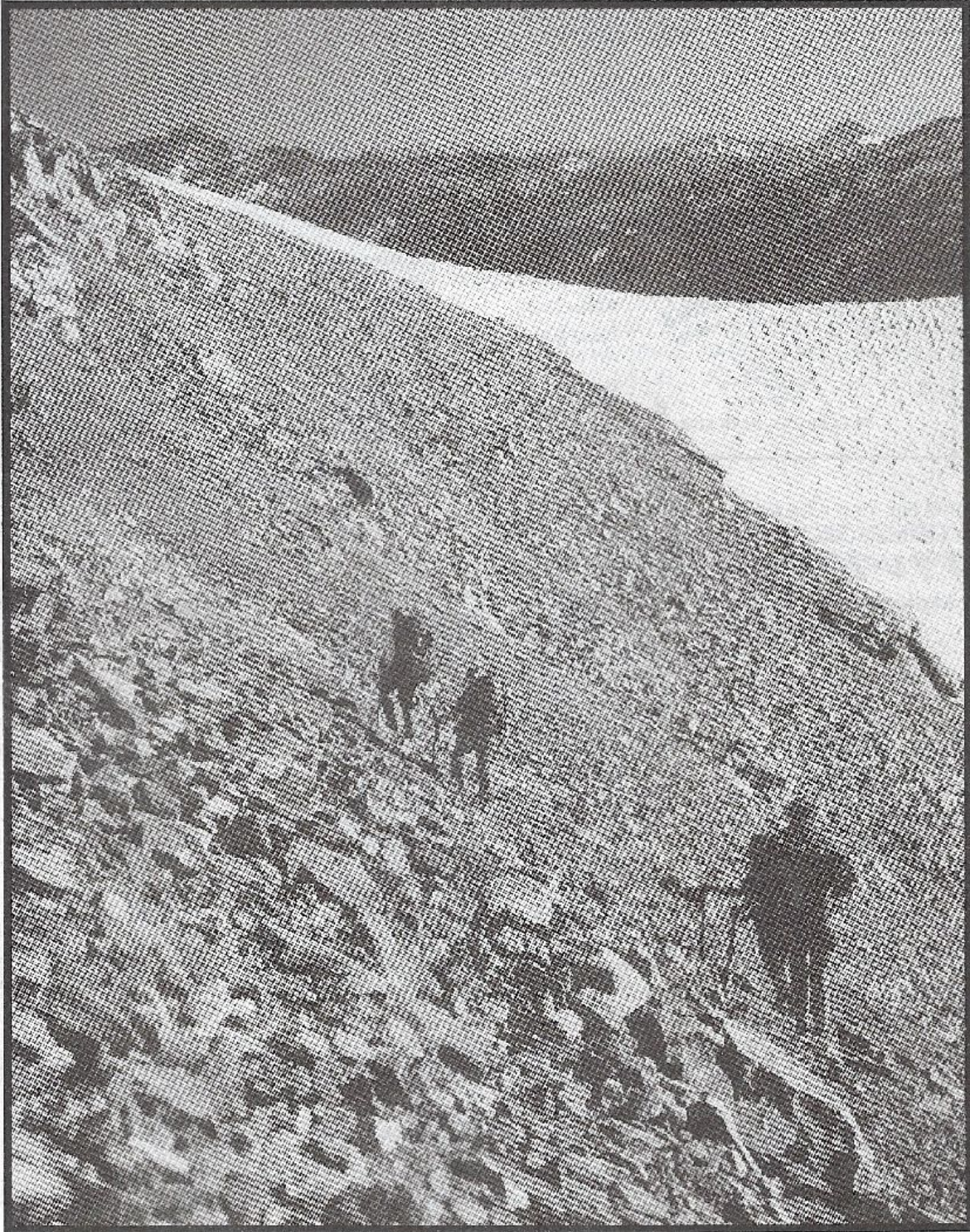


PACK & PADDLE[®]

... covering the backcountry in
Washington and the Pacific Northwest

JULY 2000
\$2.00





Seattle Fabrics

Outdoor & Recreational Fabrics
Retail & Wholesale
Special Orders • Shipping Anywhere

SNOW SPORTS • Gore-Tex® • Fleece Fabrics • Waterproof Fabrics • Bag Fabrics • Patterns	HIKING/CAMPING • Coated Nylons • Sleepbag Zippers • Hardware & Webbing • Repair Items • Mosquito Netting • Bivy Sac Patterns	WATER SPORTS • Sunbrella® • Marine Zippers • Dry Bag Materials • Neoprene • Window Vinyl • Marine Hardware	OTHER ITEMS • Patterns & Books • All Widths Canvas • Fabrics For Kites, Windssocks, Banners, Flags, Also Velcro, Webbing & Zippers
--	---	---	---

OPEN MON THRU SAT 9 TO 5
9 TO 7 THURSDAYS
CATALOG AVAILABLE

206-525-0670
FAX 206-525-0779
http://www.seattlefabrics.com
8702 Aurora Ave N Seattle 98103
SE corner of 88th & Aurora

Helpful Staff • Classes Available


Find peak experiences on the nation's premier hiking and equestrian trail



- Trail conditions
- Maps, guidebooks, videos
- Membership activities
- Trail protection and advocacy
- Volunteer programs

Pacific Crest Trail Association
5325 Elkhorn Blvd #256
Sacramento CA 95842
916-349-2109 • www.pcta.org

FOR **SMART FOOD**
Wilderness Travel



PACK SMART. PACK LIGHT.

Sally Hennessy
Tel/Fax: 888.722.4782
PO Box 1106
Grand Marais, MN 55604
E-mail: hennessy@boreal.org
www.packlitefoods.com

BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE

Complete your Pack & Paddle library—get all the back copies from Volume I, Number 1 to the current issue. Write or call for ordering information:

Pack & Paddle
PO Box 1063
Port Orchard WA 98366
360-871-1862

GREEN TRAILS MAPS

Explore your world in 15 minutes

ONE OF THE TEN ESSENTIALS FOR:

Hikers
Climbers
Thinkers
Kayakers
Mountain Bikers
Dreamers
Canoers
Skiers
Doers

Find Green Trails Maps at the best outdoor, sporting goods, book, and map stores throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Call 1-800-762-MAPS for the store nearest you.

North Cascades Basecamp



Join us at our family style inn for hiking, bicycling, fishing, or just plain relaxing in the heart of the Cascades. Hearty breakfasts and dinners. Hot tub. Families and groups welcome. No smoking. Reservations recommended.

Contact Dick & Sue Roberts
255 Lost R. Rd., Mazama WA 98833
509-996-2334
www.methow.com/~roberts/

books, maps, and information



Outdoor Recreation Information Center

222 Yale Ave
Seattle WA 98121
206-470-4060



(second floor of the REI building)

Pack & Paddle®

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 7

www.packandpaddlemagazine.com

RANDOM VIEW—



Shirley Haley

James, Nancy and Peter Newland on Excelsior Mountain, Mount Baker Wilderness.

Features

- 21 THE METHOW PINNACLES & BEAUTY PEAK
Don Beavon
Grant Myers
- 22 FOLLOWING LEWIS AND CLARK
Dave Parent
- 26 ON THE WONDERLAND TRAIL
Madeleine Beaty

Departments

- 4 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
- 5 BACKCOUNTRY NEWS
- 29 WHAT'S HAPPENING — News from All Over
- 30 KEEPING PACE — Recipes, Equipment, Tips
- 31 EDITOR'S JOURNAL

COVER PHOTO:

Linda Rostad, Lindy Bakkar, Manita Nery and Bettye Hensel head south to the gap at the head of Chipmunk Creek, in the Entiat Mountains, Glacier Peak Wilderness, Washington. Photo by Ann Marshall.

HOW TO BE A PACK & PADDLE CONTRIBUTOR:

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

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>

Hiking, backpacking, climbing, skiing, snowshoeing, canoeing, kayaking and related activities are potentially hazardous. It is the responsibility of the individual to learn and understand the proper techniques associated with safe participation in these activities, and to fully accept and assume all risks, damages, injury or death which may result from following route descriptions or other advice in this publication. This publication is not meant as a substitute for personal instruction by a qualified person.

PACK & PADDLE (ISSN 1059-4493) is published monthly by Pack & Paddle Publishing, Inc. Office of publication is 4450 Lakeview Dr SE 98366 (do not send mail here). Mailing address is PO Box 1063, Port Orchard WA 98366. Telephone is 360-871-1862. E-mail is <ycat@packandpaddlemagazine.com>. Subscription rate is \$20 (US funds) for one year. Washington residents add \$1.64 state sales tax. Periodicals Postage Paid at Port Orchard WA 98366. Printed by Little Nickel, Lynnwood WA.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pack & Paddle,
PO Box 1063, Port Orchard WA 98366.

Staff

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

With help from: All Readers

These nice folks have helped us by sending articles from their local papers and newsletters. Thanks to our "Clipping Service" this month:

Kerry Gilles
Ken Hopping
Louise Marshall
C. Notown



printed on recycled paper
with soy-based ink

©2000 Pack & Paddle Publishing, Inc.
All rights reserved.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

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

LET'S GET THE STORY CORRECT

Thanks for such a neat article about my new pin (*June, page 21*). It was almost worth losing the old one.

Jim has a correction to the story of my mishap. He and Jacki both tell me that Jim pulled me out of the creek first and then Jacki.

Every time he reads an account of the rescue, he points out that fact to me, and said I should have checked my writeup with him first before submitting it. Since I was preoccupied at the time, I didn't pay any attention to the sequence of events.

Ginny Evans
Renton, Washington

FANTASTIC JOB OF RESCUE

About an hour after the Granite Mountain Avalanche on Saturday, May 13th (*June, page 30*), I was calling in on my cell phone from the McClellan's Butte trail with both lower left leg bones broken: the tibia with a separated spiral and the fibula with a full length sapling style fracture.

As fast as you can snap your fingers, the left boot must have caught on a curving root, rotated the leg far enough to snap both bones with a loud crack that I'll never forget. Looking down to see my leg flopping out at a 90 degree angle was enough to send me into shock. I lost my balance and went tumbling head over heels down a steep slope of mud and leaves. After calm was restored (I was alone) I proceeded with the cell phone call and added clothing and other emergency gear.

The King County Search and Rescue group was already at the Granite Mountain site so that extra people were shunted over to me. They were there in no time. I cannot thank them enough. These young people did a fantastic job of the very difficult task of hauling/carrying me down on a wheeled litter to the upper logging road where an ambulance was waiting. I was in the Group Health Bellevue ER by 8pm.

Surgery the next day inserted an 11mm steel rod down the inside of the tibia and bolted in place. After four days in the hospital I now have to be patient for many months of recovery.

I guess I was lucky—lucky I had the cell phone, lucky I didn't get a compound fracture, lucky I didn't get other internal injuries and luckiest of all in

having the King County S&R hovering in the background to save lives.

The nonskiing doctors tell me that it takes a year for the bones to regain full strength for active skiers like me (I'm 71). That's not good enough. I need to get going by Thanksgiving.

Is there anybody out there in *P&P* land who could lead me to a good sports medicine doctor/trainer? As soon as I can walk, I'll need an intensive rehabilitation program for both bone and muscle strength.

By the way, I didn't reach the summit, nor did any others that I know of, including a class of Mountaineers. Water, rock and snow avalanches were coming down frequently.

dlo
Seattle, Washington

BOARD IGNORES MEMBERS

In a remarkable display of ignoring the wishes of its members, the Board of Trustees of The Mountaineers, in a vote of 11-2 on June 1st, decided to tell the world that the fee "demo" is a good thing. Ignoring the fact that barely 19% of every dollar spent on the Trail Park Pass is actually being used for repairs and maintenance to trails, the BOT vote indicates that they feel 19% is better than nothing.

The Recreational Access Committee spent over a year getting member input on user fees. Articles were published a number of times in the magazine; two meetings with members were held.

In the end, the committee presented the BOT with a draft of The Mountaineers' User Fee Position Statement. The first sentence of this document reflects the conclusions they came to:

"The Mountaineers opposes recreation access and user fees on federal lands, other than entrance fees on lands managed by the National Park Service and fees for use of developed land."

The BOT refused to endorse this position which came from the members. Could it be that the BOT is not listening to its constituents? Could it be that the BOT doesn't understand what the members want? Could it be that the BOT "knows best?" One trustee who voted against this statement told me that we need to be nice to the Forest Service so we can have input in the

way the money is spent. Well, that's what they said when the Fcc Demo was started. We all know that didn't happen. Is it any wonder that membership in The Mountaineers is dropping?

Disappointed and disillusioned,
Edythe Hulet, Trustee,
Olympia Branch, The Mountaineers

TRAIL FEES ON PUBLIC LANDS

This year marks the fourth year of a "demonstration" program requiring hikers, fishermen, hunters, and even picnickers to buy a permit when they park on federal land in National Forests. These fees are in addition to any fees for camping or admission to parks.

The original legislation was tacked on by means of a rider that was never debated in Congress, and there is reason to believe Representative Regula will attempt to make these fees permanent by the same means. Regula is the sweetheart of the American Recreation Coalition; this year, he was given their Man of the Year Award.

- These are our lands, not possessions of the US Forest Service bureaucracy, and their free use was one of the few benefits of every citizen, regardless of income. (Of course, they were not really free, since lives of our ancestors paid for them when we liberated them from the British crown in 1776, and our taxes past and present bought and maintained western lands for centuries.)

- This is a thinly disguised plan to privatize public lands for the profit of some large corporations. If this sounds exaggerated, consider that the "partners" of the Forest Service who have pushed this plan are under an umbrella organization, the American Recreation Coalition.

The corporations include KOA Campgrounds, Walt Disney Company, Recreation Vehicle Industry Association, Coleman Company, National Marine Manufacturers Association, and Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association (see www.wildwilderness.org/docs/arcmem2.htm). The Forest Service promotions of the fees appear to be written by the ARC, calling recreation a "product" that should be marketed, and that "customers" are out there just waiting to spend their money.

(In point of fact, the Forest Service
continued on page 6

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS





REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

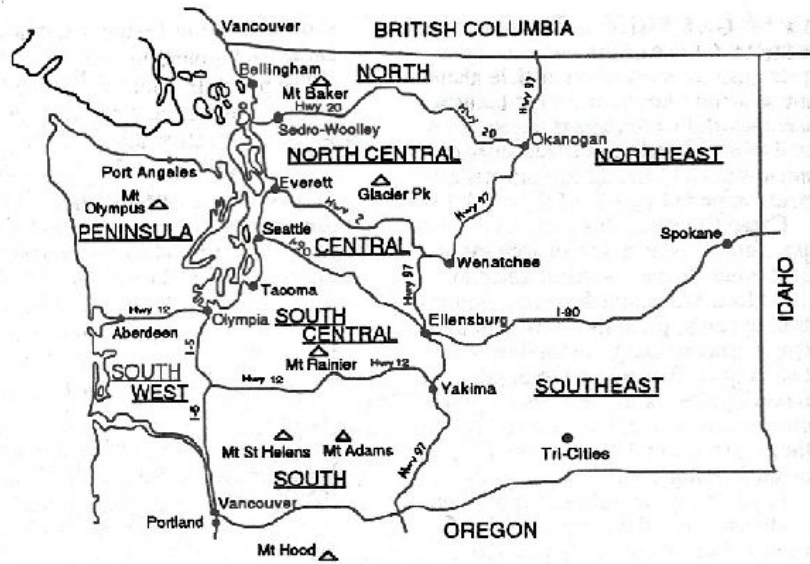
INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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



PENINSULA



CEDAR CREEK (USGS Allens Bay, La Push)—Spent 3

days on the ocean shore. Saw lots of wildlife. Eagles everywhere. At one time we counted 9 birds all soaring above Cape Johnson. Spotted a river otter. Watched deer running in the surf during the morning.

Looks like our user fees are being used to demolish the old shelters. The one at Cedar Creek has been dismantled and tossed into the pile of driftwood. Too bad. Some members in our group have fond memories of stormy nights spent there back in the '70s.—Ken Hopping, Bellevue, 5/00.



SIX RIDGE (USGS Mt Skokomish, Mt Olson)—The weather

was great (not too hot and sunny). I saw only one person on the trail. I started from Poulsbo before 7am and started hiking at Staircase just before 9. I think I had to wake the ranger up so that I could buy my yearly Park pass! She must have had a pretty boring day. Some people were camping, but there was only one car in the parking lot! (Even when I got back there were only four or five cars parked.)

The first 5.9 miles on the Skokomish trail are so easy that they could be called a "stroll" not a hike! It is scenic, however, with the trail sometimes right by the river and in the middle, far above the river. The tops of the mountains were still covered by a fair amount of snow and the vegetation was not yet wilted from the summer heat.

The Six Ridge trail starts at this point. It is one of the lesser-used trails in the Olympics. I have never been on it before! Actually, that is not strictly true: once I hiked the first quarter mile to the ford at Seven Stream. This time I didn't let the roaring torrent of Seven Stream stop me. I took my boots off and plunged into the water.

Several things surprised me about the trail—there was a water heater installed upstream of the ford so you feet wouldn't get too cold. NOT! There was some fairly recent trail maintenance, however, and the trail headed up in a nice gentle grade. I noticed some tracks on the trail and felt better about going into this desolate area by myself. The fact that they were elk tracks didn't seem to matter!

A few hundred feet of elevation above the river I decided to eat lunch in a spot with very nice views—I could see Mount Gladys (5600 feet), Mount Lincoln and part of the Sawtooth Range. They were all heavily into snow! I continued. There were a few trees down on the upper part of the trail and the trail was almost covered with salal in places. The views through the trees were very nice. I could see up the Skokomish to Mount Hopper and at least part of

Mount Steel. In addition to Gladys and the Sawtooth range (including Mount Cruiser), I could see Mount Henderson. Even though I was quite high the snow-covered ridge on the other side of Seven Stream towered above me.

There was a little snow at the top of the ridge and route finding might have been difficult so I decided to turn back at this point. I had probably climbed 2500 feet in 1½ miles (Okay, give me 2 miles—I had better not underestimate the distance!). When I got back to Seven Stream, I was tired and thirsty (there is no water on the ridge).

I was going fairly slowly on the main trail when I looked behind me and saw the only person of the day! He had been camping at Big Log and said he was the only one there. (I smelled a wood fire in the area, however, and my new friend said it wasn't his). We talked on the way back, which made the time go by faster, and got back to the car about 5:30.—Lewis Coleman, Poulsbo, 6/2.



SKOKOMISH RIVER (USGS Mt Tebo, Mt Olson)—

The first weekend in June offered some of the finest weather of the year, so five of us went looking for some lonely backpacking in the Olympics. We chose

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS DEADLINE: July 18

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

the Skokomish River trail with our goal being the views of the interior Olympics from Sundown Pass. All weekend we saw just four other people besides our party—two dayhikers on Saturday and two on Sunday. Solitude was just what we were looking for, however, the price came high.

Camp Riley was our planned destination for Saturday night, at five and a half miles in and a vertical gain of 1900 feet. We planned to scoot up the trail to camp, pitch the tents, and spend the afternoon doing the final two miles to Sundown Pass and on to Sundown Lake. Then back to the tents for a late dinner, a good night's sleep and out to the cars by 10 or 11 in the morning. So much for plans.

Just finding the trailhead is a bit of a challenge since the roads are poorly signed. The hike now starts with a three-quarter mile roadwalk before reaching the official Custom Correct trailhead. We were off at 9:45 am. The lower trail is a pleasant river walk. A bridge takes you over Rule Creek and a second shortly after takes you over the Skokomish. This puts you on the east side of the river walking through some spectacular old growth forest. About a mile and three-quarters farther along you cross back to the west side of the river on another well constructed foot bridge. Campsites here on both sides of the river.

Our first inkling that all might not be well came when we ran into patches of

snow at 1600 feet—big patches. Then came the blowdowns, one after another. We detoured around the first ones in the valley bottom, but going around wasn't an option as we climbed. We crawled over, under, and through blowdown after blowdown. We slid the packs under, passed them over, and dragged them behind us. We'd put them back on, only to find another massive blockage around the next corner. There were 95 in all from the last bridge to the National Park boundary. Carol took an unintended plunge into a creek as she struggled through a nasty one.

Five hours from our start, we reached Camp Riley tired, filthy and bruised. Here we found five feet of sloppy melting snow. We called it a day. Sundown Pass and the views would have to wait for another trip. Luckily some of the tree moats were melted out enough to accommodate tents. We made camp surrounded by snow, and salvaged the rest of the day by lying around soaking up the sun at the edge of our moats.

There were 108 blowdowns altogether from the trailhead to Camp Riley, 95 of them in the two mile stretch before the Park boundary. Although there was evidence that the lower trail had been maintained in recent years, the upper trail has been ignored and will probably be lost before long.

Past the National Park boundary what's left of the trail just about disappears, with the occasional orange marker on a tree to guide the way.

Since the meadows were still buried in snow, we were not able to assess trail condition after there.

There certainly is no evidence whatever of any trail pass dollars spent here. The Forest Service and Park Service seem to have abandoned the trail, whether by default or design is not clear. Without some attention soon, a beautiful backdoor entry into Olympic National Park will be lost. Our collective vote after this trip is to get the trail crew out here, fast! This trail is well worth saving.

We did notice that although the trail is in ruins, the Forest Service nonetheless has managed to install a sign at the trailhead telling us their permit is required to park there.—Dennis & Pat, Olympia, 6/3-4.

HOH RIVER—The trail has been cleared to Olympus Guard Station but typical for this time of year the trail is very muddy and wet. A large washout is beyond the guard station. The trail is clear and open from the guard station to Elk Lake. Beyond Elk Lake the trail has intermittent snow beginning 1 mile before Glacier Meadows.

The avalanche chutes before Glacier Meadows are heavily eroded. Glacier Meadows has 2 to 4 feet of snow, and no campsites melted out. Both out-houses have been dug out.

Mount Olympus is experiencing extreme snow melt typical for this time of year. Crevasses are opening quickly.

LETTERS continued from page 4

National Resources Marketing Group has retained a Portland advertising firm.)

Walt Disney wants to build "wilderness" theme parks on our land, and KOA Campgrounds want to discourage you from inexpensive camping. They want higher and higher use fees on public land, so private facilities can charge more. (Note that the Forest Service fees have gone up this year already!)

- The opposition to trail fees consists of 153 environmental and outdoor recreation organizations. (See www.freeourforests.org). Note also that the California legislature voted unanimously to oppose the federal fee program, and have cut their state park fees in half.

- Enforcement will require a major part of the collected fees. Long drives in Forest Service trucks and cars will require hiring rangers as police, increasing the bureaucracy, and their sal-

ary budget will compete with maintenance needs or informational services. Enforcement in local courts will entail major expenditures for prosecutors, judges, and even jurors.

(The US Attorney Betty Richardson in Boise has declared that she will no longer prosecute such cases, pointing out the discrepancy for costs and benefits of such prosecutions).

In the first year or so of the fee program, the cost of giving out tickets (technically called Notices of Non-Compliance) was concealed by the use of "volunteers" who were employees of commercial campgrounds, or more recently, simply individuals who want to earn a free pass by ticketing other citizens (a technique of Big Brother).

- The Forest Service is notoriously incompetent in accounting—even Representative Regula commented on this in

a recent article in the Sunday paper here. At the same time he wants to increase funding for recreation in the Forest Service's budget. He will then be able to assert that the improvements are a result of income from trail fees! With the Forest Service's fiscal methods such as subsidizing logging and grazing, no one will know.

- What to do: Don't buy a \$30 permit, since the Forest Service has argued that compliance with this coercive program implies support of this new tax. If you do nothing, you can count on permanent and escalating fees as the Forest Service continues a bidding game for access to your wilderness.

Warren Guntheroth
Seattle, Washington

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

Bring all normal gear for glacier travel and self rescue on the mountain.—Ranger, 6/12.

ROYAL BASIN—There are at least 5 good sized blowdowns, with the first being less than ½-mile from the Dungeness junction.

About 4 miles up the trail, hikers will have to cross a 10 meter tangle of avalanche blowdown from last winter. A well-worn path up the slope and then across a narrow portion of the avalanche debris makes the crossing quite easy. Patches of snow on the trail from about mile 5 to the lower portion of the basin. The lower portion of the basin is almost snow free. The trail is covered with snow from the time it leaves the lower basin and begins to make the final ascent to Royal Lake—from about 5000 feet and above.

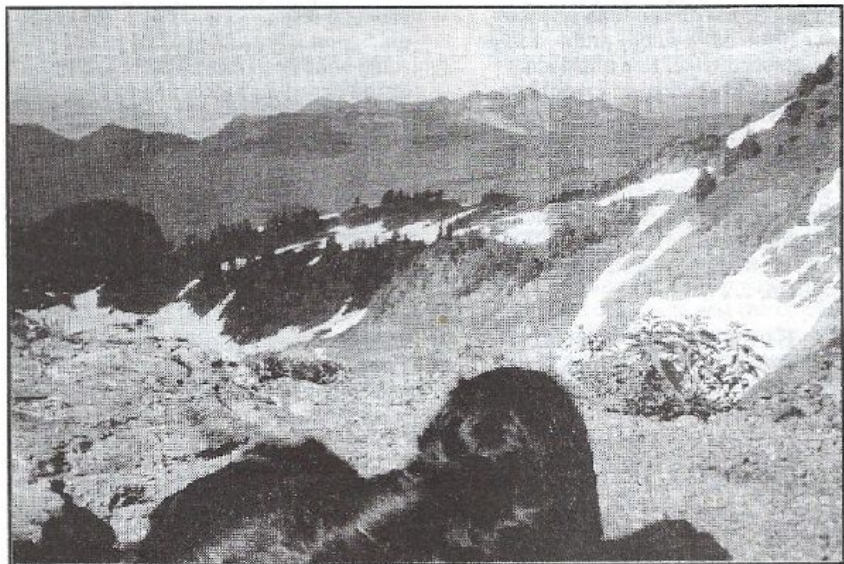
The footbridge over Royal Creek is lying on the bottom. When I arrived about 11am, the water was at least 12 inches above the center of the bridge. I crossed the creek using a blowdown about 50 meters below the trail.

Upper basin? Plenty of snow! The east ridge is almost completely snow free above the lower basin. No sign of bears and no recent signs of cougars. A small herd of nine deer was feeding just below the lower basin. They look like they need to get off their Weight Watchers diet really soon. Plenty of wildflowers along the trail in the open areas.—Ranger, 6/3.

UPPER LENA LAKE—Twenty trees down over trail before snowline. Patchy snow begins at 3700 feet. Solid snow at 3800 feet, ¼ miles below the lake. Upper Lena Lake is 99% frozen with 6 to 10 feet of snow in the area. However, campsites 5 and 6 are snow-free.—Ranger, 6/7.

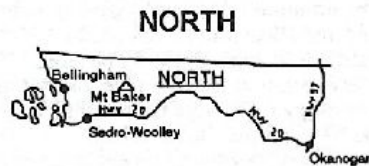
LAKE OF THE ANGELS—Trail follows orange flagging through last year's avalanche slides. Numerous blowdowns on the trail. Patchy snow begins at 4000 feet and continuous snow at 4300 feet, shortly after the headwall. Lake is 100% frozen with 6 to 12 feet of snow.—Ranger, 6/9.

INFORMATION CENTER—For information on Olympic National Park's trails, backcountry, roads, fees and regulations, call the Wilderness Information Center, 360-452-0300.



David Lewis

Lucky takes in the view of the Canadian Coast Range and the Fraser Valley from atop Church Mountain.



CRAG VIEW (USGS Baker Pass)—Bill Green and I drove to within about 2 miles of the Schriebers Meadow trailhead. Snowmobile road pack was fairly constant but melting fast. I easily found the small bridge behind the restroom building (still half buried in snow) that leads to the Scott Paul trail.

With no further sign of the trail we headed straight up the forested rib. The snow under the trees was hard, dirty and easy climbing. As we neared the saddle at 4100 feet we traversed left (west) and came out lower on the left side of the final ridge. This saved a lot of extra steep traversing.

From here it was up and down over the bumps but generally most efficient on the right side. Snow was soft, deep and slow in the open above 4600 feet even on the numerous snowmobile tracks that threaded through the woods and all around us. Near the final high point, narrow rock was melted out with steep drop-offs on both sides.

Bill tested the snow on the right (east) side and found that a small snowball at the top resulted in a substantial avalanche every time. I eventually had to make him stop testing. This right (east) side is heavily crevassed later in the year but was heavily tracked from snowmobiles. The ridge route was defi-

nately the safest for us.

Four slow hours up from the trailhead and, remarkably, only 1 hour following our tracks down.—Bud Hardwick, Bellingham, 5/15.

▲▲ SOUTH TWIN SISTER (USGS Twin Sisters Mtn)

Bill Green and I drove to the Middle Fork Nooksack Bridge up road 38 off Mosquito Lake road. We parked at the gate (1230 feet) and pushed bicycles up the steep 3 mile road to the "tank trap." Then mostly cycled with two small stream crossings to current road end southeast of Dailey Prairie.

We left the bikes and took the brushy abandoned road up and east before entering the old growth at about 3730 feet. Ice-hard snow patches became continuous and we finished the climb from the woods into the basin with crampons. Here warm sun and flat snow made slush that was slow even with snowshoes.

The notch between the sisters was dark and frozen—crampons and a little dry pointing got us on the rock. We roped across the Sisters Glacier. Avalanche danger was a high concern; major cornices lined the ridge to our south. We climbed the steep snow and got on the northeast ridge to the top.

Solid cornices stopped us but a final effort with Bill belaying allowed me to use axes and pickets to get over the slightly overhung cornice. We felt that we had earned this one. Sunset found us safely past the steep pitches, refreshed from a break, and entering the woods. With intuition and the GPS we

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

hit the junction with the road perfectly.

Good climb but I would prefer it later in the year next time, less avalanche danger to contend with, and would enjoy the overnight stay we had wanted.

Most times it seems that you bring things you don't use. On this trip we used everything: bikes, crampons, ice axes, snowshoes, rope, helmets, pickets, prusiks, headlamps, and GPS. Trip time about 18 hours.—Bud Hardwick, Bellingham, 5/24.

▲▲ HELIOTROPE RIDGE, COLEMAN GLACIER (GT Mt Baker)—Our party of 11 went to the Coleman Glacier for glacier and crevasse rescue practice. The weather was warm and sunny. Road clear to ½ mile of trailhead and melting fast. Sections of trail gave way to firm boot track in the snow. At the last wooded stream crossing (about 4350 feet) the track still leads up the drainage about ¼ mile before joining the ridge and trail on the left—watch carefully for it.

We cleared the forest (4800 feet) and continued up and left/east traversing over the base of the Hog's Back to the wooded ridge overlooking the Coleman Glacier (about 5000 feet). If it had been windy we would have chosen the flat campsites in the dense woods but this trip we camped on the sunset-facing snow slope among small sparse trees.

After lunch we went down the wooded ridge and easily got on the snow slope. Roping up we traveled through the crevasses which were dense and often going "cross grain" to each other. Moving up the glacier and swinging around to the right/south we entered the lower seracs. We selected one to use for top-roped ice climbing and prusiking. Afterward we headed back on steep snow onto the ridge then down to camp. This was a beautiful circle tour.

The next day we spent entirely in

crevasse rescue (practice) on the lower glacier on a broad safe area next to some wide deep crevasses. Some interesting observations on this trip: A spotted owl (dark eyes, no "ears") captured a rodent; on Bastille Ridge a herd of mountain goats was seen both days; in the evening we watched from camp as late skiers set off large slough avalanches past each other; a helicopter attempted a rescue (unrelated) but had to return at daybreak; and remarkably, despite the warmth of the night, we saw several parties begin the Baker climb in the morning daylight (the beginning of a long slog).—Bud Hardwick, Bellingham, 6/3-4.

▲▲ CLEARWATER PEAK and NORTH CLEARWATER PEAK (USGS Groat Mountain)—The "Clearwater Peaks" are a couple of unnamed and unknown summits close to Mount Baker, just west of Grouse Butte. A few years ago I made up a list of the most prominent local subalpine mountains and Clearwater Peak (4926 feet) qualified. In June of 1997 I climbed Clearwater, and found a nice, rocky top and craggy rock ridge with two summits of equal height.

I did both and found no evidence of a previous ascent on either. Given that I made a first ascent of 4926 feet I was figuring that the more remote and lower North Clearwater, at 4846 feet, had probably not yet seen any climbers reach its lofty wooded top.

I have since found out that John Roper & Co. made what was probably the first ascent in 1998 of North Clearwater (Peak 4846).

With a lousy weather forecast, but a desire to get out in the mountains, I pulled this trip out of the "back pocket" and my friend Bud Hardwick was a willing accomplice, with the agreement that I do both summits.

We took the right hand road just a few tenths of a mile before the Heliotrope Ridge trailhead, and drove ½-mile before being halted by snow (3650 feet). Leaving the car at 9am we hiked under a grey sky on the patchy-snow road. At the 4200+-foot saddle south of Lookout Mountain we took the left fork heading toward Grouse Butte, although we could hardly tell where we were heading since it was snowing very hard.

We then left the road, dropping 200 feet as we contoured around Grouse Butte to the 4000-foot saddle to its west. This was a fairly easy snow traverse through open woods. From the pass we headed west, ascending the wooded east ridge of Clearwater. Higher up we had more open terrain with some views

and some sunshine. The easterly of the two highest points of Clearwater is quite easy with just a bit of steep snow and Class 2 rock; it was noon when we arrived here.

To get to the west high point, backtrack about 100 yards to easier slopes, then descend a couple of hundred feet. I tried to follow the route that I had used before but overshot it and couldn't find a way back up to the ridge; too many cliffs.

We backtracked and found my original route; make a gradual traversing ascent on steepening snow to below a split rock crag. It's hard to see because of the trees until just below it. Climb steep snow (to 50 degrees) toward the crag then a steep mossy and rock slope to right under the crag. There are good limbs for holds here. Now traverse to the saddle to the west of the crag on mossy and heathery ledges, total of 150 feet of scrambling (Class 3).

From the saddle it is easier, and at the short summit tower we circled right on heather to avoid wet rock. Found the small cairn that I had left previously, on top at 1pm. We made a careful descent to where Pantera was patiently waiting, then cruised the snowslopes to the connecting ridge with North Clearwater. From the 4400-foot saddle on up it was open woods but no views on top, but an opening or two in the trees.

It was 2pm here and we took a break before heading back; 2 hours back to the road and back to the car at 5pm. We had quite a bit of snow flurries for this elevation in June but also a fair bit of sun and a great view of Mount Baker upon arriving at the vehicle. Not a bad day, and two peaks that are seldom if ever done.—Grant Myers, Bellingham, 6/10.

NORTH CASCADES NATL PARK
—Call the Wilderness Information Center for information on regulations: 360-873-4500 x 39.

Thornton Creek road is open to trailhead; high clearance recommended. **Cascade River road** is open to milepost 21. Be careful driving through the washout at milepost 19. Two to 5 feet of snow at Cascade Pass trailhead.

Ross Lake Resort is open. Call 206-386-4437 for water taxi fares and info.

Big Beaver/West Bank is cleared to 39 Mile. Access to 39 Mile camp now requires ford. Beaver Pass mostly snow free. **Bridge Creek/PCT** has mostly continuous snow from trailhead to Fireweed camp. Clear of snow from Fireweed to Stehekin valley road, bridge at Maple Creek installed. **Cascade Pass** is snow-covered first ½-mile, then mostly snowfree to 4500 feet. Solid snow be-

ALWAYS CARRY THE TEN ESSENTIALS

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

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

yond; 6 feet of snow at pass.

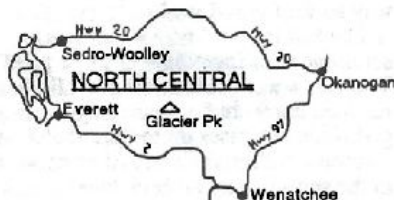
East Bank is cleared to Lightning Creek. Watch for ticks. **Easy Pass/Fisher Basin** trailhead is snowfree, snow begins soon thereafter. **Hannegan Pass** is snowfree first 4 miles, solid snow beyond to pass.

Pyramid Lake trail is snowfree to lake. **Sourdough** has patchy snow at park boundary, solid snow by 3.5 miles. **Thornton Lake** trail brushy and snow-free first 2½ miles. Patchy snow above 3600 feet, solid above 4000 feet to the lakes. **Thunder Creek** in good shape to McAllister camp. **Whatcom Pass** is snowbound.

Eldorado route: the log across the North Fork Cascade River is still in place. May still need to ford part way if water is high. As of 6/4, snow begins halfway up talus fields, and is weak and dangerous with bottomless holes. Gully from Eldorado Creek to Roush Creek melted out at bottom of big moat. Deep wet snow.—Ranger, 6/12.

PASAYTEN—Lake Creek trail is snow-free; Black Lake thawed. Cougar and Hidden Lakes frozen. Boundary trail and PCT snowcovered. Call 509-996-4000 for current info.—Ranger, 6/9.

NORTH CENTRAL



WHIDBEY ISLAND (NOAA 18429, 18441)—The approximately 11nm paddle along the northwest shore of Whidbey Island from just north of Point Partridge to Bowman Bay is an interesting paddle but not one to be taken lightly. Besides accounting for the forces of Nature which include open exposure to the east end of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the currents of Deception Pass, there are two Restricted Areas and a Small Arms Safety Zone associated with the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station to deal with.

The Small Arms Safety Zone is a live fire small arms range which can operate 7 days a week. The NOAA chart notes that red flashing lights and flags are displayed during live fire exercises and caution is to be used when transiting near the zone. The Restricted Areas extend out from the Naval Air Station landing fields. The Coastal Pilot notes that entry into the Restricted Areas are at your own risk and you are obliged to

comply with orders received from naval sources.

Three of us put in at the Point Partridge launch ramp which is actually a little over 2½ miles north of Point Partridge. There is a small parking lot, a concrete ramp, but no restroom facilities. A southeasterly wind was blowing but was generally being blocked by the island's shore. A dark cloud bank loomed way to the south over the Olympic mountain foothills and there was a forecast of an afternoon thunderstorm.

The Small Arms Safety Zone begins about 2 miles north of the launch ramp and fortunately there were no live fire exercises going on. We crossed the zone and continued to our lunch stop about a mile north of the zone at the Joseph Whidbey State Park. There are picnic benches here and a toilet a short walk up from the beach.

With the dark clouds from the south getting closer, we decided a short lunch was prudent and were soon back on the water. The shoreline along the northwest side of Whidbey is a mixture of very high banks and low banks. Where there are high banks, the beach is undisturbed—we saw a coyote walking the shore! Where there is low bank there is development or the Naval Air Station.

Low banks also mean a funneling of the wind as we discovered as we approached the Restricted Areas associated with the air fields. We could see airplanes periodically coming in over the water in the distance and planned on heading offshore to stay clear. However, the wave action caused by the channeling of wind made that a risky move so

we stayed as far off shore as we felt comfortable with and were able to cross the area between incoming flights.

About a mile north of the air fields Deception Pass State Park begins, along with our last hurdle for this paddle: Deception Pass. Rounding West Point at the south entrance to the Pass, we eddy-hopped in the ebbing current and pulled out on North Beach to talk about the crossing. The neighboring land masses were blocking the wind so the only thing we had to deal with was the current which was ebbing at just under 6 knots at the narrows of the Pass, but considerably less where we planned to cross.

Again, the approaching dark clouds compelled us to limit our stay on shore, so after a short break we were back on the water. We headed into the Pass, paddling close to shore to keep out of the current, until we reached Gun Point. Here we started across at a ferry angle into the current until we were about half way across at which point we changed our heading so we were going straight across while the current pushed us westward. By the time we reached the other side we were at Lighthouse Point and out of the current.

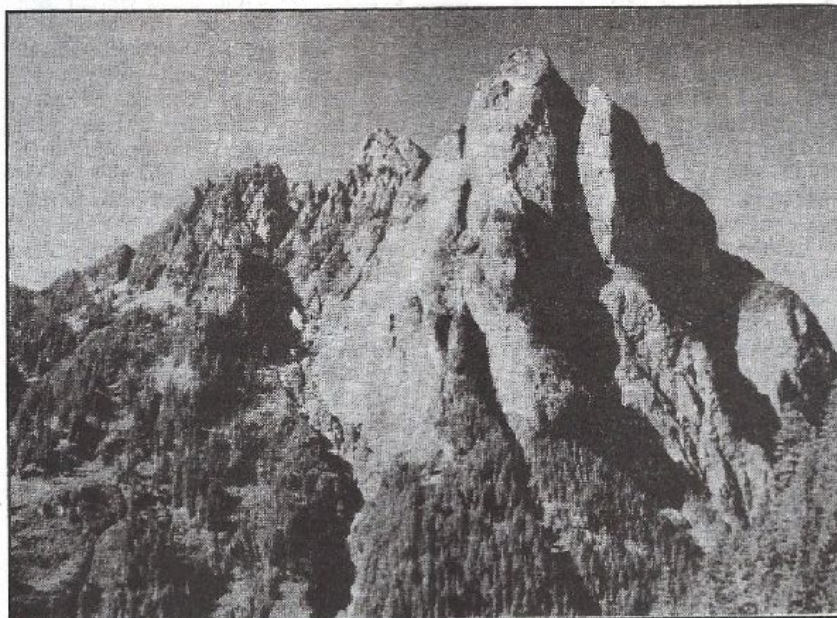
Past the point, we followed the shoreline into Bowman Bay, and the end of the day's paddle. We had beat the approaching rain and had only a car shuttle to do to complete the day!—LGM, Port Orchard, 6/10.



SQUIRE CREEK PEAKS

(USGS Whitehorse Mtn)

Getting there: Drive to Darrington and then to the Squire Creek trailhead to



Mount Baring from the trail to Eagle Lake.

Ken Hopping

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

begin.

The trip: Mitch, Alan, Tom and I set off on a beautiful Wednesday morning to climb Squire Creek Peak (4879 feet) and Ulalach Mountain (5040+ feet), one north and one south of Squire Creek Pass. The day was gorgeous as the four of us made our way up towards the very gentle pass.

We hit snow around 3000 feet or so. Once at the pass we had a lunch break while taking in the scenery which was dominated by the 4000 feet of relief on the east face of Three Fingers. After about an hour or so we climbed the easy west ridge of Squire Creek Peak where we spent a great deal of time enjoying the hundreds of peaks nearby while figuring out a route on our next peak to the north.

Mitch decided on the amazing southwest rib, worthy of a cover story in *Rock and Ice*. We then glissaded off of Squire Peak and began our ascent into the unknown. We roped up at the base of Ulalach as we prepared for the 1000-foot ascent of this unclimbed rib.

Mitch fearlessly led pitch after harrowing pitch until finally we heard the triumphant cry of, "I'm there, fellas!" Mitch then belayed us all to the summit at a whopping 5040+ feet.

Fortunately there was a nice walk-off route which we took back to the trail and on out to the car. Lucky for us John Roper and Co had pioneered the first known route on this peak (less than a year ago) giving us vital information to make this climb possible.—Pilar, Monroe, 5/24.



MOUNT DICKERMAN

(USGS *Bedal*)—Rainy weekdays certainly keep the crowds down! Only saw one other hiker. Just a few minor blowdowns on trail.

Snow solid from about 4000 feet but several tricky snow bridges melting out—be careful. Plenty of snow up top but summit cornices not bad. Great glissade chutes for the trip down!—Phil Evans, Mukilteo, 6/6.



RED MOUNTAIN (USGS *Mt Stickney*)

Getting there: Drive Highway 2 and turn left onto the Sultan Basin road. Follow it to Spada Lake and a little beyond, just past the Boulder Lake trailhead. Park just after crossing Elk Creek and start walking up the abandoned road.

The trail: Stefan and I were out to bag seldom-visited "Red Mountain," point 5738. We were coming prepared, including three ropes to get past two notches on Red's upper south ridge. Our intent was to set up camp just be-

yond the second concrete bridge and to go for Red from there. After crossing the third bridge we found a great camp spot out in the open on a wide spot in the road.

From here we dropped some of our gear and continued up the road almost to its end before heading up through a clearcut going mainly east and a little bit north toward point 5190.

Once at 3900 feet you need to drop into the stream basin (between Red Mountain proper and point 5190) angling east-northeast towards the saddle southwest of Red (no need to go directly to the saddle), and gain the ridge just above 5000 feet. Once on the ridge you have now come to one of the greatest views in all the Cascades, views into the mythic source of the Sultan River.

The massive west face of Gothic Peak dominates the view along with the summit pyramid of Sheep Gap Mountain. In the distance to the northwest are views of Vesper and the incredible east face of Sperry Mountain. After taking a lunch break on a flat spot on the ridge we continued up toward the summit. Once on the ridge you come to a couple of different pinnacles. We fixed a rope for rappelling and worked our way around them.

Once at the base of the second pinnacle we traversed around on snow and up an easier snow filled gully to the col directly below the summit. At the top of the gully it was an easy Class 2 to 3 scramble to the top, over incredibly rotten rock. The summit register is a piece of PVC placed by the third ascent party of Mark Owen and Garth Warner in August of 1990.

Also included are the original party's register from 1958 and a group in 1971 that included the likes of Mike Bialos and Co. We were the fourth ascent party.

We enjoyed the views for quite awhile before heading down.

Stefan found one other 400-footer for us to climb in the vicinity. The peak is located southeast of Red Mountain about 1 mile away. Dubbed "Lil' Red Rooster," peak 5040+ was an easy snow slog up its gentle north ridge. There was NEPA (no evidence of a previous ascent). The views of the Crested Buttes were quite nice from this vantage point.

It was time to head back. We'd left our packs on the west ridge of point 5190 at about 4400 feet. In no time we were back there and we began our descent. The down route was great except for the last 600 feet above the road. Stefan and I were both in shorts and everything seemed to have stickers: salmonberry, devils club, and the absolute worst, trailing blackberry! Both of

us had shredded legs.

We arrived back at camp around 8:30 completely trashed (a 13 hour day). We set about making dinner, having something to drink and relaxing. In no time we were feeling much better.—Everyone's favorite climbing kitty! Pilar, Monroe, 6/3.



BIG GREIDER, STATIC, LITTLE GREIDER (USGS *Mt Stickney*)

—Drive up the Sultan Basin road to the Greider Lakes trailhead and park at about 1550 feet.

In no time at all Stefan and I were hiking past Big Greider Lake. At a tiny saddle we traversed southwest to the northeast ridge of Big Greider Peak (4829 feet) and on to the top. The summit was partially snowfree. We stayed on top for a few minutes before descending southeast toward the Static-Big Greider saddle at about 3900 feet.

After stashing our packs we headed off for Static Peak at 4905 feet. Following the north ridge until 500 feet or so below the summit, we then traversed south to gain the upper west ridge of Static to complete the climb. The upper part of this ridge is completely forested but very steep. The last hundred feet or so we roped up and used a running belay. We had hauled that rope in all that way so we figured we had to use it!

The last little bit was a short rock scramble over incredible granitic rock. The views were outstanding in all directions but were dominated by the rugged ridge that rises up to point 5335, an awesome sight to behold! After basking in the sun we dropped back to our packs and on down to the outlet of Little Greider Lake. At this point we again left our packs as we began our ascent up toward the summit of Little Greider Peak (4602 feet).

The ascent was easy enough except for one cliffy area around 3500 feet which we easily bypassed on the right. We reached the summit around 2pm or so. We glissaded part of the route back down and went on out by way of the trail. The day included about 6000 feet of gain and was about 9 miles in length.—Everyone's favorite climbing kitty, Pilar, Monroe, 5/14.



MERCHANT PEAK (USGS *Baring*)

—Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of cartographers? If even the slightest inkling of the peak-bagging syndrome became known to these artisans of relief, the potential for mischief could indeed be severe.

Fortunately for us, the discrepancy is only a minor one—but one which splits a single summit into two. Merchant

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

Peak is identified by the USGS as a prominence of 5831 feet, about 3 miles due east of Index. While the name resides at 5831 feet, the high point is about 5-mile northwest, at 6113 feet.

John Roper, Howard Putter and I set out on a beautiful and warm spring morning. While recent reports (June P&P) indicated the bridge over Barclay Creek was washed out, we found that some clever re-engineering has restored the bridge to function.

As the meticulous route description in "green" Beckey describes, a rock wash about 100m past the bridge marks the beginning of the climbers' trail. Our ascent was punctuated by beautiful views back at the north face of Baring—rendered awesome by the raking morning light.

We hit snow just past the first waterfall (2900 feet) and made our way up to the "cave gully." Rockfall hazard at this point became significant: you do not want to be in the gully when parties are ahead of you.

We climbed the lower "named" peak, and enjoyed a wonderful panorama. Unfortunately, the peak-bagging infection runs deep, and we were powerless to prevent ourselves from dropping a precious 250 feet of elevation, traversing across, and climbing the 6113-foot "unnamed" true summit.

Along the way, we were enjoined by Toby, Daniel and Boomer. Despite his mere 13 years, Daniel plugged right alongside as we stepkicked up the (sometimes impressively) steep slope. Boomer, the summit-bagging mutt, seemed to do just as well.

We paused to watch a powerful avalanche over on Baring before pushing on to the top. Once again, we were rewarded with unusually clear views stretching from the Olympics to Baker to Rainier to the faintest blobs of the Back Court. The summit register indicates that this peak doesn't get climbed nearly as often as it deserves.

A fantastic day for climbing, and a great pair of compatriots to share it with. 6.75 hours up, 3 hours down, total gain about 4150 feet.—Ted Baughman, Bothell, 6/3.

STEHEKIN SHUTTLE—Call Golden West Visitor Center, 360-856-5700 x340 then x14, for information or to arrange for a shuttle.—Ranger, 6/16.

WHITE CHUCK ROAD—The wash-out is scheduled for repair in early July.—Ranger, 6/14.

BARCLAY CREEK—The bridge has been repaired.—Ranger, 6/14.

NASON RIDGE—The trail is still scheduled to be closed on the east end due to logging.—Ranger, 6/14.

ENTIAT RIVER—On 5/22, four cougars followed a group of walkers for 2 miles along the Entiat road from Cottonwood to Three Creeks.—Ranger, 6/12.

CENTRAL



MOUNT PERSIS (USGS Mt Index)

—We didn't drive through the big mud hole in the road at the logging cold deck area, as it would have buried our Subaru station wagon. It is a tough climbers trail up the ridge climbing over logs until you get up to the snow. We had nice views from the summit and took lots of photos.—George Chambers, Bothell, 6/9.



TAYLOR RIVER (USGS Snoqualmie Lk, Lk Philippa)

—Another prettier than expected hike. This trail is along an old road that doesn't look like an old road after the first half mile or so. Find the trailhead up the Middle Fork Snoqualmie road (not too bad and seems to have been recently graded in the middle) and then a short bit left on the Taylor River road to the end.

The trail crosses the Taylor River on a big bridge and follows a road for a short bit until the Quartz Creek road heads off to the left. The trail continues straight and from this point on, you had to look closely to tell this was an old road. This was a lovely hike through moss covered trees with some very pretty creeks. There are some very impressive smooth rock cliffs with waterfalls and waterslides all along the way.

The wooden bridge at Marten Creek is showing its age with holes punched through. It's still safe to cross, but you'll want to pay attention and when this bridge goes, it will be difficult if not impossible to cross.

The crossing at Anderson Creek was running high enough that I waded, though there was a route across involving some wet logs that looked too slippery for me without my walking sticks for balance.

We passed the cairn/rock arrow indicating the Otter Falls trail and contin-

ued another short mile to the crossing at Big Creek, another impressive creek with the water sliding over the smooth rock. There's a substantial hole on the far side of the bridge that could be dangerous if your attention is on the creek and not where you're stepping.

We turned around shortly after and went back to Otter Falls for lunch. This is a very impressive falls over the smooth rock cliffs and down into Lipsy Lake at the bottom.—SIE, 5/29.



CHIWAUKUM CREEK

(USGS Winton, Big Jim Mtn)

—I'd been curious about this trail for awhile, but the description in the 100 Hikes book put me off somewhat and I always chose other hikes in the area. My mistake. This is a lovely early season hike.

The trail starts just off Highway 2 just east of Coles Corner. There is a short walk (the book says 1.5 miles, but it seemed more like ¾ mile) along a dirt road, then the rest is on trail. The entire way was a continuous flower show with lupine, Indian paintbrush and balsamroot putting on quite a show.

The best, though, were the Tweedy's Lewisia in full bloom in the rocky outcroppings all along the trail. The range of flowers was quite impressive with both dry and wet climate flowers. Put this on your Memorial Day flower hike list. There were a few logs down that made the trail impassable to stock but not feet. Otherwise, the trail was in good condition.—SIE, 5/27.



FULLER MOUNTAIN

(USGS Mt Si)

—Among several projects the Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club offered on National Trails Day 3 June was a hike and trail maintenance project to Fuller Mountain, north of North Bend.

This "toadstool peak," as described by Harvey Manning in *Hiking the Mountains to Sound Greenway*, is a peak of 850 feet prominence above the surrounding Weyerhaeuser Tree Farm on the Tokul Plateau. Views abound in all directions from the summit.

We brushed the trail as it led from the Weyerhaeuser road across Ten Creek to the base of the mountain. There, a way trail begins its winding path up the southwestern aspect of the prominence, with several switchbacks.

We cut logs, moved branches, and stabilized a path across several rock slides. Views of Klaus and Boyle Lakes were below us as we worked. Lunch was on top, with wonderful views of Mount Si, peaks stretching northerly from Mount Si, the shoulder of Mount

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

Rainier, and the Tokul Plateau.—Don Potter, Bellevue, 6/3.

▲▲ WEDGE MOUNTAIN (USGS Leavenworth)—I figured Wedge would be far enough east to be out of bad weather. I took Mountain Home road from Leavenworth and turned right at a sign that said Boundary Butte. Boundary Butte is to the left. Other than this sign the side roads are unmarked.

I parked along the old logging road at about 3700 feet and left my vehicle at 9:25am under thin overcast. I ascended in a northwesterly direction to gain the north ridge off the lower Wedge Mountain (5840 feet) that shows on maps. I wanted to climb both this Wedge and the Wedge Mountain at 6885 feet that shows in Beckey's book.

On the map, it looks like a real nice ridge traverse and indeed it was. There are about a half dozen false summits along the way and numerous rock towers. It was a good thing I was by myself because few would have wanted to join me as I ascended every high point along the way. It was a really fun alpine experience and some of the towers along the way made for nice bouldering.

The east side of the ridge for the most part remained mellow while the west side had large steep cliffs all the way down to Snow Creek.

The first good views were looking down on Snow Creek Wall. The clouds were beginning to break up and occasional sunshine perked my spirits. Later along the ridge good views of Nada Lake opened up along with exceptional views of Snow Lakes, Temple Ridge, McClellan Peak and Little Annapurna and then on into The Enchantments. At one point a good sized snow slide avalanched down Temple Ridge making a loud crashing as it rumbled over rocky areas.

The final summit of Wedge involves a good rock scramble with numerous possibilities. I stayed high on little ledges but others may wish to drop down farther before traversing around and re-ascending. I hit the summit at 1:17pm and stayed on the summit for an hour as the clouds continued to dissipate and the views continued to improve. Only the last few hundred feet of the 6885-foot summit still have snow.

I enjoyed the high traverse back almost as much as the traverse out although I did drop off the ridge earlier than where I had gained it. I got back to my vehicle at 5:19pm still with enough time to make the nice high drive on over and up Boundary Butte.—Don Beavon, Lynnwood, 6/8.

▲ FOURTH OF JULY CREEK (GT Chiwaukum Mtns)—Our group of eight headed up the trail to Icicle Ridge far above the Icicle Creek road through some lower elevations of wildflowers where we spotted the rare Tweedy's Lewisia.

As we got higher up the ridge, the cold winds came up as they blew over the snow covered ridge top. The last half mile was hiking in a foot or two of snow with the Icicle Ridge trail buried for a few more weeks. We bundled up in our warm clothes to eat a snack as a little snow began to fall. The trip back down the steep trail proved to be hard on the old legs and the temperature got warmer as we descended with sun coming out from the clouds around the mountains.

One odd thing on the hike was in an area about half-way up the trail where it switchbacks through a very brushy section—for about 200 yards the trail is all brushed out, with the rest of this area all overgrown with huckleberry bushes. Someone had to hike up at least 3 miles to get to this spot and cut brush. Maybe they will return and finish the job.—George Chambers, Bothell, 5-27.

▲▲ TEANAWAY LOOP (USGS Blewett, Enchantment Lks)—Stefan, Mitch, Mark and I set off up the Miller Peak trail on a drizzly morning. We made quick work of the trail, which became snow covered above 4500 feet. The higher we got the foggier it got and when we finally summited Miller (6402 feet) we found ourselves completely shrouded in mist.

After a while we proceeded northwest up and down the ridge culminating in the climb over the apex of 6442-foot "Freedom Peak." En route the winds howled and we were pelted with driving rain while being serenaded by Mark's version of Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World."

The weather began to clear a bit while Stefan and I went for the summit of Navajo, and Mark and Mitch started for the summit of the Three Brothers. Stefan and I made quick work of Navajo (7223 feet) following the gentle but very windy southeast ridge up to the top. It was then a short glissade down to the Navajo-Brothers saddle before beginning the ascent of the almost snow-free southwest ridge of the Brothers.

We caught Mark and Mitch on the summit of the highest peak, dubbed "Big Brother" (7303 feet), the giant of the Teanaway with over 1700 feet of prominence. On the summit is both a Mountaineers register from the mid-80s and an Alpine Roamers register

that dates back to 1965. We enjoyed reading the historical register while the gradual clearing gave us a stunning view of the Stuart Range.

After about half an hour it was a little down and then back up to the Freedom-Navajo saddle where we then glissaded down to a very sunny Stafford Creek trail and on out. We arrived back at the vehicles around 6pm about 10 hours after we'd started. It was here that we parted ways with Mark who had some babysitting chores to look forward to while Stefan, Mitch and I packed up and headed for the 29 Pines campground for dinner.

After a hearty meal we piled into Stefan's truck and headed up the Cle Elum River road. We'd heard that the road was open all the way to the end but found out all too late that this was only if you owned a snowmobile!

We were halted about 1.5 miles from the Scatter Creek trailhead. Stefan and I set up in the bed of his truck while Mitch took up residence under a makeshift lean-to that Stefan configured off the back of his canopy.

We said our good-nights and went to sleep, with the constant pitter-patter of rain pelting the top of Stefan's canopy.—Everyone's favorite climbing kitty, Pilar, Monroe, 5/27.

▲▲ THE LAST SERPENT, SOLOMON, HARDING (USGS The Cradle, Jack Ridge)—Getting there: Drive as far up the Cle Elum River road to Scatter Creek.

The trail: As per my earlier report (Teanaway Loop) we didn't quite make it to the Scatter Creek trailhead. Stefan, Mitch and I woke up to a continuing drizzle and Mike saying, "I'm outta here!" and away he went. The three of us who remained started up the road, reaching the trailhead in about 40 minutes or so.

We then started up on the south side of Scatter Creek in almost constant snow. At 4600 feet we began to bear slightly north and mainly east to the basin below Solomon Peak (7095 feet) and The Last Serpent (7031 feet). Once in the main basin at about 5400 feet we began heading up and to our right around a lower cliff base heading for the saddle just west of "The Serpent."

We continued bearing left (counterclockwise) crossing the upper southeast ridge of Serpent and traversing northwesterly on the right hand side of the ridge taking a snow finger to just below the summit rocks (one could scramble the southeast ridge but it appeared steep and slabby; our by-pass route seemed much easier).

It was snowing pretty good at this point as we searched for an easy way to the top. Finding none readily we started to lose hope on whether or not we would make it when Mitch checked out a low-angled slabby pitch of solid serpentine that went directly to the summit. By staying on and straddling the ridge we shinned our way to the summit in driving snow. Once on the summit, finding NEPA (no evidence of a previous ascent), we built a cairn and dubbed the peak the "Last Serpent" due to the fact that this is the last of the exposed serpentine summits in the area (Solomon and Harding, just to its north, are granitic).

This was my first NEPA peak and it sure felt good. We then descended our up-route as we prepared for our ascent of Solomon at 7095 feet. The ascent was very straight-forward up the peak's south-southwest ridge. The summit afforded little in the way of views due to the nature of fog but we were able to locate John R's register at the top.

But the descent was a different story, very cliffy and exposed. Fortunately Mitch found a spot where we could get down through the upper cliffs and then led us across a very exposed (but short) snow traverse over the main rib and to easier ground. From here the route was fairly easy staying left of the ridge in the beginning and then crossing to the right side, as we got closer to the Harding-Solomon saddle.

After we reached the saddle (6400 feet) the ascent was up easy snow slopes on the southwest ridge of Harding (7173 feet). We were supposed to sign in Don Goodman's name (who'd done the trip a year earlier) but couldn't do so due to some 10 feet of snow covering the summit cairn.

The views were finally beginning to open up a bit giving us spectacular views of the lower third of the Stuart Range and the summits on Jack Ridge. We then had a great glissade down to the basin east of Solomon (5600 feet), before beginning the ascent back up and over the Solomon-Serpent saddle and another great glissade down into the Scatter Creek drainage and back out via our up route.

It took us under 3.5 hours to get back to the truck after summiting Harding. This was a great trip with over 7000 feet of gain and a NEPA to boot!—Everyone's favorite kitty, Pilar, Monroe, 5/28.



IRON BEAR (USGS Liberty)

—This trailhead is at the end of road 9714 which turns west off Highway 97 just past the Mineral

Springs Campground. The trails in this area tend to be snowfree earlier than in the Cascades.

Just before the trailhead the road fords a stream. It looked like a passenger car might bottom out so we parked in a wide spot on the road just before the stream crossing and walked a short distance to the trailhead. As we started up trail 1351 we met a couple of *Pack & Paddle* readers on their way up. This was interesting, since it was from a report from a *Pack & Paddle* reader a couple of years ago that we first learned of this hike.

After crossing a stream the trail follows a fairly gentle upgrade to the top of Teanaway Ridge where it intersects the Teanaway Ridge trail 1364 at about 1 mile. We turned right (north) and in a couple of miles reached a high point on the ridge with splendid views. The near peaks, Earl, Navaho, Miller, were visible, but the Stuart Range which is the main feature was hidden behind clouds.

We seemed to be in a transition zone. A bit of rain just as we started up the trail, and a bit of hail just after we finished lunch. Otherwise it was sunny. There were a couple of patches of snow just below the summit, but they posed no problem.

We saw lots of glacier lilies, along with paintbrush, forget-me-nots, lupine, trillium and camas to name a few of the abundant wildflowers. This is about a 6-mile round trip with about 2000 feet of gain.—Leigh Champlin, Seattle, 5/28.



YELLOW HILL (USGS Teanaway Butte)

—Turn left on the Teanaway River road off of Highway 970 8 miles or so from Cle Elum, then left on the West Fork Teanaway road and right on the Middle Fork Teanaway Road. A couple of miles after the pavement ends, just after crossing the Middle Fork Teanaway River, road 4305-113 turns off to the right.

We parked just off of the road at this point. The trailhead is about 2 miles up the road but we found that we could not drive there as the logging company, or someone, had piled a large dirt berm across the road, limiting access to motorcycles and bicycles.

At the end of the road, trail 1222 climbs steeply to the summit of Yellow Hill. About a mile up the trail it levels out into a small meadow where some of us stopped for lunch since we had the extra 2-mile trek up the road. There were great views of Mount Rainier and the Stuarts.

Most of the group pressed on another

mile or more to Yellow Hill. The trail drops a bit before climbing to the summit. Quite a bit of snow the last 1/2-mile, although there were masses of glacier lilies. We also saw lupine, penstemon and paintbrush.

The total round trip, including the road section, is about 8 miles and around 2000 feet of gain. It is possible to go on to Elbow Peak, but there was too much snow so we did not attempt it.—Leigh Champlin, Seattle, 6/4.



CABIN CREEK ROAD (GT 240)

—The weather was damp everywhere when we left the house. We headed east on I-90 looking for a likely place to wander without getting soaked. The weather before Snoqualmie Pass was ugly, so we continued east.

At Easton we decided to head south on paved road 41 that changes to dirt. About 6 miles from the freeway, the road ends in a washout where Cole Creek meets Cabin Creek. We had already spotted this location during previous exploration and wanted to see the area. We donned our gear and crossed a quaint bridge over Cole Creek kept in shape by the local snowmobilers.

Cabin Creek obviously did some major damage to the area in years back. For the first quarter mile the road was in rough shape due to washouts. It improved for a bit, but the next bridge had been made into an island. Enterprising snowmobilers placed two old trailers from either bank to the remaining middle section of bridge allowing passage without getting wet.

Once across that bridge, we picked up the road and it was smooth sailing. About a mile into the hike we rounded a corner and started through a ruggedly beautiful canyon. The road ascended a bit with views of noisy Cabin Creek below us. All along the way we had beautiful roadside and hanging cliff gardens of Indian paintbrush and several varieties of penstemon in bloom. Each turn in the road brought new delights.

At one particular bend, we noticed that Cabin Creek was even noisier. Stepping to the edge of the road, we spied a series of cascades, one of which we dubbed Horseshoe Falls. Since each bend of the road was yielding new sights and sounds, we determined to continue. Eventually the canyon widened and Cabin Creek serpentine around a corner. At this point we found our future lunch spot on a log next to the creek.

The area has been logged in the past and is going through re-growth. As we walked the road, we noticed deer and elk tracks all along the way. We even

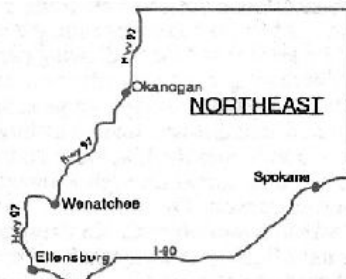
passed some possible bear scat at one point. The road wandered away from the creek for a while and we decided to turn around at a T. My previous map reading told us that we had traveled 3 miles at that point. We headed back the way we came, admiring the views from a different perspective. When we reached our pre-designated lunch spot, the sky opened a hole and we enjoyed sunshine during our meal.

This area is obviously frequented by motorized vehicles, but due to the weather conditions, we had the entire place to ourselves. The first sign of humanity we saw on the return trip was at the second bridge. A Land Rover had crossed Cole Creek and navigated the road to the second bridge, but we did not see the owner. The only other people we saw that day were the campers at the trailhead and a young couple who were going for a walk.—Wanderbuns and Shortstop, Kirkland, 6/10.

INGALLS CREEK—Except for debris from an avalanche at 5 miles, trail is snowfree.—Ranger, 6/6.

TEANAWAY—North Fork road snow-free to end. West Fork snow-free to Yellow Hill trailhead.—Ranger, 6/12.

NORTHEAST



STEAMBOAT ROCK (USGS Steamboat Rock West & East)—Took this short desert hike not expecting much of anything but views. The ground from afar looks dry and brown as usual, but when we got up on top, we found a world of bright little flowers, all low to the ground. Conserving evaporative leaf area, I suppose, and staying out of the wind!

There were several types in the buckwheat family, one of which covered large areas with its red and yellow posies. Larkspur, penstemon, phlox, phacelia, paintbrush, lilies, lupine, and a good many alliums. There was some sort of little pea, or vetch, and a good many other things I couldn't identify or

forgot by the time I got to my book, which I foolishly left back in camp.

The most startling plant was the bitterroot, which despite its name is an amazing tropical-looking bloom, appearing more like a water lily than a desert survivor with its luxuriant pink blossoms. There were so many of these you had to watch every step you took to avoid treading on one. And believe me, after seeing, one, treading on them is out of the question. It was quite the show!

I think we did spend a small amount of time looking at the considerable view, but most of the raves were directed at the surprising parched earth!—Peg Fern, Monro, 5/17.

WINCHESTER WASTEWAY (USGS Winchester SE, Winchester)

—We arrived at the Fish and Game put-in off Dodson Road about noon. Transported the shuttle bike to C road SE and chained it to a tree in a secluded location guarded by mosquitos. Launched into the mighty Winchester to the protests of a flock of terns on a sandbar. My wife, Wendy, was in the bow and a canoe-novice couple, Steve and Brenda, were in another canoe.

Steve and Brenda had the usual beginner problems trying to keep the canoe straight. After we had gone a

couple of miles, they really started to have problems. Their canoe would do nothing but go in circles.

They were hunched over, withered like salted slugs, after two young kids in a canoe blew past them and asked if they needed some help. As I approached to give them some words of encouragement I finally noticed that they were scated backwards in the canoe! Once that problem was fixed they performed much better.

The wasteway is a curious combination of tall bullrushes, phragmites, grass and parched desert sand dunes. The Euphrates River delta meets the Sahara. Birds of all kinds, muskrats and beavers are extremely abundant. The wasteway alternates between narrow, shallow moving water and lakes. At no time could one see far enough above the reeds to see any landmarks.

We frequently got lost, especially on the lakes, and had to backtrack. We had to portage twice when the flow simply strained through dense reed beds without benefit of a channel. The longest was about a hundred yards.

The wasteway makes numerous hair-pin turns. This, combined with wind and the above-mentioned straining effect force both paddlers to work as a team. If the bow paddler doesn't draw vigorously enough, the stern guy gets his/her hat and t-shirt torn off by overhanging thorn trees and shrubs.

We camped in a beautiful spot on top of a cutbank about 7 miles downstream. We laughed until the tears came about the backward canoe. Two guys in a bass boat with outboard running and searchlight sweeping came downstream about 3am.

We launched at 9am the next day. Our guidebook warned of a 2- to 3-foot waterfall and there was indeed a big red sign warning us to "Keep Left, Waterfall 100 yards!"

Wendy wanted to portage immediately but I wanted to look death in the eye and at least see the spray from the churning cataract before we eddied out. One hundred yards came and went and the river did nothing but smoothly glide over a rocky ledge. Did someone dynamite this hazard or did we just hit it at a good time?

We took out late in the afternoon. A nice guy at the takeout offered to drive us the 15 windy miles to our car, saving me a bike ride.—Dave Parent, Freeland, 5/26-27.



Jan and Val Gudkov at Comet Falls, Mount Rainier National Park.

Jane Habegger

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

SOUTH CENTRAL



WEST FORK WHITE RIVER (USGS Clear West Peak, Sunrise)

—Suzy Stockton and I tried to do this hike and found that just past the Park boundary, the river changed course and cut away at the bank, obliterating the trail.

We crashed through the brush for aways attempting to find the trail again where it turns back away from the bank but gave up after awhile. Warren Jones will be scouting this hike again soon so look for further updates on trail conditions. (See *P&P*, November 1999).—Ginny Evans, Renton, 5/24.



CARBON GLACIER VIEW POINT (USGS Mowich Lk)

—Coby, Bill and I hiked to the viewpoint of the Carbon Glacier on a very hot Sunday. The road inside Mount Rainier National Park is open (thought there are lots of potholes) all the way to the Ipsut Creek campground.

We enjoyed the wide trail and mild grade of this hike up to a great viewpoint of the lowest glacier in the lower 48 states. As always the walk across the bouncy suspension bridge was a thrill! —Jane Habegger, Olympia, 6/4.

CARBON RIVER BRIDGE—Just before the Carbon River entrance to the park we saw the bridge over the Carbon River is washed out, making the trails to Summit Lake and Bearhead Mountain inaccessible. They are hike numbers 5 and 6 in *100 Hikes in the South Cascades and Olympics* (third edition). Darn, those are both nice hikes.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 6/4.



CAMP MUIR (USGS Mt Rainier East)

—Accompanied Eustace B. Nilkin and a cast of thousands (well, maybe only hundreds) on the 4½ mile, 4600-foot elevation gain trek to Camp Muir.

Sunny, warm, chill breeze. Good footing on well-consolidated snow during morning ascent. Very poor footing and fair to poor glissades on rotten snow during afternoon descent. Heard frequent rock- and ice-falls. About 5 hours up, 3 hours down.—Paul G. Schauler, Olympia, 6/3.



FOSS aka BENCH PEAK (USGS Mt Rainier East)

—About a 5 mile round trip with 2000 feet of elevation gain. Left Snow Lake trailhead in light snow at 10am. Followed approximate trail location to Snow Lake; lake is partly snowfree. Up Unicorn Creek to basin below the Unicorn snowfield. Evidence of many old well stabilized avalanche tracks.

From basin, located gap in cornices on the northerly trending ridge to Foss Peak. Cornices are very large, force us into trees on west side of the ridge often.

Weather interesting, otherwise known as crummy: no sun, blizzards, ice pellet storms, etc. About 5 inches of new wet snow ruined the glissades that give this trip it's *raison d'être*. Only two in group of 6 braved the 30 feet or so of wet, snow coated rock to achieve the viewless summit. But, it beat being in town. —Paul G. Schauler, Olympia, 6/10.



UMTANUM CREEK (USGS Wymer, The Cottonwoods)

—We headed out for our usual Saturday hike intending to do some exploring. Past North Bend on I-90 it was a raging rainstorm so we decided to head for Umtanum Canyon south of Ellensburg. Wanderbuns had hiked the area a few weeks ago when Shortstop's sore foot was recovering. He wanted to explore the trail along the creek.

Arriving at the sunny trailhead, the smell of sage tantalized our nostrils. We shed a layer of clothing, donned our packs and away we went. Crossing the pedestrian suspension bridge over the Yakima River had Wanderbun's knuckles a little white (grin). He hates those bridges!

The trail follows the creek up the luscious green valley, which was a surprise to us. As we trekked onward we approached a party of four who were staring at the creek bank below. We looked down and saw numerous spring azure butterflies "huddling" in the moisture. Our informant told us he had never seen this behavior so far north.

Farther, we discovered beaver ponds. We found them to have been quite busy in this valley as we spotted at least three ponds. Shortstop paused to take a picture of one of their newer creations. As she was gazing out over the pond, she heard the resounding slap of beaver tail, which startled a pair of mallard ducks into flight.

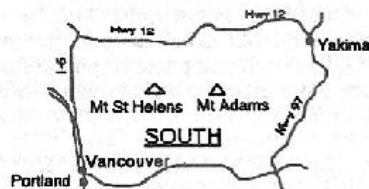
This beautiful valley showed evidence of homesteading. Shortstop's sharp eyes noticed yellow roses coming into bloom near one of the peach trees.

The trail is easy to follow for about 3 miles, and then becomes more of a

scramble. We turned around at that point and headed back. We did a total of 6 miles and 650 feet of gain by the time we returned to the car.

Note: The only snake we saw was a small garter snake. Others told us they had seen rattlesnakes.—Shortstop and Wanderbuns, Kirkland, 5/27.

SOUTH



KRAUS RIDGE TRAIL 275 (USGS Greenhorn Buttes)

—The moderately low elevation of this trail provides nearly year-round hiking through lovely forest. Walking is particularly enjoyable in the spring, when many flowers are in bloom.

The trail travels nearly 4.5 miles between two trailheads. The west end is a nice starting point because the trail climbs very gradually from its beginning at 1800 feet to its apex at 3.2 miles and 2320 feet (along the way it loses and regains another 200 feet, for a round trip to the apex of 6.4 miles and about 900 feet total gain).

From the east end the trail climbs more steeply, beginning at 1600 feet, crossing gated road 2506 at 1.1 miles, and reaching the apex at 1.3 miles with a gain of just over 700 feet.

The woods are prettier along the western half of the trail, where in May the open forest floor is carpeted with acres of vanilla leaf (*Achlys triphylla*); this is especially true in several zones populated almost entirely by big leaf maple whose young spring leaves let considerable sunlight reach the forest floor.

Also seen along the way are occasional red-flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*), the beautiful flowers at their peak at this elevation in mid-May. Another treat are several fairyslipper (*Calypso bulbosa*), raising their tiny and fragrant orchid heads above the duff in the shade of conifers.

Several dozen other flowers are at bloom in May, so take along your flower books. Most of the flowers are seen within a mile of the west trailhead, making this a good short nature hike for children or the elderly.

Drive Highway 12 to Randle and turn south on Highway 131. In one mile, the road splits; 131 continues straight south to become road 25, and the Cis-

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

pus road turns east and then south to become road 23. For the west trailhead, follow road 25 to just past the 5 mile mark. Turn left on road 2506 and follow it for about 2.5 miles, ignoring two right branches. At 2.5 miles road 2506 is gated, but just before the gate branch 037 turns right and in .5-mile reaches the signed trailhead (just before another gate). The east trailhead is about .8-mile south of road 23 on branch 2306.

Distant views are scarce, but the wonderful foliage makes up for it. Study, smell, sketch and photograph the flowers, but please don't pick them.—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 5/13.



KRAUS RIDGE SUMMIT (USGS Greenhorn Buttes)—

Kraus Ridge lies on the north bank of the Cispus River about 5 miles south of Randle. The highest point is its northeast end which is named Bluff Mountain (2600+ feet). However, the southwest end of the ridge has a separate high point (2400+ feet) with 480+ feet of prominence. An old logging road leads to within .4-mile and 300 vertical feet from this lesser summit. Although viewless, this top is a true peak by the 400 foot rule and must therefore be conquered by the fanatical.

Drive Highway 12 to Randle and turn south on Highway 131. At an intersection at 1 mile continue straight south; the highway becomes forest road 25. Proceed to just past the 5 mile mark. Turn left on road 2506 and follow it for about 2.5 miles, ignoring two right branches. At 2.5 miles road 2506 is gated, but just before the gate branch 037 turns right and in .5-mile reaches the signed trailhead for the west end of the Kraus Ridge trail and another gate. This gate may be open, but proceed in your vehicle only if it's ready for the scrap heap.

From the gate one can mountain bike or hike to the end of the branch 037 1 mile distant at 2100 feet; on the way, ignore left branches at .1- and .3-mile. From here gaze east and see the cliffs that give Bluff Mountain its name. Head northwest uphill to the ridge top through new growth firs. Then head southwest, climbing around the south side of a rocky nose, crossing a false summit, and ascending through dark climax forest (with many tiny fairy slipper orchids, *Calypso bulbosa*, underfoot) to the summit. Class 1.

From the gate the hike (bike) is 2.8 miles round trip, with 600 feet of gain; from road end, only .8-mile and 300 feet of gain.—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 5/13.



BLUFF MOUNTAIN (USGS Greenhorn Buttes)—

Despite the paucity of views, a prominence of 1020+ feet makes Bluff Mountain a respectable goal for the off-season peak bagger. The name is given to the wider northeast end of an elongate pear-shaped land form, the narrower southwest end being named Kraus Ridge.

Steep cliffs on the east and south sides explain the name "Bluff." The Cispus River runs along the south side of the ridge. It lies just southeast of Huffaker Mountain and just southwest of Lone Tree Mountain. An old logging road leads nearly to the forested summit, and can be reached by foot or mountain bike.

To cycle, drive Highway 12 to Randle and turn south on Highway 131. In 1 mile at a junction keep going straight south; the highway soon becomes forest road 25. Just past the 5 mile sign, turn left on road 2506 and follow it, ignoring two right branches. At 2.5 miles come to a gate; this may be open, but from here on road 2506 is somewhat overgrown with alder so park and bike (elevation 1660 feet). The road climbs gradually east-northeast, crossing the Kraus Ridge trail in 1.7 miles (elevation 2280 feet). Stay on road 2506 another .5-mile, then turn left on branch 056 and continue .2-mile to its high point. Get off the bike and walk east through fairly open forest, gradually climbing to the flat viewless summit area (elevation 2600+ feet). Round trip is about 5 miles with a gain of only 1000 feet.

To hike, take the Kraus Ridge trail 275 from either end. For the most interesting but longer hike, start at the west trailhead. This begins on road branch 037, which turns south off road 2506 just before the aforementioned gate; drive about .5-mile and park at the trail sign just before another gate (elevation 1800 feet). Hike through pleasant forest with occasional views south through clearcuts; shortly beyond the high point of the trail, intersect road 2506 at 3.4 miles. Then proceed as described above for cyclists. Because of ups and downs, the total elevation gain is about 1200 feet, the round trip just over 8 miles.

For a shorter but less attractive hike, start at the east trailhead on road 2306 (elevation 1600 feet). Walk trail 275 for about 1.1 miles to road 2506 and follow the road to near the summit as above. This trip is only about 3.8 miles round trip with a gain of just over 1000 feet. All are Class 1.—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 5/13.



LEWIS RIVER TRAIL 31 (USGS Burnt Pk, Spencer Butte)—

I needed a hike to help me get into shape for longer, more challenging hikes this summer. So I stayed low and out of the possibility of snow.

The Forest Service rates this trail as "easiest." I'm not sure if that means easy to find or easy to follow. However, any trail along a river is always going up or going down and crossing minor to major side streams, which makes for good exercise.

The trail has several sections. The longest (10 miles) from Curly Falls trailhead to the crossing of road 90 and another 3½ miles takes you past Lower Falls, Middle Falls to Upper Falls with several places to access the trail in this section.

It is a long drive to Woodland, then Cougar, the Pine Creek Information Station (pay for your permit) and finally the trailhead. Only 1 mile of gravel road. The weather added to the beauty of the area with the mist rising from the river and the low clouds swirling around the trees to make you think that "Brigadoon" might be just around the next bend of the trail. There were dogwood trees blooming in the forest understorey.

The many waterfalls were spectacular and at peak run-off. The sightings of fauna were limited because of the wet weather but the slugs were numerous on the trail and the shiny red-brown beetles were out even in the rain (they are not shiny if they dry out). I saw a black bear on the other side of the river just before it jumped in and swam without difficulty across the river to my side. Because of the noise of the river the bear was not aware that I was there. This occurred within a mile of the Lower Falls Campground.

The only negative of the trail is that it is open to mountain bikes and they were using the trail almost as much as the day hikers and backpackers. Thank goodness all of the mountain bikers were very friendly and courteous.—based upon my look in a poncho, I am Blue Banana, Spokane, 5/26-27.



LEWIS RIVER (USGS Spencer Butte, Burnt Pk)—

Jacki and I, along with Shadow and Shabby, finally finished the entire Lewis River trail. Just like with the Middle Fork trail, we left the most boring part till last.

Beginning where road 90 crosses the Lewis River at Crab Creek, we hiked the trail downstream about 6 miles to the "landslide" which is about 1 mile before Bolt Camp. That is approximately where we left off when traveling

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

the trail upstream from Curly Creek last spring.

Bright green forest walk at this time of year. The trail was muddy in places but at least presented no problems with stream crossings. Very uneventful. We didn't see another soul all day. Even the roads were empty.—Ginny Evans, Renton, 5/7.

DOG MOUNTAIN (USGS Hood River)—Bill and I celebrated our 20th anniversary with two nights over Memorial Day weekend at Skamania Lodge in the Columbia River Gorge.

We hiked Dog Mountain one day. We estimated well over 100 cars in the parking lot when we arrived. With three routes to the top, the area can absorb a lot of people. Right after arriving in the parking lot there was a heavy rain shower. We waited in our car for about a half hour and the rain passed.

We prefer the "old" trail. It is shorter and steeper but the view opens up sooner and in addition to having more opportunity to enjoy the panoramas, you get the famous Gorge wind to cool you on the steep hot climb.

The balsamroot is in nearly full bloom and gorgeous (no pun intended). There are lots of other beautiful wildflowers along the trail. After our hike, we relaxed in the outdoor jacuzzi back at Skamania Lodge with a great view out at the Columbia River.

As usual many hikers had dogs in tow. The hike is 6 miles round trip and elevation gain is 3000 feet.—Jane Habegger, Olympia, 5/31.

MT ADAMS DIST—For trail and road conditions, call 509-395-3400 (Trout Lake office); 509-427-3200 (Wind River office).—Ranger, 6/14.

COWLITZ VALLEY DIST—For trail and road conditions, call 360-497-1100 (Randle office); 360-497-0600 (Packwood office).—Ranger, 6/14.

MOUNT ST HELENS NVM—For road and trail information, call 360-247-3900. For St Helens climbing info, call 360-247-3961, or for a recorded message, 360-247-3903.—Ranger, 6/14.

CANADA

BLACK TUSK (Garibaldi Provincial Park)—This was the third annual BCBC (British Columbia Base Camp) lead by Rik for OSAT. The previous trips had been Mount

Garibaldi and Joffre Peak.

Garibaldi Provincial Park covers a fairly large area starting northeast of the town of Squamish, then north to Pemberton and east to the Lillooet River Valley. It is a beautiful area that encompasses a number of small mountain ranges clad with numerous glaciers. The peaks range in height from 7000 feet to nearly 9000 feet.

Rik had chosen the impressive and aptly named Black Tusk for this year's outing. Standing in at almost 7600 feet and due to the fact that it lies only a short distance from Highway 99 it is easily seen when driving between Squamish and Whistler.

I was a Friday early bird so I checked into our site at the private campground Dryden Creek. After getting a tent set up I took a hike to Upper Shannon Falls. The rest of the seven in our group didn't start rolling in until about 8pm. In the morning we got off to a leisurely start by having breakfast in Squamish.

It was only a short drive up Highway 99 to the turnoff to the Black Tusk trailhead. It was there by the side of the road that we got our first and only close encounter of the wildlife kind. An attractive black bear was nonchalantly munching on something just a few feet off the road.

The trail starts at about 2000 feet and was wide and well graded for easy travel. We hit solid snow at about 3500 feet. The way was still easy to follow. Between the footprints, diamonds (orange or silver) and the flagging it would be difficult to lose the trail except in the worst of conditions!

We hit BCBC early in the afternoon

despite the late start and casual pace as it was only some 6 to 8 kilometers to our camp at Taylor Meadows. This is an area of small meadows at approx. 5000 feet. There is a building here, just off Taylor Creek, which is a day hut in the summer but was now still partially buried by 6 to 8 feet of snow.

As it was occupied by a group of four, and reminiscent of the Muir hut, we set up tents a little way to the side. We were able to set up, have a bite to eat and get a few views of our objective before the clouds lowered and the rain started. In the evening with the rain continuing to fall we made use of the covered porch on the building as our kitchen. We were joined at various times by a couple from Vancouver and a young Frenchman who spoke only a smattering of English and slept in a hammock.

Unfortunately the rain continued unabated through the night. We gave up trying to sleep in waiting for it to stop. So it was with great regret that we arose, ate a leisurely breakfast, packed and headed out with the rain continuing its steady drenching. Our consolation prize was a wonderfully delicious lunch at the Coyote Cantina in downtown Squamish.

And so, even though a peak was not bagged, an experience worth its weight in water saturated spring snow was added to my cache of mountain memories. Never was there a more joyous and fun to be with group than that hardy bunch of seven. As always it was the stories, camaraderie, joking and shared love of a journey, even a soaking one, that was the real measure of a success-



Jane Habegger and Bill Lynch at Coldwater Lake, Mt Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument.

Sally Habegger

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

ful outing.—Rik, Shirley, Bill, Rod, Sean, Pete and Dave N (reporter), Seattle/Tacoma, 5/20-22.

SILVERTIP MOUNTAIN and MOUNT RIDEOUT (92 H/3)—For those who set out to do the great peaks of the Cascades, Silvertip Mountain at 8500+ feet and with over a vertical mile of prominence should place this summit on their “must-do” list. Since it’s just over the border in Canada, it’s a bit overlooked by us Washington climbers. I convinced Don Beavon to set out with me to correct this situation.

To get there drive Highway 3 east of Hope to the Sunshine Valley development where you turn right then left in the development. The map helps with the rest of the turns which are pretty straightforward.

Don and I left Bellingham at 6am Saturday, and arrived at the end of where Don felt good about driving his 4WD truck, just short of where the creek runs down the road, at 8:30am; elevation 3500 feet. It would have been an extra mile to walk without 4WD. We set out at 9am on a picture perfect day, but with just a little apprehension about the complexities of the approach. Not to mention the fact that we were carrying full packs up a 4000-foot slope, with no guarantee of good camping once we got there.

It was about a 20 minute walk on the road until it curved right to cross the creek and we proceeded straight on a very overgrown old roadbed up valley. It was a 15 minute easy bushwhack until we reached a vast open gravel and snow avalanche fan coming from a gully off of Silvertip. After a bit of discussion on which way to go, we took this first major gully, although the next gully may have gone just as well. We followed hard dirty snow up the shallow gully start of the avalanche fan which was better than the flanking dirt and scree (starting elevation here is 4000 feet). After several hundred feet of gain we exited the gully to the right, crossed a bit of scree then went up a firm snow strip which runs up between the gully and flanking cliffy walls. After several hundred feet of gain on the snow strip the flanking wall becomes a side slope and the gully steepens. We stayed toward the right side then toward the middle, crossing a bit of rock, and avoiding the left side where debris had tended to fall.

At about 6600 feet the gully opens to a gentle slope/basin, part of a northwest spur/buttruss of the west ridge of Silvertip. Snow was soft here making

for a bit of work for a couple of guys with full packs. About 5+ hours after starting we crested the ridge. Much to our delight we found not only a flat open camp but bare ground as well! This bivi type camp was at 7800 feet with a most remarkable panoramic view of some of the Cascades’ finest peaks, as well as the Coast Range of BC. After a good long break and setting up camp, we headed off to do Silvertip.

Just up the ridge is an annoying bump to deal with. Climb to the crest of the bump, then as it narrows to a knife edge and heads down, drop a few feet to the right to a wide scree ledge. It drops off below but proceed toward Silvertip just a few feet and find broken rock/ledges around the corner. This leads easily down (Class 2+) to easy terrain. It’s now pretty straightforward on snowslopes of the south flank of the ridge to the summit. We both enjoyed a good session of photos from the summit and reading the register which hadn’t been signed since 1998. We found two friends amongst the signees, John Roper in 1988 and Mitch Blanton in 1991.

We savored the views as well as the dinner that evening from our high perch, and basked in the sun until it set somewhere around 9pm.

The morning was a bit overcast as we set out for Mount Rideout, and it was an easy 1000-foot drop along the ridge to the Rideout/Silvertip col. We initially ascended the low angle slopes toward the top then angled left between rock bands on steepening and very soft snow. After a couple of dicey spots where there was thin snow cover over rocks, we were able to ascend a direct upward line, with a slight left angle, on 45 degree snow to the summit ridge.

As we neared the top the sun came out in full force, but we were on an easy rock and snow ridge and quickly on the summit; 2 hours 15 minutes from camp.

As we descended, we realized that we were already too late to avoid avalanche danger as our steps set off sloughs that grew large and “waterfalled” over the cliffs below. We purposely set off as much sloughing as we could to relieve the slope of as much excess snow as

possible. This cleared a good swath down the steepest slope, but we still had to do the traverse section, which we went through at full speed. We discovered that some slides had covered our tracks coming up and then a slide came down just behind us. So far none of the avalanching was very dangerous but it was scary nonetheless. Once we got above the col, we did a quick glissade and were out of danger.

We didn’t mind the 1000-foot gain of the hike along the ridge back to our camp, we were just happy to have gotten off of Rideout without having to “ride out” an avalanche. We did see a rather large snowslide come down over our tracks, one which would probably have swept us over the rocks below! We also inspected the steep gully that runs to the col between the two peaks: it was very dangerously corniced and was dirty from rockfall from its flanking cliffs. This is the recommended approach route for Rideout according to the guidebooks, but would only be okay for the most stable of conditions.

Back at camp we enjoyed our lunch and the views one last time. Just as we were finishing our packing for the trip down a voice came out of nowhere saying, “Hi, Don; hi, Grant.”

It was fellow climbers Don and Natala Goodman, two of the most intrepid Cascade mountain explorers and just plain great people around. They had car camped the night before and were just heading back from Silvertip where they had seen our names in the summit register. We had been focused on Mount Rideout, looking for avalanche activity and had no clue that they were up there so near to us.

Except for setting off a good sized surface slough avalanche at the first drop off the ridge, the descent went without incident. These peaks are best done with snow cover due to rotten rock but stable snow is a prerequisite also!

This ended up being the hottest two days of the year so far, so most conditions would be better than we had (12,000-foot freezing level). So if you go this is the time of year to have enough snow cover, just pick a cooler day.—Grant Myers, Bellingham, 6/3-4.

How to Contact Us

Write: Pack & Paddle, PO Box 1063, Port Orchard WA 98366

E-mail: ycat@packandpaddlemagazine.com

Phone: 360-871-1862

Web site: <http://www.packandpaddlemagazine.com>

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

UTAH

BUCKSKIN GULCH—For the first time in four attempts we found ourselves at the Wire Pass trailhead with a hiking permit and without rain that had botched the three previous attempts.

We started at 8am, about 45 degrees and calm, reaching the main Buckskin in an hour. We could not find the petroglyphs supposedly at the junction.

We immediately ran into shallow, muddy wading but then enjoyed a few hours of hiking in our boots again. The rocks in this area are riven by east-west faults, which the gulch follows in a series of straight sections, relatively wide, and with steep vertical walls for about 100 to 500 yards.

It then breaks through sinuous, dark and spectacular chasms to the next fault line that it again follows widely. This pattern persisted throughout the entire 13 miles until the confluence of Buckskin gulch with the Paria River.

After about four hours we ran into a new series of intensively muddy pools up to three feet deep, coating us with slimy mud that later proved hard to wash off. Later, we learned from a ranger that this is supposedly quite unusual and the result of a recent, small flash flood. However, most of the canyon floor is coated in mud as well and it is hard to picture any visitor avoiding a lot of dirt.

However, at the "middle entry" rock slope in section 32, the pools ceased and we used boots the rest of the distance. This entry point at the halfway mark has some down-sloping sandstone slabs lightly coated in places with dry sand, and should probably be considered Class 4.

Thereafter the spectacular gulch walls continued ever higher as much as 200 feet deep and in some of the transverse passages one could hardly see the sky at times.

There are occasional slightly bothersome rock falls to climb around. The major rock fall is a mile before the confluence with about a 12-foot drop of either a rappel (need at least 40 feet of rope) or a down-climb on somewhat tenuous looking and sandy hand and foot holds cut into the rock.

However, at least at present there is a narrow passage dug underneath the boulder by recent floods allowing a slide down into a cavern with easy exit downstream. We chose that route.

Except for filthy, muddy water, the entire canyon is dry until the last half-mile before the confluence when a fine, clear seep appears in the sand and gradually becomes a slow stream. Ex-

cellent drinking water, although purification is wise. There is a fine campsite on a sandy knoll just before the confluence of the Paria River. The canyon wrens were glorious, with their cascade song echoing between the narrow walls!

The next day it was a four hour hike up the Paria River to the White House trailhead, although the road access is currently closed for repair, necessitating a further 40-minute stroll.

White House spring lies deep in the first long alcove to the west after the Paria canyon walls widen. There is an old six-foot tall, galvanized water tank at the south side of its mouth. Cold and refreshing water flows sometimes from a pipe in the wall but can always be found under the square trap door.

Buckskin Gulch, one of the great canyon hikes in the world and a must for every hiker in the southwest, is popular enough to require reservations managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Check the web site, <paria.az.blm.gov>, or call 435-688-3230.

Permits cost \$5 per hiker, per night. Campfires are not allowed, and trash and toilet paper need to be carried out.

Maps are not too effective since the only direction you can go is forward or backward, and there are no landmarks in the canyon that also would be visible on a topographic map. In scale 1/24,000 maps, most of the Buckskin is covered by West Clark Bench, Utah, with the first mile or so being covered by Pine Hollow Canyon and the last mile on Bridger Point. Bring your camera and plenty of film!—Charles M. Bagley Jr and Charles H. Bagley, 5/13-14.

OREGON

TABLE MOUNTAIN TRAIL (USGS Pine Creek Mtn, I think)—Friends were visiting and we needed a quick hike that didn't involve a lot of driving time, and gave us visual and physical rewards in the first 2 miles.

I pored over the map of the Strawberry Wilderness the evening before we went, and came up with the Table Mountain trail, only about 17 miles out of town, with a trailhead at 5500 feet and a rapid climb to a 6500-foot high point on the ridge 1.5 miles out.

The day was sunny and a perfect temperature for hiking. The wildflowers were beginning to bloom at this elevation. There were lovely rock ledges to sit on and admire the views into the Middle Fork Canyon Creek and across to the summit ridge of Strawberry, still snow-capped at 9038 feet.

We had a snack on one of these

ledges, while I took my hand lens and looked at lichens on rocks. As the trail skirted the high point in the ridge, we left it and scrambled up through mountain mahogany (ticks!) to a rock promontory that gave us a view down the other side of the ridge into Wall Creek.

The return trip was rapid, down through mixed forest with some "blue stripe disease" (those trees are going to die) on the non-wilderness side of the ridge. By noon, Lance and I were heading home to work in the garden and Don and Jean were on the road toward Idaho and Yellowstone.—Jennifer Barker, Canyon City, 5/29.



PUEBLO MOUNTAIN

(USGS Van Horn Basin)—The Pueblo Mountains are a spectacular double fault block desert mountain range with a high immense plateau separating the two main ridges. The Pueblos are located about 40 miles south of Steens Mountain in far southeast Oregon. This is BLM land and of the 81,800 acres identified by the Sierra Club as prime wilderness the BLM has only designated about 26,000 acres as a Wilderness Study Area.

On this visit we drove 9.2 miles south of the town of Fields to the unmarked Arizona Creek road which leads in about 2½ miles to a small spot suitable for a camp at the first ford of Arizona Creek (5200 feet). We noticed that the BLM sign near the turn-off that marked the area as a WSA during our previous visit in 1994 has been removed.

From the ford follow an old road trace up the canyon 2 miles to a high pass at the northern edge of Stergen Meadows. This trip we followed the rocky narrow jeep road that switch-backed up the eastern side of the canyon, but I wouldn't recommend it as it actually took us longer to drive the road than it would have to walk it because we had to continually stop to remove large rocks from the track.

This is wide open wild country. There are very few trees and the views are expansive. Hiking is easy as you just pick out your destination and go for it. From Stergen Meadows, we followed on old track up through higher meadows with abundant springs into a large swale and then headed directly up the grassy slopes another 2 miles to the summit of Pueblo Mountain at 8600 feet. The western ridge crest is the location of the Oregon Desert Trail, a route marked by cairns that will eventually cross the entire state and link up with the Nevada Desert Trail.

The entire valley in between had the

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

appearance of a soft green-red velvet with the few aspen and willow groves showing fresh green growth.

From the summit we had great views of Steens Mountain and the white play of the Alvord Desert to the north as well as the remote and mysterious snowy and rocky peaks of Nevada's Black Rock Desert wilderness ranges to the south.

Hiking in the year 2000 on BLM lands is eerily reminiscent of the 1870s in the Sierra when John Muir lamented the destruction of the land by overgrazing herds of sheep. Things have not changed one bit on the public lands of southeast Oregon. Every foot of the route to Pueblo Mountain is covered with cowpies! Every meadow is trampled. Bring your own water as every spring has been turned into a muddy mixture of manure and muck.

We were more of herders than hikers here as we were constantly pushing 40 to 50 cows ahead of us wherever we went. You really must see this to believe it.—Matt & Rebecca Whitney, Portland, 5/31.



ROCK CREEK-HART MOUNTAIN NATIONAL ANTELOPE REFUGE (USGS)

Warner Pk—From Steens Mountain it is a straight 40-mile shot across the terminally flat Catlow Valley to Hart Mountain rising like a mirage on the western horizon. While in southeast Oregon Hart Mountain is not to be missed. From the primitive Hot Springs Campground you can wander the meadows and ridges for miles or climb easily to the summit of the 8000-foot fault block mountain.

The Hot Springs Campground at

6000 feet has the welcome luxurious benefit of a 5-foot-deep 104-degree walled hot springs (the bath house) a short walk across the valley.

On our visit only three or four other groups of campers were about so we had the hot springs to ourselves. On this visit we hiked Rock Creek downstream 3 miles or so, birding and generally loafing along. We turned around when Rock Creek disappeared into a large meadow a few miles south of the Refuge HQ and retraced our steps to the campground.

Hart Mountain has been off limits to grazing for about 5 or 6 years and the land has recovered wonderfully. Wildflowers were everywhere. On the road across the scarp to the Warner Lakes the roadside was packed with flowers with three or four different varieties of Indian paintbrush alone.—Matt & Rebecca Whitney, Portland, 6/1.

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.

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

FOUND—Watch, Talapus Lake. Call to identify. Chris, 206-367-0133 (Seattle).

LOST—Motorola StarTac digital cell phone 2/25 in northeast gully of McClellan Butte. **FOUND**—Roll of exposed film 6/2 on summit of Bean Peak. For either contact Fay Pullen, 253-631-1177 (Kent).

NEED GOOD HOME—The basement is getting cleaned out and these must go: Volume 6 through a good part of Volume 10 of Signpost magazine; and assorted issues of Off Belay from the 1970s, early '80s. Call Connie, 425-747-7388 (Bellevue).

WANTED—Hikers to join a Hiking 'n' Biking trip to Tuscany, Italy, Oct. 19 to Nov. 4. RT air SAS, Italian guide, 17 full days, most meals, fabulous Italian cuisine and wine. Visit Milan, Pisa, Florence and Portofino. Hike Apuane Mountains, Cinque Terre and more. \$2550. Jack or Donna Melill, 425-313-4632 or e-mail <jack.MELILL@juno.com>.

FOR SALE—Sailboard (Tiga Spirit) with 2 sails. Complete system for beginning sailboarder, \$450. Can show or deliver in greater Seattle area (Thule car rack free if it fits your car). Call 425-788-9167 (Duvall) or e-mail: <spowrie@sprynet.com>.

FOR SALE—Folbot, folding Greenland double kayak, \$1000. Brand new. Still in bags. Includes paddles. 206-324-1714 (Seattle).

FOR SALE—Men's Vasque leather hiking boots. Size 11-12, wide. \$50. Elaine Edmonson, 360-876-5429 (Port Orchard) or e-mail: <loghouse@silverlink.net>.

FOR SALE—Top quality leather mountaineering boots. Scarpa Fitzroy 44 1/2 (mens 11). Accept clip-on crampons. Finally broken in but feet too big now! Paid \$300; asking \$100 obo. Call Phil Evans, 425-347-8687 (Mukilteo).

FOR SALE—Seagoing kayak, Easy Rider Eskimo, 19' single seat, 2 covered compartments, includes paddle, sail, spray skirt, seat cover. Kathy or Matt Sinn, 360-874-1370, leave message during day (Port Orchard).

FOR SALE—Klepper Aeriis folding double kayak, great condition, paddles and sprayskirt included. \$800 firm. Pacific Water Sports Sea Otter kayak (older model), flotation included. \$400. 360-786-0594 (Olympia); e-mail <kasia_pierzga@hotmail.com>.

FOR SALE—Two pairs of Fisher Crown E99 backcountry skis (205 and 195cm) with 3 pin bindings. One pair of women's size 8 boots. All very good condition; paid \$200+each, sell \$75 each. Call Peter at 206-546-2163 (Edmonds) or email <pmblock@earthlink.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 e-mail <bobbie@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.

OSAT—A clean and sober climbing and mountaineering club. 206-236-967 or on the web: 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).

DON BEAVON
GRANT MYERS

the Methow Pinnacles & Beauty Peak

—EARLY-SEASON CLIMBS IN THE NORTH CASCADES—

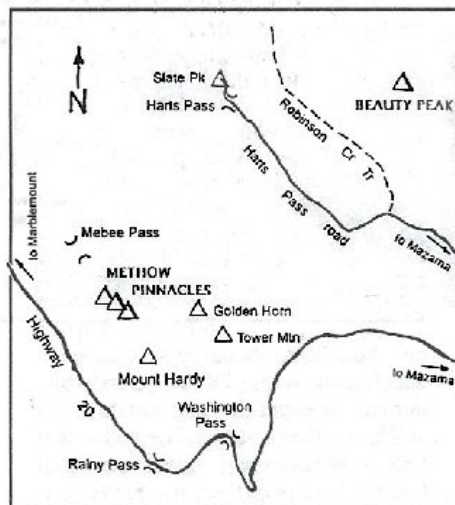
The Methow Pinnacles (USGS *Azurite Peak*) are a very worthwhile set of 3 summits just north of milepost 150 along the North Cascades Highway. Ian and I met in Marblemount on May 23 at 7:45am and left our vehicles at close to 9:30am.

After heading up the right side of the creek we consulted our maps and decided that it would be better and a lot more direct to get onto the ridge on the opposite side of the creek. On that ridge it looked like it would be a direct shot to the highest North Pinnacle. By staying on the ridge it is just about impossible to go wrong. Above treeline the route steepens and was totally snow-covered.

Being on continuous snow it was just a matter of kicking steps (for me anyway). Ian was frustrated by breaking knee- to hip-deep through just about every one of my steps. The effort that he had to make the last 500 vertical feet was definitely much greater than my own but I didn't mind lingering on the 7564 foot summit and waiting. The views of Majestic Mountain, Mount Ballard and Golden Horn couldn't have been better. The views to the south of the appealing summits along Ragged Ridge were very impressive as well.

After a fun time identifying the many peaks near and far we decided to make our way over to the more challenging but lower Middle Summit. This necessitated a 600 foot drop and a traverse to the southwest side of the towering pinnacle. We climbed up and around and into a gully system to a small col. The rock was free of snow and ice but the northeastern side of the col was full of snow which at first appeared to lead to easier terrain. After taking a quick look over the other side and checking my compass, I decided that we should stick with the southwest ridge proper.

It was a bit airy and hard in places consisting of numerous Class 5 moves but it was more direct. Every time we thought we had hit an impasse we somehow were able to find another handhold and make another move. To



make matters worse this rock is rather crumbly. The upper part of the Southwest Ridge Direct becomes wider and easier making for a more comfortable finish. Of the three pinnacles this one is definitely the prize as far as climbing goes although all three are rewarding in their own ways.

Fortunately we found an easier descent which was indeed farther north of the col. It took us a while to find the least difficult way down but once we found it, it was just a matter of piecing together a few very deliberate and choice moves. Last but not least was the Southern Pinnacle which necessitated another drop of 400 feet and another traverse below cliffs before making our way up another snow slope. We got back onto dry rocks again and had a nice high traverse to the highest point.

As it was getting late we didn't linger long here. The view of Tower Mountain which had been partially hidden by Golden Horn was incredible. We continued our traverse over to the ridge southeast of the Pinnacles and had a wonderful glissade down to and well below treeline. The descent was open and uneventful making for a really nice circuit and a really nice day. The climb of all three summits consists of about 5000 feet of elevation gain. That evening I headed over to the Pasayten

to join Grant and Sam for a trip the next day up Beauty Peak.

—Don Beavon

I had long considered Beauty Peak (USGS *Robinson Mountain*) to be a 2 day trip but we successfully pulled this one off as a 1-day-plus.

Sam Houston and I left Bellingham Tuesday evening, arriving at the Robinson Creek trailhead at 9pm. Our friend Don Beavon showed up a bit later and we camped in the backs of our trucks.

Wednesday morning we were up early and on the trail by 5:30. It was cool and clear and we made quick work of the 3 miles of trail to Beauty Creek. By 6:40 we were heading up the Beauty Creek trail as it steeply climbed the slopes just west of the creek. This trail really is quite good and easily followable and, although it is not shown on maps, appears to be an old and fairly well used one. To find it just go about 100 feet beyond the Beauty Creek bridge and look for the lesser trail going off to the right.

After many hundreds of feet of elevation gain the trail eases off and enters the valley. At 5200 feet is an open area (avalanche swath from first creek coming off Robinson Mountain), and was pretty much where we lost the trail to snow. We continued up the drainage on hard crusty snow making for easy walking in open woods.

At 5600 feet we were in a semi-open slope with small trees and had a clear view to assess our route. We chose to take a snow gully which ran 1700 feet to the southeast ridge of the peak. This is shown on the map as the southern of two creeks draining this face of Beauty.

We crossed the creek on a questionable snowbridge and headed on up the lightly treed avalanche fan at the gully base. As we entered the gully we also entered shade, making the rock-hard snow a lot of work to ascend. Exiting the gully to the left we then climbed a mix of the usual scree, rock, and dirt that this area is known for. Higher up we alternated between snow (in the sun

continued on page 25

DAVE PARENT

FOLLOWING LEWIS & CLARK

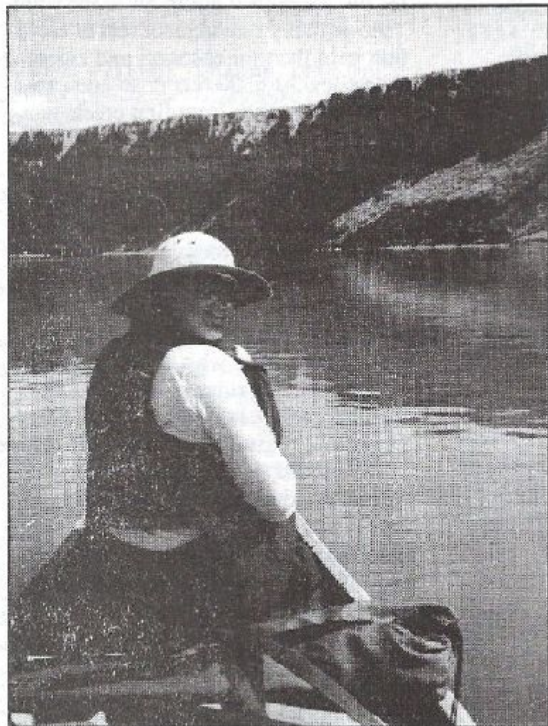
—AN ANNIVERSARY ADVENTURE—

I had been puzzled by the Upper Missouri Wild and Scenic River in eastern Montana for some time. Why did Lewis and Clark write some of their most prosaic journal passages here? Why did so many attempt to wrest a living, to own and subdue the land here?

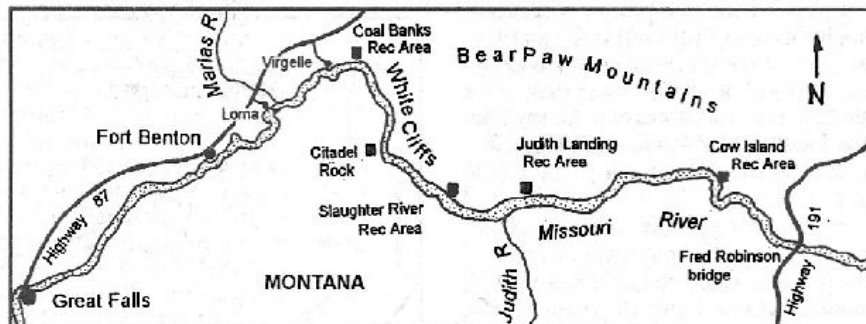
Why did Stephen Ambrose, author of the excellent account of the Lewis and Clark Voyage of Discovery, *Undaunted Courage*, write that he had been down this stretch of the river ten times and that it was the best wilderness trip he had ever experienced?

The glorious 1833 paintings of the area by Karl Bodmer are beautiful but just how much artistic license did he use? The wide angle pictures in the BLM brochures certainly weren't very spectacular and the river looked wide and muddy.

I learned that the area is hauntingly beautiful and that the photographs and paintings do not do it justice. I found that the wind dies at night and the land becomes so quiet you can hear your



Our first day on the river.



own heartbeat. On many nights we watched the river glide noiselessly by our camps under the cottonwoods.

We watched stately white pelicans fish in cooperative groups. I learned that the history of the place really sets it apart. There are a few tales of exultation and many of misery. Stories of fur traders; of Blackfeet, Gros Ventres, and fleeing Nez Percés; of miners and riverside power plants; of steamboats which ran up on gravel bars every hour; of the lonely men who supplied those boats with their forty cords of wood per day; of the homesteaders who almost all failed and left cabins, two-seater outhouses and rusting beadsteads; of Kid Curry, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid and their hideout in the badlands. In the end I became a convert.

My wife, Wendy, and I were celebrating our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. It was a time to contemplate and to celebrate a quarter-century together. We knew we wanted to visit the place of our marriage in Cardston, Alberta.

I asked her if she wanted to take a little canoe trip before we went to Canada. She eagerly agreed even though she had no long trip canoe experience.

The BLM states that no canoeing experience is necessary but I found that basic

river reading skills came in handy. Especially important was the ability to recognize gravel bars in the muddy water. We passed through only two rapids in which the waves were higher than the sides of our canoe.

Most of the named rapids posed almost insurmountable challenges to the old steamboats but there was always enough water to float a heavily laden canoe.

Everyone seems to agree that the river water is not potable (it is so muddy it would clog the fanciest filter in seconds) so we packed enough water and food for our estimated schedule plus an extra day or two. We kept a flexible itinerary, allowing two extra days in case of bad weather.

Two folding chairs became the items we would have least wanted to do without. Some of the other parties on the river expressed outright jealousy and admitted larcenous thoughts when they saw them.

An essential item is the superb book by Glenn Monahan, *Montana's Wild & Scenic Upper Missouri River*. This book seems only to be available locally in Montana. However, you can get a copy from Northern Rocky Mountain Books, 315 West Fourth St., Anaconda, MT 59711 (406-563-2770). Among other information, it provides a mile-by-mile historical account. Our trip was immeasurably enriched by it.

We did our homework. We began our trip research by sending for the floater's package from the BLM office in Lewistown, Montana. We watched the excellent Ken Burns PBS special on Lewis

and Clark. Many outfitters in the area offer guided trips and canoe rentals, as well as shuttle service. We set up a shuttle with Starwest Adventures.

As we passed through Great Falls, we visited the wonderful Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center. This museum is situated above a free-flowing stretch of the river, near the place where the Corps of Discovery portaged tons of equipment, dugouts and pirogues around the cataracts of the Missouri. We also visited the Charles M. Russell museum to enjoy some of the art of the West. It was then on to Fort Benton and our put-in.

SEPTEMBER 7

Fort Benton is an historic town on the banks of the Missouri. Across the street from the put-in is a large town park where you can camp (we stayed in a motel). There are two museums here as well as historical monuments along the cottonwood-lined mile-long levee.

We had a gear shakedown, loaded the canoe at the public boat ramp and launched into the "Old Misery." During the first three days we passed through a landscape not unlike eastern Washington. The river meandered and islands were abundant.

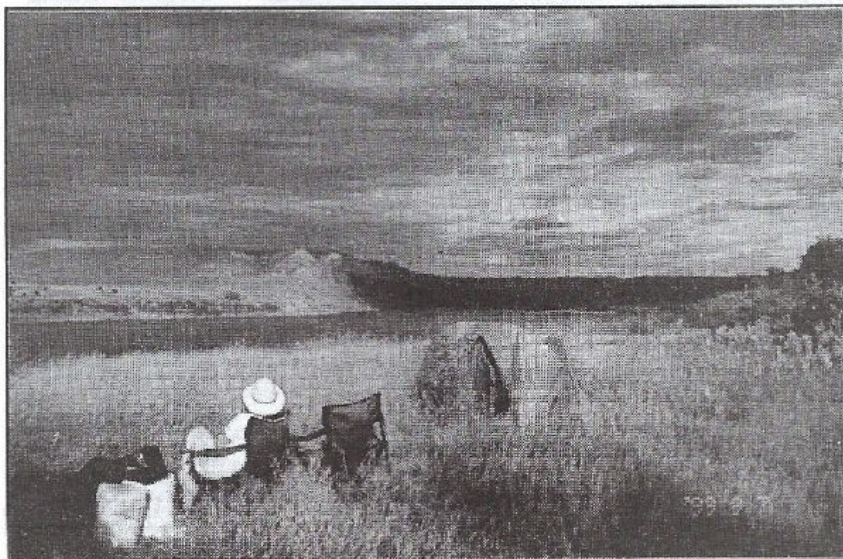
It was here that we saw the most wildlife, especially migratory birds. There were large flocks of Canada geese, double-crested cormorants, teals and white pelicans. Beavers and their handiwork were everywhere. In the first two days we saw only one other boat on the river.

On the first night we camped at Wood Bottom, twenty miles. Just before we got to camp, an upriver wind churned up the Black Bluff Rapids. We avoided most of the waves by passing on the left. From our camp we could hear cars and trucks on a nearby highway.

SEPTEMBER 8

We got an early start and passed under the Loma Bridge, one of only three in the next one hundred fifty miles. We passed the mouth of the Marias River. This river caused quite a bit of consternation for the Corps of Discovery. They weren't sure if this muddy river from the north was really the Missouri.

Lewis and Clark passed here in June when both rivers ran high. In September with the river running at lower levels and both rivers controlled by dams it was obvious to us which was the larger stream. The river continued its



Dave Parent

Camp at Wood Bottom.

meandering, mostly through private property. At this time of the year camping is allowed anywhere on public lands. Before July 1, even the public islands are off limits due to nesting waterfowl. We always tried to avoid stopping on private property out of respect for the residents although this necessitated a careful eye on our maps.

We passed the Virgelle ferry, one of two on our route. These craft can hold one or two trucks and are guided by two low cables strung above the river.

As we approached our intended camp, Coal Banks Landing, we looked at the sparse trees, the many cars and trailers and decided to tuck into an unnamed island just upriver—a twenty-one mile day. We followed a beaver trail up the steep bank to a nice flat shady spot. We set up camp here.

At dusk we listened to the geese talking. A flock of long-billed curlews noisily debated where they should put down. Across the river, a rancher and his young children fished in the gathering darkness.

SEPTEMBER 9

We awoke to a rather stiff upriver wind. We were hoping that it would be at our backs when we rounded the next bend. When we stopped at Coal Banks Landing to fill our water jugs the ranger informed us that the wind had changed to easterly and that we should expect strong headwinds the entire day.

Even though the current carried us, forward motion was almost at a standstill in the 30- to 40-mile-per-hour winds. Normally placid stretches of the

river were churned up into a confusion of standing waves, not unlike the tide rips of Puget Sound. We often chose to take some back channels in the lee of islands. A couple of times we got out and pulled the canoe upriver.

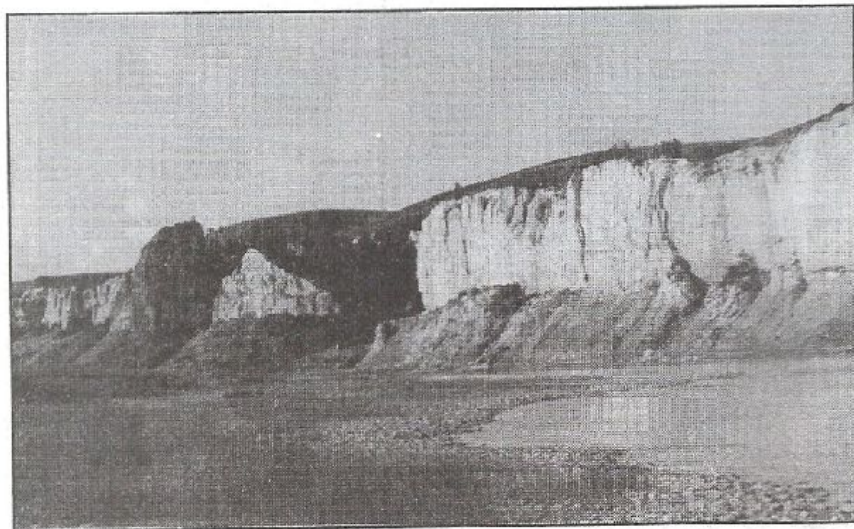
After only five miles, we put into Little Sandy Camp, a very nice spot. We were tired but we had a lot of extra food and water so we figured we could have the luxury of a short day. After we set up camp, I explored a bit, climbing a bluff to survey the country downriver. I saw a juvenile soft-shelled turtle motionless on the river's surface. I tweaked the tail of a bullsnake stretched across the trail. We watched several other parties toiling downriver. The wind finally died at 5pm.

SEPTEMBER 10

We arose early in brilliant sunshine with a fresh downriver breeze. We were on the water at 7:30 making good time. In about five miles we began to notice white sandstone outcroppings, the beginning of the famous White Cliffs area.

Of this region Captain Lewis wrote in his journal: "The hills and river Cliffs which we passed today exhibit a most romantic appearance. They were two to three hundred feet high, nearly perpendicular, shining pure white in the sun. ... As we passed on it seemed as if those scenes of visionary enchantment would never have an end..."

The spectacular figures, walls, parapets, niches and amphitheaters invited exploration and fired our imagination. Some of the sandstone figures were topped by a more weather resistant strata



The White Cliffs, with LaBarge Rock on the left.

of darker stone giving the appearance of mushrooms. One such stocky structure appeared, to our bakery-deprived eyes, to be a giant chocolate chip muffin.

Dark igneous dikes and towers appeared here and there with names like LaBarge Rock, Citadel Rock and Grand Natural Wall. As we rounded a bend we saw seven latter-day Bodmers, brushes in hand, casels balanced, eyes fixed on their subject.

Raptors were especially abundant in this area with golden eagles, red-tail and Swainson's hawks and northern harriers most common. We disagreed with Captain Lewis—the White Cliffs region ended all too soon, giving way to ordinary hills and ramparts.

This area, between Coal Banks and Judith Landing, is the most popular of the wild and scenic river. It was here that we met more paddlers although we could never say the river was overcrowded. Indeed, there was rarely another boat in sight.

We camped at Slaughter River, so named because of the huge pile of rotting bison the Lewis and Clark expedition found in an eddy. They assumed this place was a "buffalo jump" where the Indians drove the beasts over a cliff. This was a 30-mile day although it seemed like much less because of the beautiful scenery.

Our sleep was interrupted by a spectacular thunderstorm complete with an hour of lightning, gale-force winds and intermittent downpours. I went down to the river to check on our secured canoe. All was well.

SEPTEMBER 11

The weather was much colder with a gentle rain falling. We started later and made our way past the last of the white cliffs. We stopped at Judith Landing, 11 miles downriver, to fill our water jugs. The pump was dry but some folks from Boston who were at the end of their trip gave us the last of their water.

Judith landing is near the mouth of the Judith River, a major tributary of the Missouri. Captain Clark named this river for Miss Julia Hancock, his future wife. The landing has a funky log store which stocks candy bars, sodas, potato chips, and ice cream. It also sells water when the pumps run dry.

Wendy had a severe potato chip deficiency and I helped her devour a can of Pringle's in short order. After our Judith stop the skies began to clear and the temperature became much warmer.

The landscape now had a "badland" topography; steep eroded shale slopes with sandstone strata. This sandstone holds enough water to allow the growth of ponderosa pine and juniper. The river has a steeper gradient through this area and we moved along rapidly.

We explored the Francis Hagadone homestead, perched on a bluff above the Gallatin Rapids. The buildings at this site are the most intact of any we visited. We tried to imagine ourselves

wintering here in the days before grocery stores, telephones, roads, and social security.

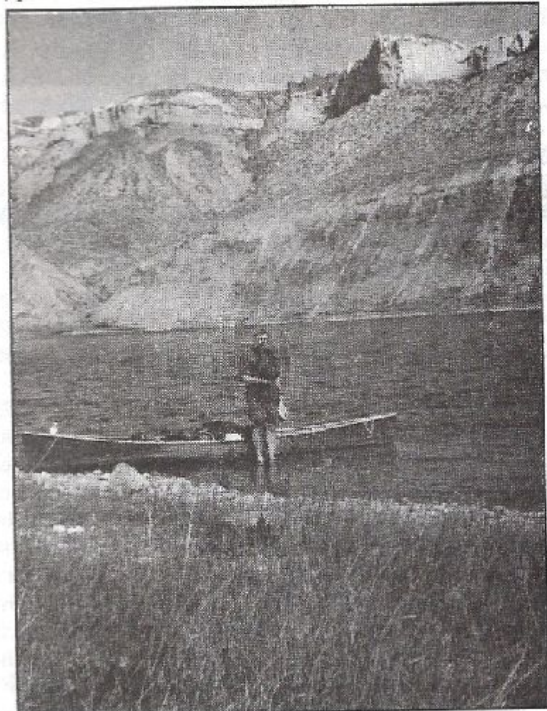
We passed the Stafford Ferry and the Dauphin Rapids, a major obstacle to steamboat progress. We made camp at McGarry Bar, a 25-mile day. McGarry Bar was the site of a Corps of Discovery camp of May 27, 1805.

We explored uphill to the pine and juniper forest. Wendy went back to camp and I followed bighorn sheep tracks but saw only a whitetail deer. I got caught out in a thunderstorm and had to sprint down to the riverbank and hunker down in the lee of a big cottonwood. A party we met at Little Sandy joined us at the campsite. We enjoyed the most spectacular sunset of the entire trip.

SEPTEMBER 12

Another beautiful day but the morning was cold. We were on the river early. In a few miles we were past most of the rapids and the river once again assumed its meandering, island-studded course. We explored the Ervin Smith homestead at river mile 113. Several sod-roofed log buildings still stand.

We passed Cow Island, an important steamboat stop at low water. It was here that the Nez Perce nation crossed the Missouri in their flight from the United States Army. We camped at Lower Woodhawk camp, named after the men who cut firewood for the steam-



Taking a break near the White Cliffs.

Dave Parent

Wendy Parent

boats. Indeed, the woodcutting was so intense during the steamboat era that there were no trees left along the river.

Once we set up camp, we hiked back upriver to the Gus Nelson homestead. Gus was a Scandinavian bachelor who held out in this austere land for more than twenty-three years, something of a record. The log buildings are still standing and there is a good collection of antique farm machinery in the yard.

Since this was our last night we prepared a feast of some of the extra food. The night was still except for the sound of beavers quarrelling and making winter preparations on the riverbank. A 30-mile day.

SEPTEMBER 13

We arose early to fog on the river and frost on the canoe. The cold made us a little livelier so breakfast, packing and launching went rapidly. We paddled slowly through the mist, stopping frequently. On the one hand, we felt a sense of accomplishment and closure for traveling so far. On the other hand, we wanted to prolong the experience because it all went by so quickly.

Two very fit young men in a canoe overtook us. Strange, we thought, because no other parties but us ever seemed to be on the river before 9am. We paddled with them for a while.

They introduced themselves as Jason and David Wallin, two brothers from Illinois. They had started at the headwaters of the Missouri and were heading for mouth of the Mississippi.

They planned to hug the shore of the Gulf of Mexico to Venezuela and end up in Brazil via the Orinoco, Rio Negro and Amazon rivers. This was to be a world record canoe trip to benefit the



Dave Parent

The Francis Hagadorn homestead—we tried to imagine life here in the days before telephones and roads.

American Brain Tumor Association.

After a nice chat, they politely excused themselves and sped on downstream. You can follow their travels on the Internet at <www.abta.org>.

After parting with the Wallin Brothers we made our way downstream on this rare windless, almost sultry, day. Before we knew it, the Fred Robinson Bridge loomed into view. Our take-out was one mile downstream of the bridge. Our car was waiting and we packed up and headed to Alberta.

Would we make this trip again? Definitely! I now understand why people make repeat trips. There are certainly a lot of secret places left to explore. There is magic about the area that we don't fully understand. As I look at my photographs I realize the fu-

tility of my attempts to capture this "Big Sky Country" on film.

Wendy and I are eagerly anticipating the next twenty-five years but we won't wait that long to have another anniversary adventure.

△

Dave and Wendy Parent live in Freeland and have four grown children. Dave, who operates the Useless Bay Animal Clinic, has been a Scout leader for 13 years.

Wendy has been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Although she at first mourned the end of family backpacking trips, their canoe offers a way to continue her outdoor experiences. "I found there were better options than being discouraged," she says.

the Methow Pinnacles & Beauty Peak

continued from page 21

but still hard) and scree.

Upon gaining the southeast ridge of Beauty we were treated to glorious views of totally wild and rugged country, a vast expanse of wilderness. From here it was a half mile or less scramble along the crest with some snow travel, and some Class 2 rock (and a bit of Class 3).

We had spent 5 hours to get here and had gained 5500 feet in 7 miles so we took a long 1 hour and 45 minute summit break soaking up the sun and views. We found the summit register and

signed in as the 5th party since it was placed here in 1978.

On the way down we glissaded 800 feet down the northerly of the two drainages shown on the map, then traversed southeast to a minor snow gully drainage that got us easily back down to the valley floor.

The rest went easily, but I almost stepped on a snake along the trail! It may have been a rubber boa; I'm not sure—it was a light olive shiny green with no pattern and 18" long. Also saw

a couple of deer and lots of flowers blooming, just about a perfect day (a Beauty-full day) in the mountains.

—Grant Myers

△

Don Beavon, of Lynnwood, is a respiratory therapist who has climbed Cho Oyu and Everest.

Grant Myers, of Bellingham, has his own building design firm, and has enjoyed exploring and photographing the Cascades for over 20 years.

JIM and MADELEINE BEATY

on the Wonderland Trail

—CELEBRATING THE PARK'S CENTENNIAL IN 1999—

We planned to hike the Wonderland Trail 1999 in celebration of the Park's Centennial. We had previously hiked the loop both clockwise and counterclockwise. The last time we hiked the loop was in 1992. We chose to do the trail clockwise this time starting at Longmire.

We camped at Cougar Rock Campground the day before. It was extremely cold and raining hard. Given the dismal summer, we had serious second thoughts about starting the hike in such weather.

Day 1, August 16

We were delighted to awaken to clear blue skies. After breakfast we drove to Longmire to pick up our permit. We made one change in the itinerary opting to take a backcountry night in the Pyramid Triangle as opposed to camping at Devils Dream. This would allow us to gain a little additional elevation on the first day because the second day looked to be very difficult. Soon we headed up the trail with heavy packs.

The trail under Devils Dream is in very poor condition being both steep and eroded and containing many roots and rocks. Just under Devils Dream we

ran into snow. At Indian Henry's Hunting Ground a few flowers were blooming, but spring had not arrived here yet.

It was still early so we spent a few hours eating dinner on the cabin porch and exploring the meadows before we headed into the backcountry to camp.

Day 2, August 17

There wasn't a cloud in the sky as we hiked back out to the main trail and down to the Tahoma hanging bridge. The biting flies were ferocious and the steep trail made for a slow pace. The scenery was superb but we were surprised not to see a single mountain goat where we used to almost always see them. There was a slight detour near the top of Emerald Ridge where a small part of the trail broke off and fell down into the glacier.

The views here are tremendous of the Tahoma Glacier. We had lunch at a major stream with a bridge just before the South Puyallup River crossing.

After lunch we headed uphill again toward St. Andrews Park. This proved to be a very difficult stretch due to the trail being completely overgrown with

vegetation, much of it taller than a person. It was very difficult to see the tread beneath our feet. It was also very hot and the biting flies were obnoxious. This condition lasted for a couple of miles up the old avalanche slope. We were very glad to reach the top of this old slide area.

There were more than a few blow downs, some of which required crawling under on our hands and knees, which added to our fatigue before we reached the more open slopes below St. Andrews. There we began to encounter major snow slopes. We made it across the steep section all right with the aid of our trekking poles and some good footprints left by a young couple ahead of us. Shortly before this we met a mother and daughter who had turned around when they came to snow. We felt bad for them.

Just about worn out, we were glad to get to camp at Klapatche Park. Soon there was a magnificent reflective sunset that turned the lake and mountain golden red. This helped make the struggle of the day worth while.

Day 3, August 18

We awoke to another fine morning and started out downhill to the North Puyallup River. Again there were high weeds in some of the avalanche areas and once Jim tripped and fell flat on his face in one of them. It is amazing how fast gravity and the weight of the pack can work against you. Luckily there was no harm done. The views up over the glacier to the mountain were just gorgeous here.

The crossing of the North Puyallup River is on a very sturdy bridge and the trail starts uphill through a beautiful old growth forest. We ate lunch at a large year around creek. After lunch the trail started uphill much more steeply.

Very soon the trail comes out into the open in a beautiful silver forest of snags in a huge old burn. We spent a while here picking delicious huckleberries. These would be the only ripe ones we found on the whole trip. Jim picked a small bag full to take along to put on top



Jim in camp at Golden Lakes.

Madeleine Beaty

of the desert pudding that night, yummy!

Once more under way we saw a splendid cinnamon colored black bear also enjoying the berries just a short way off the trail. We got in very early at Golden Lake and then walked a ways to a creek for running water. There were both biting flies and mosquitoes here. Repellent seemed to keep the mosquitoes off but nothing worked well against the flies.

Day 4, August 19

This was another sunny day, with some fog in the valley. The walk along the ridge from Golden Lakes was very pleasant. The route going down to the South Mowich River started on a very good trail both as to grade and condition. About half way down we reached the infamous blowdown section that other hikers had talked about.

The blowdowns literally obliterated the trail in places. It was most difficult to either crawl under, over or go around these huge trees and still keep track of the trail at the same time. People we had talked to were lost in this maze.

Once past the blowdowns the trail was quite good again. Crossing the South Mowich River on a foot log was very tricky. The river was running high and water went right over the middle section of the make-shift bridge. The middle section was the only part with a hand hold. We could hear rocks rolling under the roaring water.

After the river crossing the trail starts relentlessly uphill to Mowich Lake, our next camp. We had a bucket waiting there with new supplies and had the luxury of a picnic table in the camp.

We also had a great unexpected treat. A group of boys in the next camp were going the other way on the Wonderland and their mother drove in with a big pot roast dinner and all the trimmings. We were invited to eat some of it. Real food, including a salad—it was a feast compared to the freeze-dried.

Day 5, August 20

In the morning our tent was soaked from dew. We shook it off and packed it away wet, hoping to dry it out at the next camp. We were happy to see a sunny day again as we headed up the trail to Spray Park. We had great anticipation of the field of dancing avalanche lilies that grow in this one of the most beautiful places in the Park. If it were late for the lilies then there would be a carpet of blue lupines. There was a lot of snow in the park and the only

flowers blooming were great clumps of beautiful heather. The upper ends of Spray Park and Seattle Park held a lot of snow, but posed no route finding problems.

The cairns were very visible. We were reluctant to start down out of this area, but had to go on. Just about half way down we met a solo hiker who was two days behind his schedule, having been lost in snow and fog on the Cowlitz Ridge. This was the second person who had mentioned being lost there. We were hopeful for a sunny day when it was our turn.

The trail down to the Carbon River was largely in good shape and easy going. We met a very large group of hikers on their way up. We crossed the hanging bridge and climbed very steeply toward the Carbon Glacier and on up to the small Dick Creek Camp. Fortunately we arrived early enough to dry the tent.

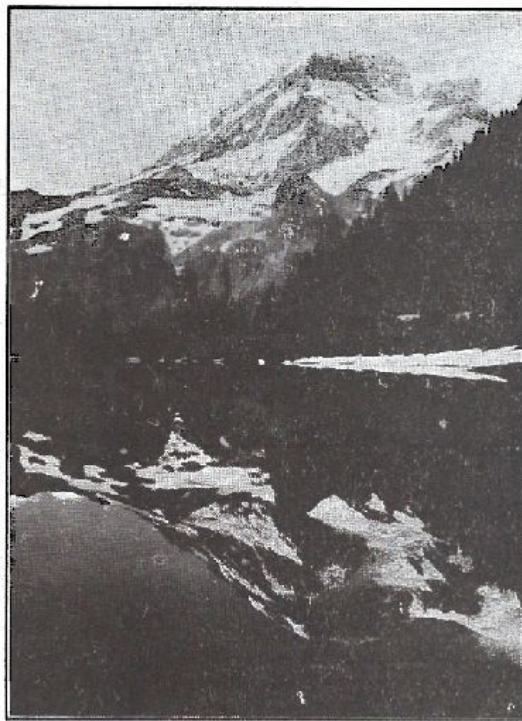
Day 6, August 21

This was the first day that we did not see the sun when we rose. The tent was wet from a foggy drizzle. We ate breakfast under a tree where the ground was dry. We then packed up in a hurry and hit the steep trail going to Granite Creek. Along the way to Mystic Lake we met a group of 20-plus young backpackers with several adults, a group that seemed well over the limit and the second such group in two days.

By the time we got up to Moraine Park the mountain was playing peek-a-boo. The fog would swirl around us and then lift only to return again. In this lovely area the fog enhanced the feeling of wilderness.

Soon the sun won the battle with the fog and blue skies prevailed. The heather in Moraine Park was beautiful and the trail was snowfree as we went up the last steep hill overlooking Mystic Lake. We ate lunch on the shore of the lake in complete solitude.

The trail down to the Winthrop River was in good shape and the two crossings of the river were easy enough. At one place a section of the trail fell off into the river and a very steep alternate was flagged. The trail up beside the glacier is very rough and extremely



Mount Rainier reflected in the little lake at Klapatche Park.

Madeleine Beatty

steep in places. It was hot as the sun was fully out once more. Again we were lucky enough to make it to camp in time to dry out the tent.

Day 7, August 22

We awoke to a truly 10-star day. There was not a cloud in the sky and the atmosphere was particularly clear. We looked forward to getting up to Skyscraper Pass and the superb view it offers.

The trail from Granite Creek to Skyscraper Pass was in excellent condition and is superbly engineered. It gains elevation without the usual effort. The lupines along the way were in full bloom. We spent a while soaking up the sunshine and beauty at the pass before heading on. Very soon we met day hikers coming out from Sunrise; all were delighted with the expansive views and the great weather.

The flowers at Sunrise were in their prime with the high meadows being just beautiful. We got to Sunrise early enough for lunch. We indulged in a great bacon-Swiss cheeseburger, a salad and lots and lots of soda to drink.

There was a large crowd at Sunrise so we were surprised to bump into two different sets of friends there.

We went on down to the White River Campground in a leisurely fashion and enjoyed a trail in excellent condition.



Mount Rainier from Skyscraper Pass.

We paid in order to get a site with a table and level ground. The free one given to backcountry parties leaves a little to be desired. Soon we picked up our bucket of supplies and had a relaxing, enjoyable evening to prepare for the hard day coming up.

Day 8, August 23

We got started early to hike down the road to the official Wonderland Trail. This is a rather unpleasant but easy stretch. Once we were on the Summerland Trail again our pace slowed considerably. It was cool as we went up the moderate trail and the great trees as well as a little breeze were much appreciated. It was very hot as we crossed the partially cleared slide just below the Frying Pan Creek crossing. There were only a few snow patches to get by as we went up the steep section to Summerland, where we ate lunch in the shelter.

We had made very good time and left Summerland for Indian Bar just shortly after noon. After Summerland the trail was mostly on snow. There were some very steep slopes just above Summerland that required very careful navigation. The major creek above Summerland was still buried. We were glad to get past this section. The climb to Panhandle Gap was all on snow, steep and difficult as always, but not dangerous at all.

From Panhandle Gap the view south to Indian Bar was a winter scene. Except for small islands of bare ground supporting beautiful spring flower gardens the trail was all snow. The Park

Service had wanded this area which was comforting even on this hot sunny day when getting lost would be very unlikely. At the long tedious steps down to Indian Bar the trail was melted out for about three fourths of the way down.

Soon we reached the snow again and the trail vanished as the snow became deeper and deeper near Indian Bar. Once we reached the bottom of the steps we had some trouble picking our way through the basin avoiding the many snow bridges that were waiting to gobble us up if we made a misstep.

All of the campsites were full of snow and the shelter which had been dug out was a large mound of snow. We leveled a spot on the snow at one campsite and camped on the snow. The stakes melted out during the night and the new tent, not altogether free standing, was a sorry sight in the morning.

We packed up wet gear again as had become our habit, odd in this sunny weather.

Day 9, August 24

We walked past the cold looking stone shelter wondering if the people inside stayed warm. The hike uphill began and was completely on snow. No sign of the trail was obvious after the shelter. There also were no wands here or anywhere on the Cowlitz Divide. This was the area where two groups of people we had talked to had spent a night lost trying to come down to Indian Bar. Fortunately we had been here several times before and it was a glorious sunny day.

We are not sure about the logic behind the lack of wands here. After all a trail is a trail and it surely could be marked on a temporary basis. It certainly was a much harder go here than the area from Panhandle Gap to Indian Bar which was marked. A father and his two young sons went up ahead of us and got too high to make the turn on the ridge. We waited for them down the trail just to make sure that they found their way again.

Be sure to get water at Indian Bar, as there is no running water on the ridge nor on the way down until near Nickel Creek Camp.

Once we turned off the ridge the trail was very good and clear once more. We stopped at Nickel Creek in the very bright sun and once more dried our equipment. After lunch we crossed the road at Box Canyon and headed down to Maple Creek Camp. This is a very fine camp except like all the other camps it had a multitude of biting flies.

Day 10, August 24

We got up early to make the long final miles to Longmire and a nice meal in the Inn. It was cold in the canyon even though the blue skies gave promise of a warm day.

The mountain for the first time on the trip was hiding behind a veil of clouds; consequently there was no reflection at Reflection Lake. The last part of the trip was all down hill on a very good trail. With our now lightened packs we were able to make very good time to Longmire and the completion of our trip.

Reflecting on this hike it seemed harder than the hike 7 years before. The huge snowfall and lingering winter on the mountain was somewhat responsible. The trail is definitely in worse condition than on either of the hikes we made before.

On the other hand being seven years older and both over 65 had to play some part also. We were very pleased to have helped celebrate the 100th birthday of the Park in this manner. We especially enjoyed the scenery as this well could have been the last time for us on this hike.

△

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY—Over 100 volunteers from The Mountaineers met at the Bluegrass Festival grounds in Darrington to spend the day working on three trails for National Trails Day, June 3.

The group was divided up to work on three trails. White Chuck Bench trail had a new trailhead constructed because of the older trailhead area being too close to the river which is washing out the bank.

The Neiderprum trail up to Whitehorse Mountain received needed work in the slide area that has been bad for many years. This muddy area through a very brushy hillside finally got some reconstruction, which should make the climbers heading up past Lone Tree Pass happy.

A new connector trail was built on the old logging road between the Goat Lake and Bedal Basin trails. Crews started at both ends to brush out and build a multiple use trail for both hikers and mountain bikers. About half way along the route, the trail crosses Chokwich Creek at a large waterfall. This crossing will probably need to have a foot bridge constructed at a later date.

After a day of trail work, everyone gathered back at the Bluegrass Festival area for a potluck and barbecue. Each volunteer received a National Trails Day T-shirt, a goody bag of outdoor stuff and some even won prizes in a drawing. One lucky winner went away with a new pair of Tubbs snowshoes.—*George Chambers, Bothell.*

HANFORD REACH—In early June, Hanford Reach was declared a National Monument.

The Reach, which is the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River, will encompass 220,000 acres (almost as big as Mount Rainier National Park) and 51 miles of the river.

TELL THEM WHAT YOU THINK

—In the opinion of the Forest Service, every Forest Pass purchased means a vote in favor of the Fee Demonstration project. In the opinion of the *P&P* staff, hikers purchase the Forest Pass because they don't want to be criminals by *not* buying it. Now the Forest Service says they want to know what we think. So here's your chance.

Here's when the Forest Service says: "One purpose of the Recreation Fee

Demonstration Program is to understand what the public feels is a fair system for recovering visitor program costs on National Forest System lands. We welcome any comments or suggestions you may have about a particular site you have visited or the new fee system in general.

"Please write to the Forest Service if you have any questions or comments:
Forest Service
Recreation, Heritage & Wilderness Resources
PO Box 96090
Washington DC 20090

"The Forest Service's recreation fee demonstration program was developed in partnership with leading national recreation interests. Its implementation is occurring through a Challenge Cost Share partnership with the American Recreation Coalition. ARC's efforts will include explanation of the fee program to the recreation industry and recreation enthusiasts, as well as assistance in evaluation of the demonstration projects. For further information on ARC's efforts, contact ARC at 1225 New York Avenue NW, Washington DC 20005."

In reply to this, Scott Silver of Wild Wilderness notes: "It is because ARC has been explaining the fee program to the public that most people haven't yet come to understand what fee-demo is really about. But YOU understand the issue, and therefore it is critically important that Congress, the Clinton Administration, your friends and neighbors hear the truth about fee-demo directly from you.

"No one will learn the truth from anything ARC or the USFS says about the program. These partners have a direct financial stake in the success of this program and their judgement is seriously clouded by visions of dollar signs."

IRON GOAT—Work parties for the Iron Goat trail in July are on these days: 5, 8, 15, 19, 21, 22, 26 and 29.

Volunteer for two days and get a Northwest Forest Pass free. Carpools leave about 7am from the Bothell Park & Ride, at Highway 522 and Kaysner Way. Call this month's coordinator, Helga Byhre, at 206-546-6830, for more information.

BEAR SAFE PROJECT— project relaunched in Washington this spring by a Bellingham organization can help

you to avoid unwanted encounters with our bear neighbors, in campgrounds and back yards. According to the free Bear Safe guide, the knack is to "look at your surroundings from a bear's perspective and make sure that human food doesn't become a bear snack."

"You might be surprised to hear that it's not just food that brings bears sniffing," says Chris Morgan, Director of the Bear Safe project in Washington. "Bird feeders and toothpaste also rank highly on the list."

Their keen sense of smell means that hundreds of bears are attracted to homes and campsites across Washington every year. "Dozens of them end up being shot. Like a dog begging at the dinner table, as soon as a bear discovers a food reward it'll keep on coming back for more. That's when people become concerned for their safety, near home or in the wilderness, and the bear ends up dead."

The Bear Safe guide has set out to change that trend and is packed full of information for campers, hikers, rural residents, and anyone else who spends time in the bear country of Washington. Those who are interested in obtaining a copy of the free guide should go to <www.wilderness.ws> or call 800-542-BEAR.

Bear specialist Morgan has worked on bear projects all around the world for the last 13 years. He recognized the need for the Bear Safe program after moving to Bellingham from Europe. "We haven't had bears in England for 900 years—it's shameful that people and wildlife couldn't find a way to co-exist there, but here in Washington it is possible."

Morgan points out that bear country includes all forested parts of the state. "With 25,000 black bears and up to 30 grizzly bears, Washington ranks about fifth of those states with the most bears. The fact that more than almost 6 million people also live in the Evergreen State means that bear sightings are common." Up to 700 calls are received by the Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding bears each year. "This means that dozens of bears have to be relocated or even destroyed," adds Morgan.

The Bear Safe guide stresses that encounters with aggressive bears are extremely rare and attacks are rarer still. Positive experiences far outweigh negative ones.

Morgan elaborates on this point say-

WHAT'S HAPPENING

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

ing that "only one fatality by a black bear and none by a grizzly have been recorded in Washington. Considering that Mount Rainier National Park alone averages two million human visitors per year, it's clear that bears are keen to stay out of trouble."

In the guide, hikers are told that the chances of seeing a black bear are quite reasonable and that a sudden encounter most often results in the bear disappearing at speed.

Morgan also guides groups of bear fans on BearTrack weekends in the Cascades each summer. Here, they learn about the intricate secrets of bear life, how to be safe and responsible when hiking and camping in bear country and what to look for when tracking these amazing carnivores (if you are interested in joining Chris, please see www.wilderness.ws or call 360-758-4193).

BABY ANIMALS—With wild baby animals popping up everywhere this time of year, the Department of Fish and Wildlife reminds you to leave the animals alone.

"If you find a baby animal that appears to be abandoned," said Steve Pozzanghera, WDFW wildlife program deputy assistant director, "leave the animal where you found it. Many times, the mother is nearby leading predators away or waiting for you to leave."

If you try to "rescue" the animal, you are endangering it.

"Animals that are taken from the wild have a poor chance of surviving," Pozzanghera said. "and since it's against state law to take wildlife into captivity, those who do can face substantial fines."

"If you find a baby animal that is unattended for more than 24 hours, call your local WDFW office for a list of licensed wildlife rehabilitators."

KAIN HUT—Hikers who want to stay in the Conrad Cain Hut in Bugaboo Provincial Park can now make reservations at the AAC office in Canmore. Previously, space was first-come-first served. Reserved space is a little more expensive (\$18/person/night reserved; \$15/person/night unreserved), but may be worth the expense.

The AAC office can be reached at 403-678-3200.

JUNE INCIDENTS—Two sisters became lost while hiking at Wallace Falls State Park. The young women, ages 17 and 23, had only a day pack and are inexperienced hikers. When they didn't return to the trailhead as scheduled, their parents called for help. Over a hundred searchers, dogs, horses and a helicopter were used in the effort.

Fortunately, the two were found in a

couple of days, tired, hungry, wet and cold, but otherwise okay.

On Mount Rainier, two climbers—an RMI guide and a client—were hit by falling ice near the base of Disappointment Cleaver. They were assisted to Camp Muir and were evacuated by helicopter. Two other climbers in the same party had minor injuries and hiked out.

A Park spokesperson said that the icefall was caused by glacier movement and not by avalanche.

In Oregon, a woman from Portland died in a fall at 9000 feet on the Elliott Glacier on Mount Hood.

At Deception Pass State Park, the search for a 12-year-old Utah boy who vanished in early June was stopped when searchers and dogs followed his trail to a cliff edge, and found signs that the boy had likely fallen over the edge. The Sheriff's department will do a sonar search of the water when conditions permit.

CHECKERBOARD OUTINGS—The fourth annual Checkerboard Outings Day will be held July 29. Sponsored by the Sierra Club, the Outings Day encourages folks to explore the "checkerboard" land between Snoqualmie Pass and Cle Elum.

Many activities are planned, including hikes, and paddle and bicycle trips. Call 206-523-2147 for more info.

KEEPING PACE

EQUIPMENT, RECIPES, TIPS

THOUGHTS ON LEADING—Communicate with your team. A certain amount of familiarity will develop with short conversations on the phone. On more difficult climbs (multi-day or unusually difficult routes) call a pre-climb meeting and become acquainted with the different personalities. Discuss the route and special gear needed such as snowshoes, wands, crampons, as well as group gear assignments.

Now here's a thought. Your first time as a climb leader, do you let everyone in on this fact before the climb? Rightfully you should, but think of the climbers' confidence in you when they find out. The alternative is to keep the info to yourself, for now, revealing it only at the end of your successful, well planned and executed climb. It makes for a good

laugh and maybe a few embarrassing moments for the leader while he takes in all the wisecracks from the climbing members, who are quickly becoming friends.

Preview the route. A week or two before the climb, check the route with a trusted climbing partner. Identify problem areas and direction changes. By doing this you will reduce the stress level of leading a group to the summit at a later date.

Set the pace. When starting out from the trailhead, set a moderate pace to test the party's strengths. By doing this you'll be able to establish how often rest stops will be needed and/or what the overall pace for the climb will be.

Safety. Always express your concerns regarding safety and its importance.

Post Climb Fiesta. If the climb goes well, no one wants it to end. If there have been some glitches, a relaxed discussion based on hindsight may be useful. Invite everyone for coffee at the most convenient cafe or eatery.—*Ed Agius, Bremerton; led first climb in April.*

WIN FAME & ADMIRATION!

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

PACK & PADDLE

PO BOX 1063

PORT ORCHARD WA 98366

EDITOR'S JOURNAL



At the East Fork Foss River crossing. Photo by Joan Burton.

FROM THE MAILBOX—"Thanks for keeping *Pack & Paddle* both informative and entertaining."—*Bellevue*.

"Received our latest *P&P* a few days ago. I start reading it at the mailbox and don't finish until the back cover. It is probably the only publication we receive that gets read cover to cover immediately. We now have a pretty substantial library of *P&Ps*, and they are the only magazine we don't throw away!"—*Kirkland*.

"I love your magazine."—*Bellingham*.

"We are really disgusted the Park Service has not even tried to repair the bridge into the Dose."—*Olympia*.

"I like hearing about Yellow Cat."—*Bremerton*.

"Hi to YC from Sweet Kitty."—*Seattle*.

"Thanks for your support, both in announcing and later in reporting, on Jan Klippert's Olympic Beach Clean Up. My wife and I had a grand time working at Rialto Beach Saturday and Second Beach Sunday."—*Bellevue*.

"Repeal Trail Park Pass fees!"—*Olympia*.

MEETING READERS—"We met some folks at the trailhead," writes a *P&P* reader. "They asked if we were a Mountaineers group, which we are not, although some of us belong to the Mountaineers. We told them no; then they asked if any of us were *P&P* readers. I said yes and commented that I

was a frequent contributor. I gave her my name and she said that they would look for my reports. Then we were on our way—and I failed to ask their names. Will try to do better next time I meet *P&P* readers on the trail."

We wonder how many times it happens that *P&P* readers meet each other in the backcountry. Just for fun, we'd like to know who *you* meet on the trail.

DECEPTION PASS—I finally got to go through Deception Pass in a kayak. Over Memorial Day weekend, Lee and I joined some Mountaineer friends for car-camping at the State Park. The current was at near slack so there were no boat-grabbing whirlpools or monsters. Now that I know I can do it and survive, I'll have to do it again.

VACATION—The usual vacation for us is a week in the Pasayten, or a few days in Canada, but this year Lee and I did something really different—when you read this we will have just returned from a trip to Sweden and Norway.

Getting all of our ducks in a row to leave the office (even in the capable paws of YC) took quite a bit of planning. We'll tell you about it when we recover from jet lag.

INCREASE—This month marks only the second price increase we've had. The cost of producing *P&P* has risen with two paper-price hikes and a post-

age increase in the last year.

YELLOW CAT—With the arrival of the Solstice, YC is fully into Summer Mode at last. When she is not busy in the office, her favorite pastime is accompanying Lee or me on a hike through our little forest to check out anything new. Between hikes, she takes a rest break and nap near the garden, where she can indulge her hobby of nature study.

OUR SYMPATHY goes to *Pack & Paddle* contributor Jeff Howbert whose wife Sandy died in an automobile accident near Snoqualmie Pass at the end of May.

Sandy and Jeff have two teenage children. Sandy had been a dedicated volunteer at their school and had started to work as a library assistant this year.

She and Jeff, both from Oregon, moved with their children to Bellevue about seven years ago. Jeff is the originator of the "Home Court 100" and "Back Court 100" peak lists, as well as many other articles and reports in *Pack & Paddle*.

See you in the backcountry,

Ann Marshall



SUBSCRIBE TO PACK & PADDLE



the magazine about backcountry travel in Washington and the Pacific Northwest

___ 1 year (12 issues) \$21.64—(\$20.00 + \$1.64 state sales tax)

___ 2 years (24 issues) \$38.95—(\$36.00 + \$2.95 state sales tax)

___ Gift (we'll send a card)

(Residents of states other than Washington may subtract tax.)

name _____

address _____

city, state, ZIP _____

send with payment (check or money order) to:

Pack & Paddle
PO Box 1063

Port Orchard WA 98366

Questions? Call us at 360-871-1862 E-mail ycat@packandpaddlemagazine.com 7/00

BIG FOUR ICE CAVES Interpretive Guidebook

Field guide to the botany, zoology, geology, history, forestry, and other natural features of the BIG FOUR ICE CAVES TRAIL. Step-by-step description of the trail, plus photographs, detailed trail map, and topographic map.

52 pages (1998) \$6 (plus 52 cents WA sales tax, postpaid)

Northwest Press, P. O. Box 670, Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Have it All!

Cross Country Skiing
Ski Shop • Rentals • Lessons
Sauna • Outdoor Hot Tub
Ski Trails at Our Doorstep
1-800-843-7951

Mazama Country Inn



www.mazamacountryinn.com

www.mchalepacks.com

McHalePacks

has moved to a new location at
Shilshole in Ballard:
6341 Seaview Ave NW
Seattle WA 98107
(206) 783-3996

—Please call ahead—

Above West Marine



Integral Designs
Tent Dealer

SEVERAL GOOD REASONS TO USE PARGETER MAPS

- They provide an economical BIG PICTURE for mountain travelers!
- They are beautiful bird's-eye view oblique angle images illustrated in full color from USGS quads.
- They are large, info-packed formats averaging 24" x 32" covering the Olympic Mountains, North Central Cascades, North Cascades West, North Cascades East and San Juan Islands—Thousands of square miles!
- Richard Pargeter's popular pictorial relief maps delightfully portray our mountains more quickly for most users.
- They are excellent planning tools—find hundreds of lakes, peaks, streams and valleys across the breadth of the ranges in their uncut relationships.
- Copious overprinting gives road and trail locations, ID numbers, trail point-to-point distances and elevations.
- Great quantities of really usable info for less money. Don't be without them.

Please ask for PARGETER MAPS at map and sporting goods stores or at stores along the Cascades and Olympic highways.

Or send \$7.50 for each map (ppd) for quick delivery to:

R.A. Pargeter, PO Box 844, Kent WA 98035. Thank you!