican Beach to Eagle Cliff and back.

When we got back to Pelican Beach there were 39 people camped on the beach. This is a very popular place to camp, to say the least.

The next day we hiked to Eagle Harbor and explored an old homestead at the head of the harbor. There are some old fruit trees still bearing fruit. We then hiked up to Reed Lake and watched the dragon flies. There is a trail from Reed Lake to Cypress Head. The hike from Cypress Head to Eagle Cliff would be about 3½ miles one way. Tonight there were only 11 people camping at Pelican Beach. On Thursday the 12th, we set out from Pelican Beach in a northeast direction at 11:30 to go to Sinclair Island, up around the west edge and across to the campsite on the

Lummi Island. We saw some sea lions on the rocks by Boulder Reef. We had no wind and some current assisting us and we arrived at the campsite at about 12:30.

The beach is rocky at low tide and is well protected. There are 6 campsites and the sites are well maintained. We enjoyed a good view of Bellingham which is only about 6 miles from the campsite. There were only 2 other kayakers at this site. We awakened to a wet camp since it had rained most of the night.

On Friday, 13 August, we put in at 0730 to go back to Anacortes. We paddled from Lummi to the east side of Vendovi Island. We saw some orcas just to the northwest of Vendovi. We enjoyed viewing them for about 30 minutes. From there we went east of Jack Island and landed on Guemes for a stretch.

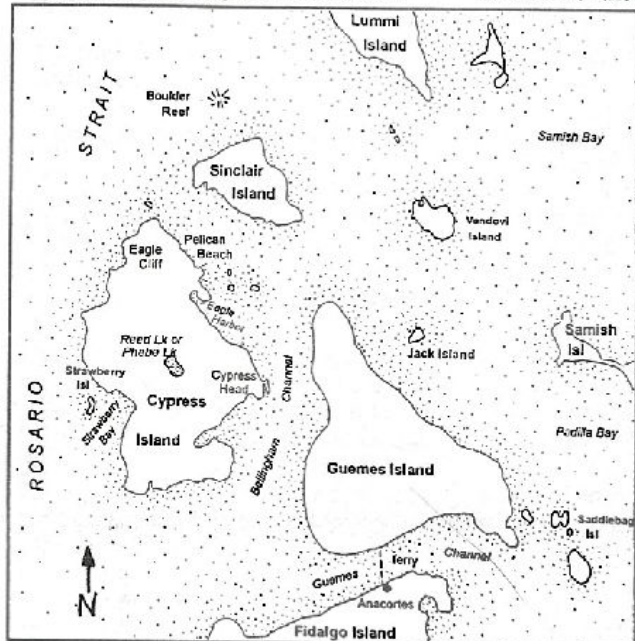
We paddled out to Saddlebag where we saw one kayaker who was just leaving. He was the only one camped on the island. We left Saddlebag Island and went past the southeast point on Guemes and headed for Anacortes. We caught a good current assist and were back to our starting point by 1200. We had a great trip.

For planning purposes, we used waterproof chart 43 San Juan Island, Washburne's Tables by Randal Washburne and computer printouts of currents for:

1. Guemes Channel west entrance.
2. Strawberry Island, .8 mile west of.
3. Peapod Light, 1.2 miles south of.
4. Sinclair Island Light .6 mile southeast of.
5. Sinclair Island, 1 mile northeast of.
6. Towhead Island, .4 mile east of

We also had a VHF radio and were able to get weather updates daily.

*Bob McBride, of Silverdale, is a member of the Olympic Kayak Club.*





KATHE STANNESS and  
ARCHIE WRIGHT

## Day-hiking in Utah

—ARCHIE AND HIS FRIENDS HAVE AN ADVENTURE—

Way back in the summer of 1981, Archie Wright led a group of Mountaineer Naturalists on a week-long backpack on the Chelan Summit trail. We became friends and even now many years later plan day hikes, motel trips, car camps and backpacks so we can continue to get together.

Dwight Riggs organized some hikes for April 1997 and several members of "Archie's Gang" were off to Utah to explore Canyon Country.

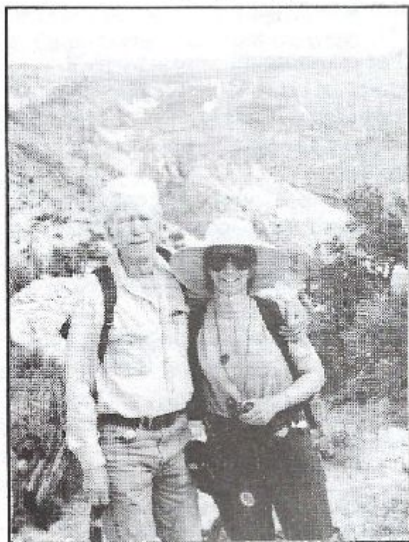
Both Archie and I share story-telling on this trip.

### DAY ONE

**Kathe:** Organizing for car camping (with motorhome back-up), day hiking and sight-seeing took some doing as I needed to fit all into the airline's rules for baggage. Managed to get it together and met Elaine and Gunnar for a 5am taxi ride to the airport.

We picked up the van in Salt Lake City (a plain city surrounded by gorgeous snow-dusted mountains), collected Archie and Pam from another flight and were on our way to meet Dwight who was bringing his motorhome from Tucson.

Made some major grocery store pur-



Archie and Pam, near Deer Creek.

Kathe Stanness



Kathe, Pam, Gunnar, Elaine, and Archie.

Dwight Riggs

chases in Spanish Forks on the way to Boulder and the Anasazi State Park to our camping place down a dirt road.

### DAY TWO

**Archie:** We were supposed to break into two groups for cooking. I drew two ladies because I had a strong camp stove. At the first grocery shopping stop among other things I bought pancake flour, butter, and syrup. I was struck by an idea. For the first morning, I fixed pancakes for all of us, and they enjoyed it. So the small-group cooking fell by the wayside, and cooking and eating was done by all together.

**Kathe:** Had a brand new tent to set up and admire, so did that while Archie made pancakes for us all. Decided to get the travel kinks out by walking the dry creek bed from camp. What a flower display among the boulders and sand! The sun and warm weather felt so good to my tired-of-winter body. The rocks and cliffs were a swirling mass of color in many fantastic shapes.

### DAY THREE

**Kathe:** We all piled into Dwight's

jeep and drove through spectacular Longs Canyon—a place of neck-breaking views up the towering, colorful walls. A short walk up some rocks took us to Strike Valley Overlook and views that went on forever to distant misty mountains.

After driving a road only for intrepid and experienced 4-wheelers we walked up an old wagon road to a couple of stone arches and more fantastic flowers.

### DAY FOUR

**Kathe:** Visited the Anasazi Museum which has both indoor exhibits and outdoor displays of pit living and walls. It's a small museum but whets the appetite to learn more about this vanished group of people.

A pretty drive took us to the Calf Creek recreation area which is an oasis of plant life in the desert. A hike along the canyon floor led to an awesome waterfalls and views of ancient food cache sites high up on the steep walls.

### DAY FIVE

**Kathe:** Packed up in the morning and drove across Capitol Reef (need



another trip to see that area of fantastic rock) to Goblin Valley. Set up tents in an area protected by eerie rock formations, but with the comforts of real bathrooms and showers!

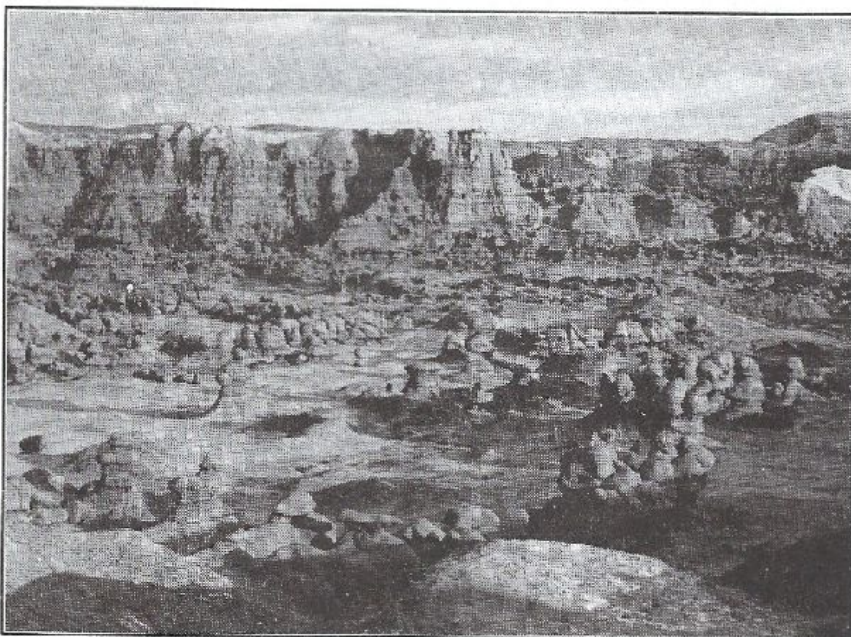
#### DAY SIX

**Kathe:** This day began with cooler temperatures so we looked forward to canyon hiking through some gorgeous painted rocks and strange channels cut by water.

**Archie:** My buddies walked up Wild Horse Canyon. I stayed in the van, napped, ate lunch, got tired of waiting, walked slowly to meet my fellow hikers. Got tired, turned around and started back. Inadvertently took a branch canyon.

**Kathe:** When we returned to the van Archie was not there. An afternoon of searching and waiting ensued. On top of this a horrendous thunder, lightning and rain storm moved through the area drenching us all and dropping the temperature.

**Archie:** Finally realized it was the wrong canyon, turned around and



Evening in Goblin Valley.

Kathe Stanness

headed back. Heard a faint shout in the distance and shouted back.

It seems my buddies were concerned about me and sent out a search party. They had driven a 4-wheel drive vehicle up the main canyon and gave me a ride back to join my buddies. I really appreciated the ride—I was getting pretty tired.

**Kathe:** Eventually the lost was found by the S&R folks.

The storm had battered Archie's borrowed tent but my new little Walrus stood up very well and didn't leak a drop.

#### DAY SEVEN

**Kathe:** A wild wind storm blew through the goblins during the night conjuring up images of dancing monsters.

**Archie:** The Search & Rescue people were quite concerned when I said a mix-up with the doctor put me in this country without my most important prescription. So we went to the town of Price and got a refill.

**Kathe:** Had a non-hiking day visiting a couple of interesting museums about early history of Utah.

Again the stars were out in such wondrous profusion that I couldn't find familiar constellations.

#### DAY EIGHT

**Kathe:** Explored the trails of Goblin Valley in and out and around the weird formations. Found one that reminded me of fans sitting in blankets at a football game.

**Archie:** Next day my Norvase hadn't taken hold completely, so I stayed in camp and wrote letters.

**Kathe:** Returned in the evening to watch the light play over the rocky valley floor but the wind was too chilly to remain very long.

#### DAY NINE

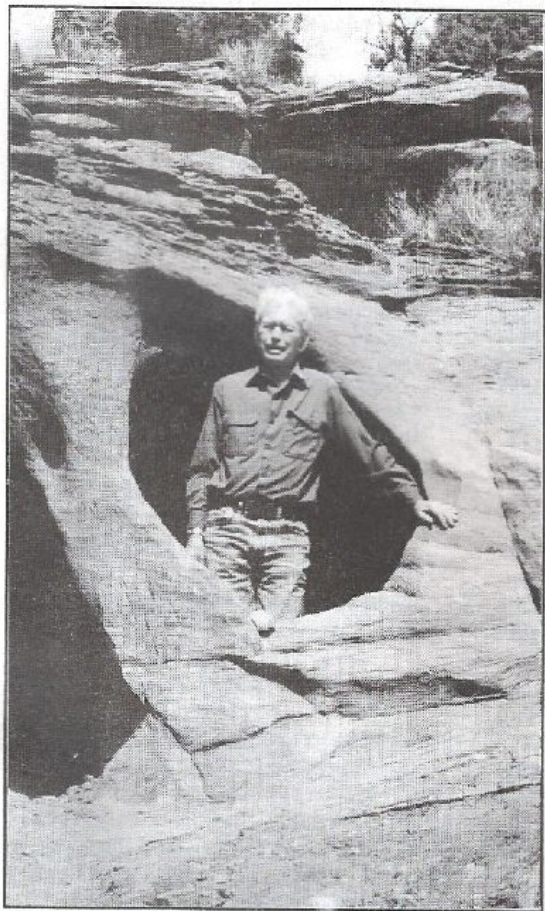
**Kathe:** Drove back to Salt Lake City, turned in the van and headed home. It was quite an adventure for Archie's Gang.

None of us can give enough thanks to the Rangers, State Troopers and Search & Rescue folks who turned out to help us on that horribly stormy day in Southern Utah.

△

*Kathe Stanness, of Marysville, is temporarily living and working in Cleveland.*

*Archie Wright, of Bellingham, has been a member of The Mountaineers for more than 20 years.*



Arch in the "arch," Calif Creek Canyon.

Kathe Stanness



# User Fee Report to Congress

—CONGRESS WILL WORK THIS YEAR TO MAKE FEES PERMANENT—

Here are excerpts from the recently-released report to Congress on the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program. Space prevents printing the entire document. The excerpts are taken from the Executive Summary.

... As of September 30, 1999, there were 100 National Park Service demonstration projects, 87 US Fish and Wildlife Service projects, 95 Bureau of Land Management projects, and 81 Forest Service projects.

The agencies collected \$176.4 million in revenues from all Recreational Fee Demonstration Projects during FY 1999, an increase of \$12.2 million, or 7.4 percent, over the previous year. In three years, the agencies doubled their annual recreation fee revenues over levels that existed before the program began.

While revenues have continued to grow under the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program, they grew at a much slower rate in FY 1999 than in first two years of the program.

Total revenues from recreation fees increased from \$93.3 million in FY 1996 to \$147.2 million in FY 1997, \$180.2 million in FY 1998, and \$193.2 million in FY 1999, of which \$176.4 million was generated under the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program.

Future revenue increases are likely to be relatively smaller, but additional revenues are still possible as the agencies implement the program more efficiently, and as they implement their full complement of 100 projects each.

Visitation to recreation sites participating in the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program continues to appear unaffected in any significant way by the new fees. Visitation at Recreational Fee Demonstration Program sites has remained relatively constant.

The use of the new revenues varies from agency to agency. The National Park Service uses the new revenues to address priority needs in maintenance, infrastructure, and resource management, and to enhance visitor services. The US Fish and Wildlife Service uses

the funds to improve visitor services and facilities, such as boat docks and ramps, auto tour routes, information kiosks, exhibits, signs, brochures, and trail guides, and to reduce the maintenance backlog. The Bureau of Land Management is improving campgrounds, parking areas, visitor services, site access, safety and health services, and environmental protection. The Forest Service is using the funds to provide quality recreation settings, reduce maintenance backlogs, and provide enhanced public services.

... There is a necessary and predictable lag between the collection of fee revenues and the expenditure of those revenues on priority needs, in part to allow the agencies to make wise decisions regarding the expenditure of funds.

All agencies are moving more quickly to put the recreation fee revenues to work. Obligations in FY 1999 by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service were greater than the fees they collected during the previous year.

The relative cost of fee collection varies widely from site to site, depending on factors such as the absolute number of visitors, remoteness of the fee collection site, the distribution of visitors over time, the need for capital expenditures, the fee collection method employed, and whether fees had been collected at the site previously.

Overall, the cost of fee collection for the four agencies, as a percent of revenues, increased slightly between FY 1998 and FY 1999, from 17.9 percent to 21 percent. Fee collection costs rose slightly for the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Forest Service, and dropped substantially for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, from 39.8 percent of revenues in FY 1998 to 18.2 percent in FY 1999.

Public acceptance of the fee program remains high. All four agencies have completed at least one survey of visitors. When asked what they thought of the level of fee or fees they had to pay, visitor respondents saying the level is "about right" or "too low" was 83 per-

cent in 1997 and 89 percent in 1999 at National Park Service sites, 92 percent on US Fish and Wildlife Service sites, and 90 percent on Bureau of Land Management sites.

In a Forest Service survey, 77 percent of comment card respondents said the value of the recreation opportunity and services was equal to or greater than the fee they were asked to pay.

Some issues continue to affect the implementation of the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program. These include:

- **Pricing of National Recreation Passes.** Congress set the price of the new National Parks Pass at \$50. The agencies have taken steps to increase the price of the Golden Eagle passport from \$50 to \$65, so that its price reflects its relative value. Because purchasers of the National Parks Pass may wish also to use a national pass at sites of the other agencies, a \$15 "upgrade stamp" will be offered that effectively converts their pass to a Golden Eagle.

- **Need for Long-term Authorization.** During FY 2000, the Administration will work with Congress to develop permanent legislation that can be implemented when authorization for the current Recreational Fee Demonstration Program expires.

- **Innovation and Coordination.** During FY 1999, the agencies reviewed all Recreational Fee Demonstration Program sites, identified areas that have the greatest potential for reciprocal arrangements and other forms of fee cooperation, and in some cases brought about constructive changes at the local level.

**Ed. note:** At press time, details of the new, improved Trail Park Pass were unavailable. *P&P* will continue our coverage of the User Fee program next month, with information about the new Trail Park Pass (provided it is available), and three good ideas for what YOU can do to show your disapproval (or approval, if that applies).



# PANORAMA

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

**MAILBOX LOGGING**—The DNR has sold a 34-acre timber sale north of the start of the Mailbox Peak trail (Middle Fork Snoqualmie). The "Hardly Mailbox" sale is located in the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 21. You can't miss it as the sale is adjacent to the access road one walks from the parking lot to the trailhead (road G100).

Logging started last summer but was suspended, per contract, on November 1. Logging can resume on June 1. The good news is that the DNR has acknowledged the user-built Mailbox trail and taken into account the recreation aspect of the area in the logging plan. The trail's location next to the stream course at the start has also provided some protection from the axe.

No harvesting can occur after 6pm daily nor at all on weekends or holidays. I was allowed to pass during the week prior to 6pm though it took some work crawling through the fallen timber across the road.—*Don Goodman, Bellevue.*

**GIFT TO PARK**—After *P&P* reader Dix Liddle died recently, his son Alan donated the land his father left him to Mount Rainier National Park. Alan wanted to make sure the spot would not be developed.

The land, 12½ acres, is located at the southwest entrance to MRNP. Dix bought the land in the 1930s.

**MAN SURVIVES AVALANCHE**—A Bellingham man, Scott Vorrath, was filming snowboarders in the backcountry at Mount Baker in January when a cornice broke and triggered an avalanche.

He was carried about half a mile and 1000 vertical feet in a matter of seconds. The slide tossed him over two cliffs and through trees, breaking his leg, scratching an eye, and causing a compression fracture of his back. After being completely buried during the avalanche, he ended up on the surface with his head exposed.

His friends called for help and started to dig him out. He was airlifted out by helicopter.

**HARD WINTER**—Wildlife in Bella Coola is having a difficult winter. After nine grizzlies were shot (see *January, page 29*) for trying to find food in cab-

ins (their normal food, salmon, did not appear in sufficient numbers), a cougar was killed.

The cougar incident occurred at the end of January. The cat killed a dog in a back yard and an official hunter was assigned to kill the cat. The cat jumped the hunter instead. A resident was able to shoot the cougar as it chewed on the hunter's head and neck.

The scrawny cat was measured at 6 feet long and only 80 pounds. The hunter, recovering in a hospital, said he had never seen a year with as many cougar "problems" as this one in his 34 years of tracking. He thinks that because cougars are not able to find deer, their normal food, this year they are resorting to hunting smaller animals and domestic pets for food.

**OLYMPIC COAST CLEAN-UP**—Volunteers from throughout Western Washington will converge on Olympic National Park beaches Saturday, April 29, to remove years of accumulated marine debris washed up on these remote shores. Because of their remoteness, many beaches have never had a thorough beach clean up before.

Volunteers are urged to form teams or act individually, select a beach and register their participation by April 18.

During the clean-up volunteers will record data about the debris. The information will provide a snapshot record of the coast and help identify sources of the debris. The data will be used for oceanographic research by the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, Olympic National Park and University of Washington Department of Zoology.

For more information, contact:

Jan Klippert  
14036 Meridian Ave N  
Seattle WA 98133  
206-364-2689  
jklippert@aol.com

(Ed. Note: Clean-up organizer Jan Klippert told us that the response from *P&P* readers has been great! Thank you!)

**OUR WHALES ON THE MOVE**—On January 29, researchers from the Monterey Bay Whale Watch identified a group of unfamiliar orcas foraging and feeding on fishstock in Monterey Bay. Later photo ID work confirmed that at least 35 of these orcas were members of the resident K and L pods

normally found in Washington and British Columbia waters.

Oddly, there appears to be at least one unidentifiable orca with the group, and some researchers are saying this whale is possibly an "offshore" orca—a newer group of orcas that haven't been studied or commonly understood because of their fleeting appearances and pelagic tendencies.

One certainty about this event is that the orcas are proving that their behavior is dynamic and unpredictable—and while it is not unusual for K and L pods to go "out to sea" in winter months (while J pod tends to be seen more regularly in the greater Puget Sound), little was known about where these whales foraged while at sea.

Immediate reaction from some is that the whales are either exploring for new food sources (due to the depleted salmon runs in the North Pacific) or, perhaps, reacting to fears that some of their numbers may be slowly succumbing to the accumulated PCBs and other toxins that has recently been reported to have been found in these whales.

The implications of this sighting will not be fully understood until late May, when K and L pods generally return to the Northwest. Perhaps these pelagic journeys and apparent interactions with "off-shore" orcas is a routine phenomenon—one that might not have been documented well in earlier years.

While some local researchers are speculating that these whales "might not return" to Washington this season, it is more likely that they will. But we cannot rule out the probability that a vanguard of J, K and L pods may be exploring a greater range to make up for local contamination and depleting food sources. If that is indeed the case, this could have increasingly negative impacts on both the local foodwebs and on the local whale watching industry.

—from information provided by Michael Kundu of Project Seawolf, PO Box 987, Marysville WA 98270.

**NORTH CASCADES NP BUDGET**—The performance plan and budget documents for NCNP are now available for public review.

Highlights include:  
• \$1.9 million for resource preservation and management. Park rangers directly protect both visitors and re-

*continued next page*



# KEEPING PACE

EQUIPMENT, RECIPES, TIPS

**NEW KAYAK**—Seward Kayaks, made on Vancouver Island, has a new double kayak. Naia, Hawaiian for dolphin, offers paddlers a stable double with great maneuverability on and off the water.

This compact 18-foot kayak is lightweight for easy loading and unloading from high vehicle roof racks and has a beam of 30 inches for a solid initial stability. Available in regular or high volume this multi-purpose kayak also has a large rear hatch opening for easy loading. The Naia's semi-V hull offers great maneuverability, tracking and has a good cruising speed whether paddling tandem or solo.

You can view this kayak at the Seward Kayaks website: <[www.sewardkayaks.com/naia.htm](http://www.sewardkayaks.com/naia.htm)>.

**RESCUE RESPONSE AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION**—Edmonds Community College offers a Rescue Response and Outdoor Education program.

Many courses have the option for college credit. Check with your instructor at the first class meeting. For more information contact 425-640-1390, visit the RROE website at <[www.edcc.edu/cll/RROE](http://www.edcc.edu/cll/RROE)> or send e-mail inquiries to

<[rroe@edcc.edu](mailto:rroe@edcc.edu)>.

• **Basic Navigation—Map and Compass**

Pre-requisites: none. Date: Saturday April 22. Time: 9am to 4pm. Cost: \$40. Instructor: Rick Hood

Learn to really use a map and compass as effective navigation tools so when you are hiking you have a good sense of where you are, where you want to go, and the route choices you have. This course will take place on campus and in a nearby wooded park. Compasses and maps are available for loan or you may use your own. A handy field-guide is also included as part of this course. Dress for a day in a local park.

• **Intermediate Navigation Tools—The GPS and Altimeter**

Pre-requisites: Basic Navigation or the equivalent. Date: Saturday May 13. Time: 9am to 4pm. Cost: \$40. Instructor: Rick Hood

Learn how to effectively add both the Global Positioning System (GPS) and an altimeter to your "navigation toolbox."

When combined with a map and compass of the area, they form a potent set of navigational tools. However, as with any tool, one needs relevant in-

sight and practice and that is what this one-day course will give you. This course will take place on campus and in a nearby wooded park. Compasses and maps are available for loan or you may use your own. A handy field-guide is also included as part of this course. Dress for a day in a local park.

• **Basic Survival**

Pre-requisites—none. Date: Saturday May 20. Time: 9am to 4pm. Cost: \$40. Instructor: Rick Hood.

Learn how to effectively reduce your chances of being caught unprepared in the out-of-doors. Learn, too, how to deal better with the unexpected and what to do and how to do it should an accident or bad weather thrust you into a survival situation. At the end of the day, you will have real-world insight and practice with rescue shelter, signaling, and scenarios.

This course is for anyone venturing beyond a local park. This course will take place on campus and in a nearby wooded park. All course-specific materials are available on loan. A handy field-guide is also included as part of this course. Dress appropriately for an afternoon in the field.

## PANORAMA

*continued from previous page*

sources (wildlife, historic structures, forests, archeological sites, etc.). Research helps park management determine the best means of preserving park resources. Specialists ensure compliance with laws designed to preserve these natural and cultural resources.

• \$0.74 million to address visitor services. At visitor centers and through a variety of media, visitors to North Cascades can receive information to plan their park visit and to learn about the park. They can also attend informative programs about the park and find facilities well designed to provide for their enjoyment of the area.

• \$1.78 million for facility operations and maintenance. The park's infrastructure includes roads, campgrounds, visitor centers, support facilities, and an extensive network of trails. Separate from the park's base operating budget, North Cascades competed successfully for over \$0.4 million in fee revenues

generated elsewhere in the National Park system. Over several years, these funds are rehabilitating park facilities such as trails and backcountry and frontcountry campsites.

• \$0.63 million for park administration. Management of the park complex is based at its headquarters in Sedro-Woolley. Expenditures support day-to-day and long-term management, oversight of concession and permittee operations in the park, repair of parkwide functions such as the radio system, and more.

In addition to its base budget, North Cascades will expend \$0.66 million to repair roads, buildings and historic structures in the national park and the two adjacent national recreation areas.

A copy of the park's complete annual performance plan, prepared in accordance with the "Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)," is available by writing to  
Superintendent, NCNP  
2105 Highway 20  
Sedro-Woolley WA 98284.

**PASSAGES NORTHWEST**—Passages Northwest offers week-long summer expeditions for girls. The programs consist of backpacking, sea kayaking and rock climbing. A two-week leadership course is new for this summer.

The organization also offers other programs for girls, including after-school climbing at Vertical World, and a spring break expedition on a 61-foot sailboat.

In addition, paddle outings are scheduled for mothers (or other female mentors) and daughters. Seminars, outings and retreats are planned for women over 21.

Tuition is charged for each activity, and scholarships are available.

To find out more about Passages Northwest, attend the **Open House** at the Seattle REI store on Monday, **March 6, 7pm**. You will be able to meet the staff and see a presentation about the programs. To request a course catalog or for more information, call 206-286-8601, or web site:

<[www.passagesnw.org](http://www.passagesnw.org)>.





Crossing Ellen Creek on a log; near Rialto Beach, Olympic National Park.

**FROM THE MAILBOX**—"In recent issues I really enjoyed the history of the Red Barn, Sasha, the Wonderland Trail (we've done 63 miles so far), your visit to the Pasayten, and the kayak trips to Blake Island and the BC coast."—*Bellevue*

"Love your magazine! Trip reports by real people, not super-hikers, so I am inspired rather than discouraged."—*Seattle*

"MacFarlane's Mount Hood rescue story (*February, page 20*) was fascinating and very instructive."—*Hood River*

**WHAT THOSE NUMBERS MEAN**  
—There is a way to tell when your subscription to *P&P* expires. Here's the secret:

Look at your mailing label. The top line consists of a series of numbers (some of you may have letters also; ignore these). The first set of four numbers is your subscriber number. The second set of four numbers is your expiration date: the first two numbers are the last two digits of the year; the second two numbers are the month.

For example, if the numbers read  
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you are our very first subscriber (TG of Skyway) and your subscription expires in 2000, December issue. If the numbers read

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then you are VB/MA, and your subscription expires in 2001, January issue.

We always send a renewal form (just

one), then a notice with your last issue. Finally, Yellow Cat will send you a postcard as a reminder.

**MISSING ISSUES**—"It is February 8, and I have not yet received my copy of the February 2000 *Pack & Paddle*," writes a distraught reader. "If this were *Newsweek*, *Scientific American*, etc., it wouldn't matter; but this is *PACK & PADDLE*, thus it matters. I always look forward to the end of the month, knowing my next *P&P* will be there."

It happens occasionally that a copy is sucked into the Postal Service's black hole. We'll gladly send a replacement—just give us a buzz by e-mail or phone.

**FEES**—The Report to Congress on page 28 mentions that agencies have conducted surveys that indicate acceptance by the general public of the fees.

They sure haven't asked me or dozens of other hikers who attended the user fee meetings last fall!

**WHALES**—Lee and I are taking a great class at the Seattle Aquarium on "Natural History of Puget Sound." It's kind of an introduction to an introduction to marine biology.

At the most recent class, our instructor Buzz Shaw covered the life cycle of salmon, and also marine mammals. It was here we heard the strange news that our very own K and L pods, the orcas who are normally resident in the San Juans, have been positively identified in Monterey Bay, California.

More information about their travels is on page 29.

**COVER PHOTO**—Professional photographer Darryl Lloyd sent along details of his cover photo this month that other photographers may be interested in.

"I used a Nikon F3 with a Sigma 24-70 lens and Provia 100 film. No tripod, but used crossed ski poles," Darryl says. "Then I scanned the color slide with my Nikon LS2000, made it 'gray-scale' with Photoshop, then printed it on my Epson Stylus Photo 1200. I love all this new technology!"

**METHOW TAXI**—Lee and I enjoyed our brief encounter with Johnny Haase, the owner/operator of the new Methow Valley trailhead taxi service,

Mountain Transporter.

Johnny knows the valley very well—he's lived there all his life. He told us he works in real estate and has enjoyed it, but is ready to try something new.

The valley is definitely ready for a shuttle service, in our opinion, and we think Mountain Transporter is a great addition to the services the Methow Valley offers its visitors. Johnny plans to offer summer trailheads shuttles also. You can pick up a flyer at most valley stores and inns, or call 509-996-TAXI (8294).

**FRIENDLY FACES**—As Lee and I were coming out of the Duck Brand bakery in Winthrop with walnut-raisin cinnamon rolls for the road, we ran smack into Denny and Marilyn O'Callaghan, former Edmonds residents who retired to Winthrop a few years ago. They had stopped in town after a morning of skiing.

Denny was one of the original members of the steering committee that formed WTA in the Red Barn days. A veterinarian, he was a favorite with the resident cats. Marilyn was also a Red Barn volunteer for a time.

Living in Winthrop, they are able to ski any time the mood strikes, which is frequently.

**JUST MISSED**—It turns out that VB and MA were in Winthrop at the same time we were. We probably drove over Stevens Pass right behind their car. I am amazed how many times we come *this close* to meeting *P&P* readers.

It's always fun when the stars line up just right, and we run into old and new friends.

See you in the backcountry.

Ann Marshall



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## MOUNT RAINIER

The Stevens and Van Trump Ascent of 1870

Evidence that Stevens and Van Trump did not reach the summit of Columbia Crest in 1870, and cannot be credited with the first complete ascent of Mount Rainier. They "stole" the ascent from Edmund Coleman (who originated, organized, and provisioned the party), abandoned him, and then demeaned him in their published accounts of the ascent.

348pp. in 4 parts (1985) \$20 (plus \$1.72 WA sales tax, postpaid)

Northwest Press, P. O. Box 3983, Seattle, WA 98124

## Outdoor Recreation Information Center



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## Pack & Paddle's 1999 Index is ready!

The Index lists all trips and trails for  
the past year, and also lists titles of  
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by subject. The index is FREE,  
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self-addressed long envelopes are  
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Mail, phone, or e-mail requests to:

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[lycat@packandpaddlemagazine.com](mailto:lycat@packandpaddlemagazine.com)

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