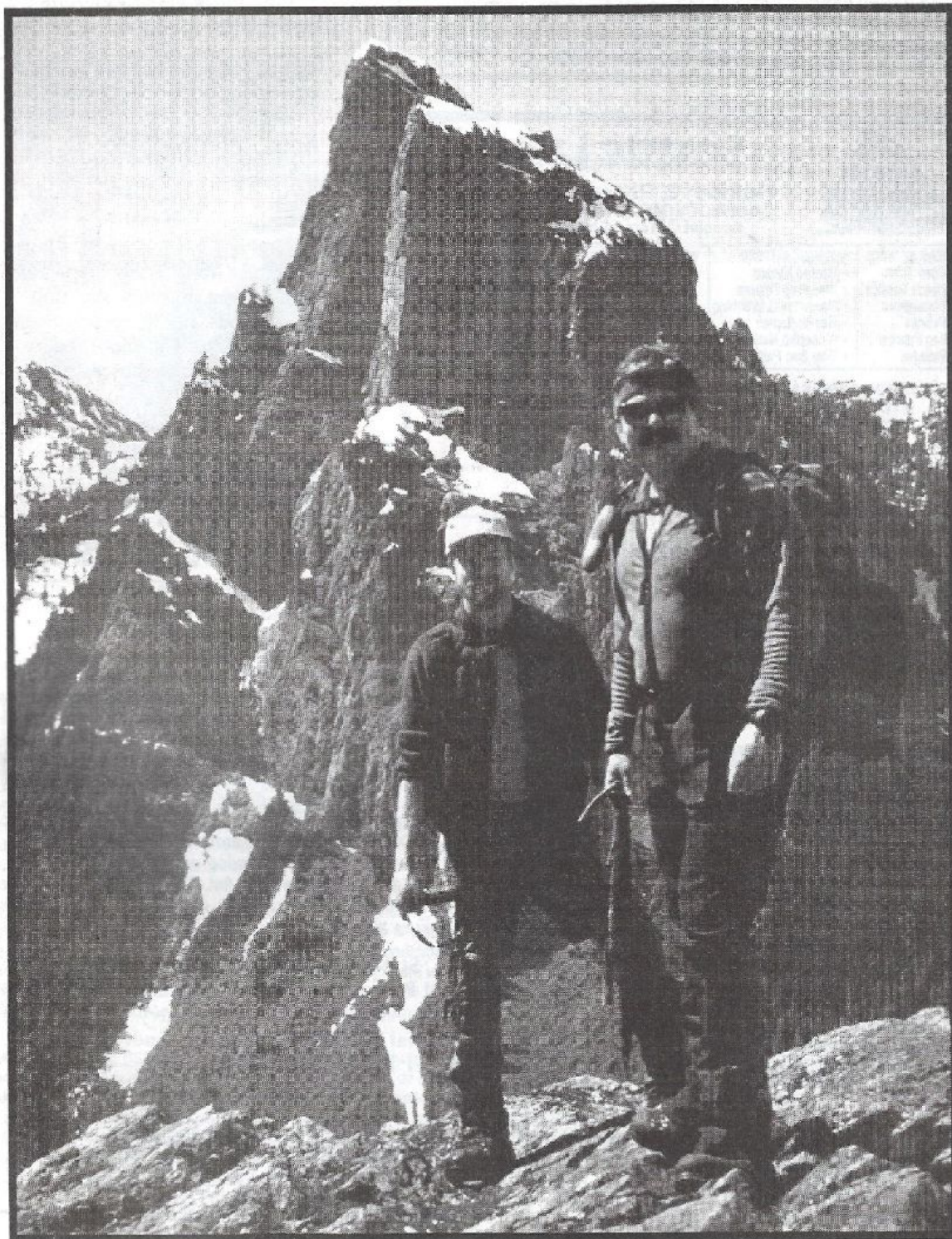


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# Pack & Paddle<sup>®</sup>

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 9

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## RANDOM VIEW—



Mark Owen

Jill Owen totes baby Sarah up to Colchuck Lake, here pausing at the Mountaineer Creek crossing. Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

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### COVER PHOTO:

Ted Baughman and Howard Putter on the route to Merchant Peak. Mount Baring behind. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Washington. Photo by John Roper.

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### Staff

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# LETTERS to the EDITOR

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

## SLEEPING BEAUTY VOLUNTEERS

It was wonderful to see a picture of two people (Karen and Aaron Roper) on top of Sleeping Beauty (*August, page 3*).

My husband and I work hard at least two times each summer doing trail maintenance on this particular trail. The ranger station in Trout Lake assures us that this is a very popular trail but while working on it we have seen very few people using the trail.

This spring two friends came with us and we worked on not only the trail but also the dead end road leading to the trailhead.

We have an e-mail address for anyone wanting to contact us about the trail, it is <sleepingbeauty58@Juno.com>.

Ralph and Virginia  
Tacoma, Washington

## MANNERS

I have recently taken up horseback riding as a way to enjoy one-on-one time with my wife and as an alternative to backpacking. My wife and I just returned from a 4-day pack trip in the Tenaaway area (High Country Outfitters) led by Fred Slyfield, Patrol Sergeant and the search and rescue coordinator for Kittitas County.

First, I want to commend Fred for his great work helping people in the mountains. Let me tell you, Fred has some amazing search stories.

Second, I want to ask hikers to be a little more polite and considerate of horseback riders. Snide remarks to people on horseback are quite rude and usually undeserved. Fred and his assistant cleared many logs off the Ingalls Creek, Fourth Creek, and Turnpike Creek trails for our pack trip. They were the epitome of quality, sensitive backcountry travelers.

Chuck Pettis  
Medina, Washington

## THEY DON'T GET IT

Dear Yellow Cat:

I have a question. Why don't some nice outdoor folks get it? For some reason they think they are being charged to use our forest land when in fact they

can park their vehicle along most mountain roads and just head right out into the brush, over fallen trees, talus slopes, steep terrain, slide alder, fording streams and rivers without ever buying a pass. You know, kinda like it was with Lewis and Clark or the Press Party. They didn't need no dad burn trails.

But thanks to the paid labor of the CCC, WPA, Forest and Park Service along with volunteer groups like the Boy Scouts of America, Pacific Crest Trail Association, Washington Trail Association, Mountaineers, VOW and many other dedicated groups and individuals we have this thing that's kinda like a guide that makes it easier to enjoy the above mentioned stuff.

I've been a hiker 40 years and I noticed that hikers even use mountain trails in other parts of the world to get around safer and easier too. In fact I'm sure that somebody actually had to bend their back in hard labor to build them thar trails and a few trail bridges, too, just because it would help others enjoy the mountains some more.

But you know what, Yellow Cat, sometimes after we built those trails, a tree that used to look so nice standing up the last time I admired it, went more like horizontal across that trail when I wasn't watching it. Now if I didn't plan on hiking that trail again, so what? The next guy could maybe crawl over it or go around until they got to the next one and the next one.

Well, YC, I found out that it still takes a paid crew or volunteers to keep those trails open if anybody cares. It's just a matter putting it together with the Feds and volunteers. The more volunteers the fewer paid crews.

Now I like both crosscountry and trails. If I had to choose, trails win. So for the folks who fuss so much about the pass, they can either volunteer to earn a pass, buy a pass or hit the brush.

Oh yeah, one more thing, YC: if you think \$30 is bad for direct local administration and trail work, you should look how they waste our life energy back in DC.

Just another volunteer,

Bill Rengstorf  
Edmonds, Washington  
(Bill is a long time Scout and Search and Rescue Leader. He has built trails and bridges including the White River cable suspension bridge. He also led the

restoration of the Evergreen Mountain Lookout.)

## COZYING UP TO FOREST SERVICE

I've come to realize and accept that The Mountaineers feels compelled to cozy up to the Forest Service (see July, page 4, and August, page 4) because The Mountaineers has decided that it really wants to be able to "sit at the table." They have concluded that the interests of their members are best served by being "partners and cooperators" with the Forest Service rather than being adversarial.

There are things The Mountaineers want (particularly in relation to certain controversial access issues, such as Mount Hood, wilderness rock-bolting, etc.) that the Forest Service is in a position to grant them. And to keep the skids greased, there is much logic in positioning The Mountaineers as an insider and in being seen as cooperating with the Forest Service.

Every major player and commercial interest (the motorheads, the concessionaires, the outfitter/guides, the developers) knows the value of partnering with the Forest Service. All of these other players support pay-to-play because they know that money buys access, and that is what they want more than anything else—access.

Obviously The Mountaineers wants to be a player and wants to receive similar special considerations as these other partners get. And so they have embarked upon this course.

The problems are, as I see it, three-fold.

1. Partners must not rock the boat for the other partners. This being the case, The Mountaineers must endorse, condone or, at a minimum, accept, all the other backroom dealing that the Forest Service is engaged in.
2. Purchasing access is morally wrong. It denies access to those who are less willing to pay, are less able to pay, or are unwilling to engage in what is ostensibly political bribery.
3. The industrial strength recreation agenda is going to fail with, or without, the help of The Mountaineers.

The latter really does not affect The Mountaineers in any significant way, except that when the smoke eventually





*continued on page 6*

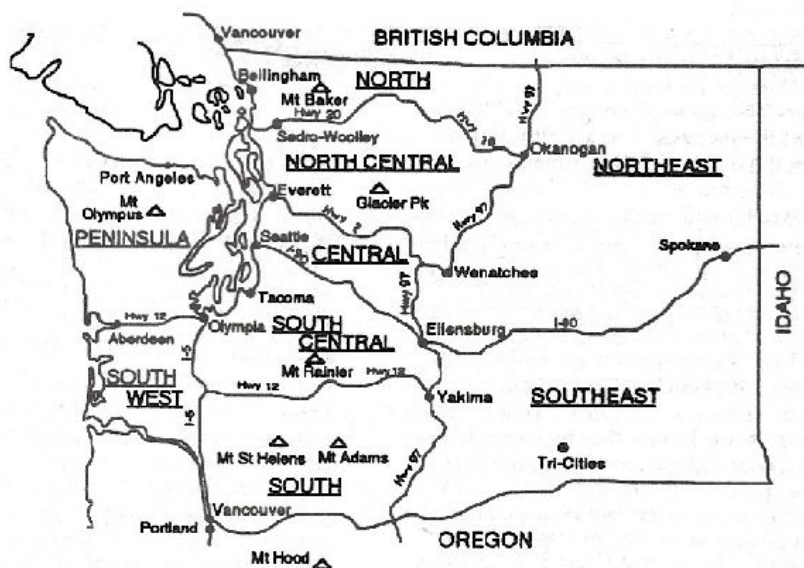
## INTRODUCTION

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

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-  —Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.



## PENINSULA



### INNER CONSTANCE

(USGS Mt Deception)—This outing started with the grueling 2 mile, 3400-foot ascent to Lake Constance. I have read several different reports as to the actual elevation gain on this trail, but any way you hike it, it's steep!

After following the trail around the lake I made my way across scree slopes and some occasional trail. Shortly after passing through the narrow mouth of Avalanche Valley I ascended westerly up a scree slope. At the top of this slope I was able to make my way farther by using small trees as hand holds and finally entered some upper snowy basins.

Moderate snow slopes led to the ridge between C-141 Peak and Stasis and from there it was a stroll up the ridge to the summit of C-141.

I took an extended break to enjoy the views and look through the register. It

was wet and had few entries. It was put up in 1983 and had only a couple of ascents a year until the end of the '80s then none until the late '90s. Mine was the first for 2000.

It was time to move on. Dropping, traversing and then kick-stepping up a steep snow finger brought me to a huge chockstone forming a tunnel that allowed access to the ridge above. It was an easy ridge run to the summit of Stasis. No register. Same views.

Next was The Pyramid. Easy traversing on the west side got me to a saddle on the north side. Despite nearly circling this attractive little horn there appeared to be no Class 3 route to the top as stated in the Guide. All the routes were a minimum of Class 4 and the higher summit was neatly split by a 3-foot wide cleft. I went up the shorter detached portion far enough to see a red sling higher up, a sure sign that I should come back another day.

It was getting late so it was with regret that I left The Pyramid and continued toward the final summit, Inner Constance.

It was a short scramble along the broken and ragged crest to a small notch and there was the summit. At this point I had two options. A direct ascent up steep and rotten rock or a traverse on ledges to the east. The steep, rotten rock is Class 4 and though it didn't look too bad I opted for the "airy and hairy" Class 3 ledge traverse. This brought me out on the East Face and from there it was a simple scramble to the summit.

No register. This surprised me as In-

ner Constance is sort of a major peak in the area. The view was the same great view though actually a little better than earlier as some of the low clouds had dissipated.

The descent was down a series of narrow gullies and steep, narrow snow fingers that eventually emptied out above The Thumb. From that point it was broad snow slopes back down to Avalanche Valley and out.

A great scramble with the advantage of bagging a number of The Olympic 7s. This particular outing I have had on my to-do list for awhile, so it was fun to do it on a weekday with few others in the area. I followed two up the valley and saw two (the same?) descending from Constance.

I am interested to know if anyone out there has knowledge about The Pyramid. Even though I have found discrepancies with The Olympic Climbers Guide and reality before, this is probably the biggest one yet! The actual route on The Pyramid seemed something like the description for the Rottenrockel Spitz. Come on, you Olympic Climbers, step forward. You can pass on the info to me via P&P or directly at <offbelay1@juno.com>. —offbelay1, Tacoma, 7/20.

### INNER CONSTANCE

(USGS The Brothers, Mt Deception)—Had the usual hassles getting a permit to camp in the Lake Constance area—hours on the phone getting a reservation from the Wilderness Center. Then no ranger at the Dosewallips RS, where the permit is required to be

## BACKCOUNTRY NEWS DEADLINE: September 19

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

picked up, a not-unusual occurrence during the week. Finally gave up and wrote out my own permit with the reservation number written on it. Meanwhile, precious time lost. They don't make it easy to follow the rules.

The trail to Lake Constance was as bad as I remembered from two years ago when I climbed Mount Constance. Went about 3/4-mile beyond the lake into Avalanche Canyon to set up camp on one of the rare flat snowfree areas. Had the whole place to myself.

After a short rest I set out to climb Peak 7022 on the right side of the canyon. This is rated Class 2 by the Climbers Guide. I think they underrate it a bit. Of course, I got into the wrong gully and had an interesting traverse back into the right one. But even so, there was a 30-foot or so step in that gully that I would rate at least Class 3. Above this was pleasant Class 2 scrambling and I arrived on the summit at 7pm. Enjoyed beautiful views in the warm, sunny weather of all the surrounding peaks. Got back to camp at 9 in time to eat dinner before it was completely dark.

Started up Avalanche Canyon (on snow the whole way) the next morning at 6am intending to climb Inner Constance by Route 2 in the Climber's Guide. Turned left once past the Thumb and climbed into the snow basin be-

tween the Thumb and Inner Constance. From here I exited the snow onto rock and followed a ledge (two tricky narrow sections) that diagonaled right to an upper snow slope.

I missed the couloir of Route 2 that led to the notch on the east side of the summit block and ended up continuing up snow and then rock to the south ridge just north of the Pyramid. This put me on the last part of Route 1. However, the ridge was fun scrambling all the way to the base of the imposing summit block.

A direct approach from here is Class 4, but I elected for the easier ledge that traverses across the south face to the east ridge and the easy scramble of Route 2 to the summit, which I reached at 9:40. My view toward the north of Warrior and Constance came and went as the valley fog lifted over the ridge. But the views to the south were spectacular.

I retraced my steps back along the ridge, and since it was still early, opted for an attempt on the Pyramid. This entailed dropping down the west side of the ridge below cliffs, then climbing back up to the saddle on the north side of the Pyramid. An easy scramble led to the base of the summit rocks. The Pyramid is rated Class 3 but again I question it. I was able to make my way (with the help of a rope) to what I thought

was the summit only to find an impassable 20-foot deep cleft between me and another point that appeared slightly higher. I found a way into the cleft from below, but try as I might I could not find a reasonable way, given my equipment and ability, to the top of the second point. If this is indeed the summit, I would rate it low Class 5, but then again, someone with a longer reach than mine might not have had the same difficulty.

I retraced my steps once again, back to the ridge and down the initial snow slopes. But I was able to locate the snow chute of Route 2a for the descent and so avoided the tricky rock ledge back to the Thumb basin. Fast glissades led back to Avalanche Canyon and camp at 3:30.

Just before reaching my tent, I passed the camp of John Roper and friend and spent a pleasant half hour in conversation. He was climbing Mount Constance the next day. It was nice to meet him after reading about his exploits for years.

I had time to relax and rest before heading down the dreaded trail at 5:15 and reaching the car at 8, well before dark. You do not want to descend the Lake Constance trail in the dark.—Fay Pullen, Kent, 7/18-19.

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

clears, whatever standing The Mountaineers still has within the conservation community (as opposed to the recreation community) will have been further reduced. The Mountaineers is placing its bet on ARC and is betting against the environment.

Perhaps The Mountaineers would do well to recall that before they became just another special interest recreation club, they really were quite an impressive conservation organization.

Scott Silver, Wild Wilderness  
Bend, Oregon  
<[www.wildwilderness.org](http://www.wildwilderness.org)>

#### JUNIPER RIDGE MOTORCYCLES

Copy of a letter to the  
Gifford Pinchot Forest Supervisor  
Dear Supervisor,

We recently had a chance to hike the Juniper Ridge trail, in the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District. This was our first hike in the Cispus River area.

We hiked the trail from road 2904

past Juniper Peak. On this trail we soon noticed severe troughing on the otherwise good trail, a tell-tale sign of motorcycle use. Once the trail got steeper the damage to the trail due to motorcycle use got worse. The section along the ridge in the upper portion had ruts too deep to walk in and new trails formed along the top edges.

The last portion before the ridge top was a sheer disaster. The motorcycles rode out along a ridge off the trail to get a view and then came down through the trees and a gully cutting across switch backs and making trails over a wide area. The erosion damage was so immense that a recovery will probably mean relocating the trail.

The next day we took trail 262 back up to the Juniper Ridge trail 261. We went to the top of Sunrise Peak and then over to Jumbo Peak. Again we noticed severe damage to the lower slopes of Jumbo Peak where motorcycles navigated around a lingering snowfield and severely rutted the still muddy area east of and above the trail.

Juniper Ridge offers supreme hiking opportunities. The views from Sunrise and Jumbo Peaks are breathtaking. At times one can see four major Cascade peaks: Adams, Rainier, St. Helens and Hood, all seemingly very close-up. The floral displays in the great meadows along the trail are incredible, some of the best we have seen in years of hiking.

Our question is: How can the Forest Service condone or even promote the use of motorcycles in such a beautiful and fragile area? Both the noise pollution and the general environmental damage are a blight on this sub-alpine region.

We could hear engines whining most of our trip and the two cycles we saw were certainly speeding. It is doubtful that they cared any for the beauty here.

We feel motorcycles should be banned from Juniper Ridge altogether and that the whole area should be considered for wilderness status.

Jim and Madeleine Beaty  
Federal Way, Washington

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS



## CHARLIA LAKES, DEL MONTE RIDGE (USGS Mt

*Deception*)—Snow usually comes off early on the northeastern rainshadow side of the Olympics, so it makes a good early summer backpack destination. Pat, Jon P. and I are old hands on Olympic trails. Meg is from New Jersey and this was her first backpack trip into the Olympics. At age 72, she handled it like a trooper.

Lower Dungeness road 2860 is still closed due to washouts, so you must detour on roads 2880 and 2870 to bypass the closure.

The first mile of trail is shared with the folks heading for Royal Basin. Traffic thins out after you cross Royal Creek. The trail now follows the Dungeness River through a beautiful forest of big trees for 2.5 miles to Camp Handy. This is a gem of a camp. It sits on the edge of a meadow with the shelter backed up against the trees and the river out front. You can camp an army here.

We stopped here for lunch and watched the clouds lower and the Olympic drizzle begin. Good trail, pretty flowers, and non-existent views as we climbed steadily in the rain to Boulder Shelter at 5000 feet. Just before you reach the shelter the trail flattens out and a small meadow begins. We hadn't been here for a couple of years and were stunned as we rounded the final turn and looked across the valley at the shelter.

An avalanche had come down probably in the record snow winter of '98-'99, and wiped out the forest and campsites here. There were mangled and broken trees everywhere. The shelter, rebuilt in 1994, was spared by just feet. What had been a roomy camping area now consists of a couple of sites in the small meadow and a meager site or two right behind the shelter. We were alone Friday night, but with the weekenders on Saturday night, it got too crowded for comfort as everyone squeezed together in too small a space.

Saturday we dayhiked the Charlia Lakes waytrail which begins 250 yards south of the shelter off the main trail to Constance Pass. The avalanche wiped out a portion of the main trail in this area, but a makeshift detour beginning just before the shelter bypasses most of the debris.

The Charlia Lakes trail is not maintained and there are some blowdowns to negotiate, but nothing serious. In about half a mile of climbing you reach flowered meadowland. Here the trail winds through subalpine gardens up the hill to a ridge. It then follows the ridge to one last, very steep meadow



Joan Watson

Tucked away in the Olympic backcountry, an old Crisler shelter leans precariously.

with a 100-foot rock standing like a sentinel at the top. Switchbacks took us to a broad pass with views west to Glacier Peak and Hood Canal. The lakes themselves are about 1000 vertical feet below; however the slope down was still covered with snow so we left it alone. Instead we spent the afternoon in the high country, soaking up sun and views. We saw just two people all day until we returned to camp.

Sunday we headed toward Home Lake, Constance Pass and Del Monte Ridge. This part of the trail is a mess and shows no signs of recent maintenance. It began with many small blowdowns and escalated into massive tangles of blowdowns. The trail is also beginning to slide away on some of the steep hillsides, so you must step carefully. You cross the boundary into Olympic National Park about a mile from the shelter, and here we immediately ran into an avalanche slide that covered a hundred yards of trail with a jungle of debris. From here on we had stretches of simple blowdowns alternating again and again with stretches of tangled avalanche debris. Getting to Home Lake was hard work!

We hatched two theories as to why this section of trail has been allowed to deteriorate to this extent. The charitable among us said the deep snow two winters ago caused the avalanche damage, created an extraordinary backlog of damaged trails, and prevented any maintenance from being done last summer. Also, we don't know if maintenance is scheduled for this year. There's still time.

The cynics among us feel it might be part of a conspiracy to close all the "back door" entrances to the park by

neglect, forcing all "customers" to enter by way of a ranger (fee) station at a main entrance. Rumors that self registration at remote trailheads will be discontinued next year feed this view. Either way, no trail money has been spent here.

Above Home Lake we left the trees, the debris, and our theories. There was patchy snow on this short section of trail and one short piece of steep snow on the north side of Constance Pass. The Del Monte Ridge trail was snowfree.

This is high, wild country with some of the best views of the interior Olympics you'll find anywhere. We ate lunch at the top of the ridge oohing and aahing and admiring the views. We could see all the way to the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Hood Canal, and all the major volcanoes: Baker, Rainier, Adams and St. Helens (Glacier was hidden behind a ridge), as well as Olympus. It's a place to spend hours, and we did. Unfortunately, and with great reluctance (believe us!), all too soon it was time to tackle the "trail" home.—Dennis & Pat, Olympia, 7/14-17.



## HAPPY LAKE RIDGE

### LOOP (USGS Mt Carrie, Lk

*Sutherland, CC Lk Crescent-Happy Lake Ridge*)—Nine ladies joined Trudy Lalonde this year on her annual three-day Olympics outing. Unlike last year with the deep snow and resultant last minute changed destinations, every hike Trudy chose worked out perfectly. And we lucked out with the weather too, having clear skies for all three trips.

Our "almost" loop turned out to be 17 miles long with around 4600 feet of gain, the trailheads being only a few miles apart. After putting cars at both

ends of the trail, we began our hike at 8am from the upper trailhead. We walked the old road to Olympic Hot Springs for the first few miles. Following Boulder Creek through dense stands of Douglas-fir, we steadily gained altitude to pretty Boulder Lake for our first rest break. After the lake, the trail went steeply uphill as it passed in and out of small meadows while it gained Happy Lake Ridge. Along the way were peak-a-boo views to the south of Mount Olympus and Mount Carrie. We stopped in one of the larger meadows with a great view for a long lunch amid many varieties of wildflowers.

From there on, the trail went up and down along the ridge, dipping in and out of open forests and meadows. Nestled under the trees in many areas were outstanding displays of avalanche lilies. Not only were there a myriad of them concentrated in a small area but the flowers themselves were some of the largest any of us had ever seen.

After awhile, vistas opened up to the north as well, affording views of Port Angeles and the Straits. By the time we reached the turnoff for Happy Lake, .5-mile and 500 feet downhill, all but four of us were ready to continue to the trailhead. Knowing I might never get back into this area and hating to miss the ridge's namesake, I really wanted to get to Happy Lake in spite of aching muscles. So Trudy graciously led us down.

Well, it certainly wasn't a "happy" place. The entire shore of Happy Lake consisted of brown crusty goo that looked absolutely disgusting. After a quick picture (just to prove I was there), we beat a hasty retreat back to the ridge. The gentle downgrade and good conversation made the last few miles fly by as we wound our way down to the lower trailhead.

We arrived to find the rest of our group waiting with ice cold drinks and the cars already retrieved from the upper trailhead.—Ginny Evans, Renton, 7/18.

**HURRICANE HILL (CC Hurricane Ridge)**—This was to be a rest day with only a short hike to Hurricane Hill planned. The beginning of this trail travels through beautiful meadows just chock full of abundant varieties of wildflowers.

I knew I was in trouble when everyone but three of us got out flower books and tried to identify, genus and species, which type of Pussytoes we were looking at. Wow, that is way over my head. I love looking at flowers but know only a handful of them. I mean, I'd never even heard of Pussytoes before.

When we were stalled in a flower field for 15 minutes, Jennifer, Jacki, and I took off for the top of the hill. We arrived on the summit just as the fog was clearing over the Straits and glimpsed Port Angeles, Vancouver Island and even Mount Baker to the north and east. To the south was the classic Hurricane Ridge view of the Olympic skyline with Mount Olympus hogging the center.

On our return, we picked up the rest of our party in pretty much the same place we'd left them, a few yards from the trailhead.

After a delicious lunch of leftover potluck pickings, we made our way over to the visitors center for a couple of the informative ranger walk-'n-talks.—Ginny Evans, Renton, 7/19.

**ROYAL BASIN (USGS Mt Deception)**—Have not been to Royal Basin in years and had no idea that the Park Service is playing games with this beautiful valley as well.

Got a late start and didn't reach the main basin until dark. Imagine my surprise to find the main basin closed to camping and a ranger living there in a brand new cabin-tent-on-timber-deck ranger station.

Wonder who paid for the helicopter that flew those planks and timbers in?

In the morning I walked the entire area. Everywhere one looks all he sees is an infestation of squared-off sticks that says **CLOSED**, on every side trail, and every campsite. The new station is in the middle of their new no-no area which encompasses the entire middle basin and Royal Lake. Why?

For as popular as this area seems to be, it's in incredibly good shape, even around established campsites and the lake. No garbage, and lush vegetation.

If the Park Service wants to do some good up there, the area could use a vault toilet near Milk Lake for the climbers and hikers who base camp there.

If you go, take note: the only place I found to legally camp was in the first meadow (swamp and skeeters) or up top around Milk Lake (snowfields and rock).—NMH Farwalker, Hadlock, 8/5-6.

**ROYAL LAKE, BASIN (CC Buckhorn Wilderness, Gray Wolf-Dosewallips)**—As Trudy said, this hike is an Olympic classic. Because of its length, it is usually done as a backpack. However, we had just one day and were determined to see it all. And we did!

The trail starts off gently in a lovely forest full of big trees alongside Royal Creek. The creek is actually followed the entire way to the lake and if it isn't

within sight, it certainly makes itself heard as it thunders by in a succession of cascades and waterfalls. You can bet I stayed away from those. A few miles in was our first break in the forest where we caught glimpses of Gray Wolf Ridge as the trail crossed a slide.

Hereafter, the trail meandered along at the base of The Needles with mostly gentle upgrades alternating between forest and open areas which afforded views to craggy peaks upvalley. Just before the lake was a large meadow where some nice man and lady gave our advance group Tootsie Rolls and baby Snickers bars. Sure was a welcome snack after having come so many miles. We crossed Royal Creek on a couple of flimsy poles with no problem.

Then all of a sudden Mr. Nice Trail disappeared and was replaced by this ugly dry, dusty, rutted straight-up path strewn with boulders. Luckily it didn't last long. Soon we topped out at delightful Royal Lake where we all plopped down for our first lunch.

The last mile to the upper basin lured us ever onward and upward. The warm sun softened the snow patches we crossed as we made our way to the various levels of Royal Basin. Here were meadows, moraines, and mountains.

We ate the remainder of our lunch atop a knoll overlooking the basin's only lake. Ah, to be owls so we could swivel our heads to catch the cirque of snowcovered peaks encompassing the entire area. What an incredible place. It invites a return visit to check out all the nooks and crannies.

Jacki proclaimed it the prettiest place she'd ever been which began a lively discussion of "Have you ever been to ...?" All too soon, we headed back down the trail.

Thus ended our Olympic outing for this year. Wonderful hikes with a great group of ladies. Thanks again, Trudy, for hosting this annual event.—Ginny Evans, Renton, 7/20.

**CHARLIA LAKES (GT Tyler Pk; CC Buckhorn Wilderness)**—Last summer my regular backcountry hiking partner (from Pennsylvania) and I intended to visit Charlia Lakes via the Upper Big Quilcene trail and Marmot Pass, accessing it on the waytrail south of Boulder Shelter as described in Bob Wood's excellent guide. Blowdowns and the heavy snows foiled our attempt. This year we went back.

I left Olympia at 5am to rendezvous with Celeste at the Penny Creek access road off Highway 101 south of Quilcene. I had proposed either a round-trip via last year's Marmot Pass route or leav-



ing one vehicle at the end of a spur off road 2740 (Tunnel Creek) and bush-whacking the calculated 5 miles or so east from Charlia Lakes once we reached them from the west. Celeste quickly persuaded us to hike in along Tunnel Creek from the east, returning the same way. The weather was glorious, temperatures moderate, slight breeze flowing over our not-yet-fevered brows as we drove to the spur road shown on our maps.

The spur off road 2740 had been "put to bed" and was berm-blocked 50 yards in. We commenced our hike on the closed road about 7:30. We figured we'd reach the first and larger of the lakes by noon (or 1pm at latest), enjoy a leisurely lunch, return to our vehicles in late afternoon, have dinner, then split for our respective homes. (As Bobby Burns noted, plans "gang aft agley"!)

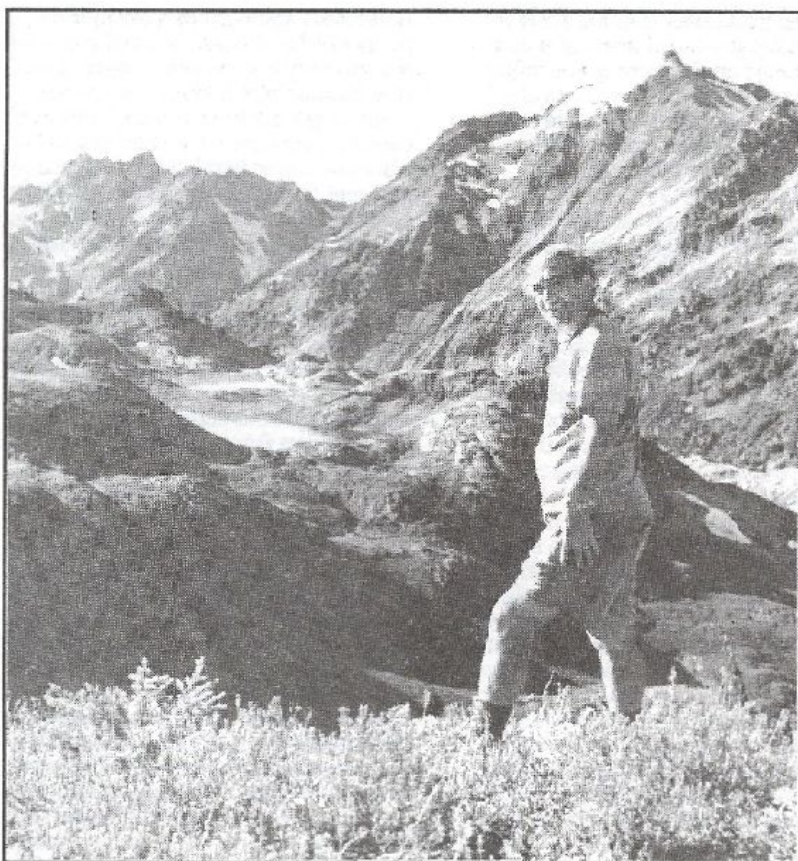
We were pleasantly surprised to find a "fishermen's trail" immediately obvious at the end of the road. Created and maintained somewhat over many years, cuts through, and notched steps in, many downed trees appeared to range from as old as decades to as young as a year or two. Flagging was intermittent; some sections regularly marked, others missing or lost to numerous recent blowdowns.

To shorten this lengthening story, after traversing relatively easy sections, challenging sections and blowdowns, losing and finding portions of marked trail many times, seeing spectacular waterfalls of cascading Tunnel Creek's north fork, enjoying often impressive displays of over two score species of wildflowers, nibbling on infrequent huckleberries and blackberries, and clambering over exposed rock and scree slopes, we found ourselves still short of the lake, tiring, and beginning to despair of reaching it before having to turn back.

Finally, at 4:20pm we crested the ridge top and descended to a very welcome and lovely, pristine tarn of clear, cool, inviting water. We'd gained about 3400 feet to reach the 5700-foot clevation of this larger of the Charlia Lakes.

After enjoying a well-earned and very delayed lunch and bathing of feet at the lake, we departed at 5:35, this time being able to follow the trail out with but occasional lapses of loss and relocation. Three hours found us back to the road; 50 minutes more and my truck was in very welcome view.

While backpacking in and camping at the lake is extremely appealing, we were relieved not to have been wrestling backpacks over and under the substantial blowdowns and heavy brush we



Lee McKee

Phil Glass in upper Queets Basin.

encountered. While the map distance "as the Corvids fly" for our hike covered about 5 miles, we estimated our on-the-ground, clearly non-linear route was closer to 7 or 8 miles each way. Nevertheless, this was one of the nicest hikes we've had in our ten years (to the day!) of hiking together in the Olympics, in terms of solitude (we saw no one from the time we left one vehicle just off Highway 101 until we returned to it), wildflowers, vistas of clouds and sky, distant landmarks, peaks, escarpments, waterfalls, and the tarn. The absence of a fully maintained trail, the strenuous portions of the hike and vertical gain, especially the last third of the way, should help keep this destination from being over-visited or loved to death.

Finally, we found a note on the windshield from Bill Sipple. I spoke with him the next day and learned he's one of the folks who built and helped maintain this trail over many years. He told me it actually is used to reach Warrior Peak basin, Charlia Lake and for climbing Mount Constance from the north.

Celeste and I headed home about 9:40pm and I hit the sack in Olympia near midnight. A very fascinating and

rewarding nearly-twenty-hour day!—Bill Jolly, Olympia, 8/2.



### JUPITER RIDGE (USGS Brinnon, Mt Jupiter)

—I have long wanted to do this hike and finally made it! Although this mountain is reputed to be a rough ascent, the worst part of the journey was the drive to the trailhead. First of all, the turn-off is easy to miss. Then the road is steep, dusty, and generally not in great shape. But, hey, it keeps the crowds away.

Heather and I were the only ones out today. It was a hot. We carried lots of water as there is none along the 7.2-mile route. The first 3 to 4 miles are very enjoyable, good tread, good grade. Once we hit The Brothers Wilderness boundary we climbed and climbed — each switchback revealed more elevation we must attain. Don't stop—the views of the Puget Basin and the peaks of the Brothers and Buckhorn wildernesses are grand!—Craig Romano, Seattle, 8/3.




### TUBAL CAIN (USGS Mt Zion)

—Lew and I drove around the Gold Creek road outage, as many have learned to do, to hike the Tubal

Cain Mine trail. Trail is in excellent shape but fog prevented any real views. We scrambled up the scree to the mine entrance and in a little way. The volume of water coming from within the mine prevented our exploring further. Would be easy with rubber boots of some kind.

The length was about 6 or 7 miles and 900 feet of elevation gain. Few people (five plus us) on this Friday. Also saw three firemen coming in responding to somebody's report of a smoke. We neither saw nor smelled any smoke. The danger is high, though, so they were being careful. One said there was a total ban on campfires, but many of the fire rings we saw had been recently used and we were not made aware of the prohibition by any signage.—Tom Karasek, Stanwood, 8/11.


 **UPPER LENA LAKE (USGS Mt Washington)**—John had never hiked to Upper Lena Lake and the years had dimmed memories of my last struggle with that rough, rooty and steep trail; so on a clear, sunny Monday we decided to make it our destination.

Hamma Hamma road was still open (it has since closed for construction) and the trail to Lower Lena Lake was pleasant, popular and populated as always.

From Lower Lena Lake up to the Olympic National Park boundary (at 4 miles) the trail is still an easy grade but once in the Park, it gets steeper, full of exposed roots and big, loose rolling rocks. At 5 miles the trail crosses a creek on a sturdy, high, wide log and from there on it becomes a challenge.

It is very steep, badly eroded and difficult. Surprisingly, even though the trail had not seen any maintenance work done in years, all the fallen trees and blowdowns, except one, have been cleared from it. For that I am thankful.

The lake itself is a beautiful jewel in a perfect setting and we had it all to ourselves. As we were leaving, two backpackers arrived with plans to stay four days. The trip took us 10 hours, including 1 hour at the lake for me and 1½ hours for John. It was a very good day.—Ircna, Olympia, 8/7.

 **QUILCENE TRAVERSE (USGS Mt Townsend, Mt Deception)**—After catching the first ferry of the day out of Edmonds, I met James Hamaker (from Tacoma) at the Hood Canal Bridge. From here we carpoled to the Big Quilcene trail, elevation 2500 feet.

Our plan was to hike to Marmot Pass and then traverse both the southwest

(6988 feet) and northeast (6956 feet) peaks of Mount Buckhorn and continue our traverse by climbing on over to Iron Mountain at 6750.

We began our hike at 8am. The cloudy, foggy conditions were a bit discouraging at first but made it nice and cool for hiking up the trail as the Quilcene River constantly serenaded us. Just below Marmot Pass near Camp Mystery we broke out of the clouds into brilliant sunshine causing our spirits to skyrocket. Funny what a little sunshine will do!

We made the 5.3-mile hike to the 6000-foot pass in exactly two hours and took a well deserved break. Climbing northeast from the pass, the southwest summit is easily attained. A fellow from Port Townsend preceded us to the top as did a curious mountain goat.

It was interesting that the foggy Quilcene River valley stayed socked in all day, while the opposite side of the ridge was totally clear. We were right on the edge of the clouds but remained in the sun all day.

The northeast peak of Buckhorn is lower than its neighbor but is a more challenging climb. From the summit, it is a very steep scramble down to the col between Buckhorn and Iron and James and I chose slightly different routes. The climb back up was more enjoyable.

Iron has many summits and we climbed them all to be sure we had the high point. At about 1:30pm I began reading copied pages from my climbing guide. The guide does not describe a route from Iron to Worthington (aka Copper), 6900 feet, nor from Buckhorn to Iron for that matter, but we saw what we thought were possibilities.

In celebration of the summer solstice we agreed that we had plenty of daylight and that we should head to Mount Worthington and then, if possible, on to Hawk Peak, 6550 feet. Iron, Worthington and Hawk all have route descriptions from the Quilcene River valley so we figured we could drop off the ridge and back down to the main trail anywhere along the way. We made it our mission to see if we could link all of these peaks in a long, high traverse.

Finding a route we could scramble off Iron was a bit tricky at first, and getting to Worthington looked like a chore. Once down to the connecting ridge, we dropped off the north side another several hundred feet more by glissading and traversing a large snowslope to some ledges which we hoped would take us across to the saddle.

We were fortunate that this route went. We were navigating by eyeballing the routes using our two maps, a

Custom Correct and a Green Trails, along with a good amount of instinct. A bit of scrambling brought us up to a beautiful grassy ridge line. As we got close to topping out we would see a 60-foot tower ahead with a sling around a detached column. Was this the highpoint?

It wasn't but it did look like we might be able to scramble up it. James headed around to the north side of the tower while I headed straight up underneath the detached column. Once I got to the column, I was able to chimney on up, removing the slings as I went. They looked chewed-on, but a fairly new carabiner held them together. The route James came up was nothing more than a Class 3 scramble which made us wonder why slings had been left. On the nearby ridge we found a cairn 4 feet high and 3 feet in diameter and wondered if there was any significance to it.

More traversing and steep scrambling took us on up to what we thought was the summit. Another ¼-mile distant, however, was another very distinct summit which could be higher. It was hard to tell.

The *Climber's Guide* states that the routes up both Worthington and Hawk are from their connecting saddle. We couldn't even see the connecting saddle until we were on the eastern summit. This took some real route finding as the traverse was heavily pinnacled, and was much too long to describe. At one point James gave us a 50/50 chance of finding a suitable route over to Worthington's other summit.

Eventually we did get there only to look back at the western summit which really appeared higher. On the eastern summit we found a cairn and a film canister. Inside the canister was a card from a clean and sober climbing club and two names. They wrote "Made it, almost," which seemed to confirm that the western summit is higher.

From here we had an 800-foot drop to the 6100-foot Worthington-Hawk saddle. Clouds were starting to drift over from the Quilcene River valley to occasionally engulf us. James and I chose different lines dropping off to the south and soon lost each other in the fog. Occasional yells to each other confirmed that neither of us had been abducted by aliens. It was really eerie.

Technical climbing demanded that I traverse back north and then down more toward the saddle. As I moved closer toward the ridgecrest, I got back out of the clouds. I could hear noises coming from James who was still in the white fog. Down at the saddle we were back in brilliant sunshine.

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

Hawk Mountain was an easy walk up 450 feet from the saddle. We made our final summit of the day about 4:30pm. It had been a Grand Traverse with a lot of high end scrambling and route finding! As we descended the clouds totally engulfed us for the rest of the day.

It was a 2600-foot drop back to the Quilcene River valley from the saddle. The final drop was pretty interesting in the fog as it greatly reduced our visibility. For the most part we followed animal tracks down a drainage, traversing out of it once to avoid a waterfall. We hit the Big Quilcene trail about 2½ miles from the trailhead. We got back to the trailhead just before 7pm, almost exactly 11 hours after we started.—Don Beavon, Lynnwood, 6/21.



## LAKE LILLIAN (USGS Maiden Pk, Wellesley Pk)

We hiked into Gladys Lake on a Thursday and had the place to ourselves. After setting up camp, we hiked up to the pass above Gladys Lake for a view of the Lillian Valley, as we were not sure we would get a view the following day. Local rain was predicted in the mountain forecast. We found the "trail" to the rock slide and watched it descend, but we turned back to camp and left that for tomorrow.

Marilyn Barnowe-Meyer's article in *Pack & Paddle* (February 1998) was our guide. It was very helpful and a bit like a treasure hunt when we found each piece of trail or tarn and then Lake Lillian itself.

Friday, we woke to clear skies and got started. After retracing our steps from yesterday evening we arrived at the bottom of the rock slide under peak 6701. Here we moved left through the trees, and picked up a trail that went down the avalanche chute. We were about 500 feet below the pass. Again, we picked up an old segment of trail and worked through the trees to the left. There was one old blaze on a tree.

This trail brought us out into the meadow and we recognized the tarn below us. After a quick inventory of large tadpoles, we crossed Lillian Creek. From here we again climbed through a steep section of trees that had azalea in the understory. This was hard to get through, but short.

We came out on a meadow section and climbed up until we came to a broad rockslide that traversed the big buttress that shows on the map. This was stable and a fairly easy corridor that brought us to the basin below the lakes. Here we chose to drop down and cross the outflow creeks and regain the elevation to the upper lake.

A small snow patch below Lake Lillian allowed us to climb up easily. The lake itself was about 75% thawed. There was a skim of fresh ice on the lake and some very beautiful icebergs. The lower lake was completely frozen over with some blue melt-water on top. Flowers around the camp spot were beautiful and we had the basin to ourselves on a gorgeous day. It took us 3½ hours to get to the lake and we spent an hour there.

We returned to the pass above Gladys Lake in three hours only to find a wall of dense fog coming above the rim from Grand Valley. We lounged for a half hour on the warm slate and watched Lillian Valley fill with fog before descending to our camp. There were still no other campers at Gladys Lake.

In the morning it was clear again with a hint of fall in the air. Sandy rescued hundreds of tadpoles that were in a dried-up mud puddle and moved them to water. We hiked out through Badger Valley and saw a solitary male pine grosbeak perched on a willow, eating sedge seeds. The flowers in upper Badger Valley were at their peak.

We ran into only four people on this route, although many cars were in the parking lot.—Sandy, Cindy, and Judy, Olympia, 8/10-12.

**WEST FORK DOSEWALLIPS**—Trail remains closed due to bridge damage.—Ranger, 8/23.

**DUNGENESS ROAD 2860**—Upper 2860 is open to Upper Dungeness. Lower 2860 from road 28 is closed.—Ranger, 8/23.

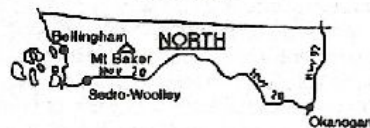
**HAMMA HAMMA ROAD**—The road has been closed for the rest of 2000 through 2001 for improvement. The work begins where the current two-lane road ends and will continue to

the junction with road 2480.

To bypass the construction, take highway 119 at Hoodspoint, past Lake Cushman, and take road 24 to road 2480, which allows access to road 25 above the work area.—Ranger, 8/23.

**OLYMPIC NATL PARK**—For information on fees, regulations, permits and the like, call 360-452-0300.

## NORTH



## SAUK MOUNTAIN (USGS Sauk Mtn)

—It was a beautiful day and a hike to match. There was a single car at the trailhead which started on the road since the final ¼-mile was blocked by snow. The trail is short and can be totally seen from the parking lot.

We were treated to a wildflower show of glacier lilies on the way up, and Sauk Lake was still mostly frozen and the trail to it snowcovered.

We had the summit to ourselves for quite a while and enjoyed a view of the North Cascades that we usually have to work for days to get.—Ben and Nancy Brodie and Sparky CDX, Edmonds, 7/17.



## PARK BUTTE LOOKOUT (GT Hamilton)

—Lucky and I met our hiking friend, Al, in Sedro Woolley, and drove east on Highway 20 to the Baker Lake road, then north to the Mount Baker National Recreation Area. We followed road 13 about 5 miles, mostly north and considerably up, to the trailhead, at 3350 feet. We shouldered our packs and headed up the trail.

The first part of the trail crosses Sulphur Creek, then meanders through Schreiber's Meadows for perhaps a mile. Despite a score of cars in the parking lot we saw no one until we crossed three lahars—remnants of volcanic activity in 1912—where we encountered three hikers descending.

Entering the forest, the trail begins to climb. The mosquitoes decreased and the lupine increased, and we were glad for the shade, as the early fog was long gone and the day beginning to heat up. We slogged along, enjoying the occasional glimpse of mountains to the south.

Another mile brought us to the high-end intersection with the Scott Paul trail. We headed west to the Baker Pass trail and were overtaken by four young people from Toulouse, France. They passed us, but a few minutes later we

## 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

found them, confused, not certain which trail led to Park Butte. They were looking at a "Trail Closed" sign, posted on a side trail, and we soon set them right, and they led off.

This is the lower Morovitz Meadow, a real beauty. Plenty of wildflowers compete with sweeping vistas: Baker to the northeast, Cathedral Crags to the north, the Sisters range to the west, and never-ending Cascades to the south and east. Through the haze, one could just make out Mount Rainier.

Winding up through the lower and upper meadow took awhile. The first snowfield was slippery and slowed us considerably. When we got to the point where we could see the 5400-foot-high lookout, another vast snowfield obscured the trail. The French group was climbing the butte, something I wasn't looking forward to. However, since there was no visible trail where the young Europeans were, Al, Lucky, and I headed south, and discovered the trail. After a stunning view of Pocket Lake, we emerged just below the lookout—and just ahead of the short-cutting youngsters.

Part of the guardrail that surrounds the lookout is damaged, but it wouldn't have made any difference to me. I'm too nervous about heights to get on that platform, even with a good handrail. Al retreated after a quick look around, and Lucky had zero interest.

In his excellent book *Hiking the North Cascades*, Dr. Fred T. Darvill, Jr. says, "The view from Park Butte ... may be one of the most beautiful places on earth." He is correct. We sat for an

hour, just looking, eating lunch, and swatting the occasional mosquito.

At 1:30 we decided to head down. Suddenly everyone we hadn't encountered popped up: at least thirty folks headed for Park Butte, a dozen headed for the summit, a Boy Scout troop headed down from Railroad camp, and assorted hikers making the Scott Paul loop. We were glad to get to the car and head out.

A stop for pie and coffee at the Iron Skillet in Sedro Woolley rounded out a terrific day.—David and Lucky, Bellingham, 8/5.



**PARK BUTTE** (USGS Hamilton, Mt Baker)—Turn on the Baker Lake road about 20 miles east of Sedro Woolley. In about 12 miles a left turn (signed Mt. Baker National Recreation area) takes you to the trailhead at Schriebers Meadows.

Signs still direct you to a detour on a snowmobile trail due to construction of a new bridge over Sulphur Creek which washed out last winter. It appears, however, that the bridge is finished and usable except for railings. After about a mile you have to cross the creek created from the melt from Easton Glacier. There are two major forks. One has a suspension bridge for easy crossing, the other you have to boulder hop. On our return some of the boulders we had hopped on going up were under water and nearly everyone got wet feet.

The trail reenters the woods and climbs in about 2 miles to a meadow where the trail branches, right to the Railroad Grade and left to Park Butte.

We did this hike too early and there was still lots of snow. Most of our group stayed in the meadow with its splendid view of Mount Baker. Three hardy souls pushed on to the lookout for even better views.—Leigh Champlin, Seattle, 7/30.



**RAINBOW RIDGE** (GT Mt Shuksan)—This trail is not shown on any map that we know of, but is definitely there and easy enough to follow. However, until you reach the ridgeline at 1.5 miles, it is quite steep, gaining 1000 feet, and quite rough, with trees and rocks and roots to climb over and around. At about a mile, we started running into pockets of snow.

After reaching the ridge, we followed the trail toward Mount Baker, sometimes steeply up and down, for another ¾-mile to a high point at 4816 feet. Fabulous views all along the ridge, but mainly Shuksan and Baker. Rainbow Glacier and roaring Rainbow Creek (1600 feet below in Avalanche Gorge) are also especially nice.

We spent two hours at the top waiting for the clouds to part. They continued to tantalize us with brief views, but we were finally able to get some good camera shots. We were expecting to find solitude on this trail, but passed many people, dogs, and backpackers on our way back down, finding seven vehicles at the trailhead. Bugs were quite bad on the way up to the ridgeline, but tolerable after that.

Drive Highway 20 east from Sedro Woolley, and then north on Baker Lake-Grandy Lake road, following it for 17.5 miles. Just after crossing the bridge, turn left onto road 1130 and follow 9.5 miles to road end.

The final 5 miles deteriorate somewhat, but passenger cars can make it okay. Foliage on both side of the road will scrape the sides of your car. Several possible campspots with views at the trailhead, which is at the end of the short road straight ahead past the final Y.—C. Berner, Renton, 8/12.

## GOAT PEAK LOOKOUT

(USGS McLeod Mtn)—The flowers were out in full force. Balsam-root was mixed with lupine, a sight I hadn't seen before.

We had the lookout to ourselves and could see what we thought was Sheep Mountain but wasn't according to "Lightning Bill" whom we met coming up as we were going down. There were lots of larches, so this would make a great fall hike.—Ben and Nancy Brodie and Sparky CDX, Edmonds, 7/19.



Linda and Kristina Wilson hear the blueberries call their names on Excelsior Ridge. Mount Baker Wilderness.

Shirley Haley

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

**BUCKSKIN RIDGE** (USGS *Slate Pk, Pasayten Pk*)—The drive to Harts Pass was as spooky as ever. The hike quickly went over the ridge where it disappeared in snow on a steep slope with 300 feet of exposure. We headed downhill more directly in soft but very steep snow and scree to avoid the long exposure.

The hike was a breeze from here, up and down through beautiful flower meadows with views toward Robinson Pass. It seemed farther than the trail distance, but we finally arrived at the lake where the poor starving mosquito squadrons were waiting patiently for an ambush. We saw some fish, a few hikers, and ate our pilot bread and peanut butter, then quickly headed back.

Once back at the car we walked up the road to the must-see view from the lookout cabin. The ranger told us that if we had used the West Fork Pasayten trail, we could have avoided the steep snow patches. There is a built path that takes off from it that connects to the Buckskin Ridge trail.—Ben and Nancy Brodie and Sparky CDX, Edmonds, 7/18.

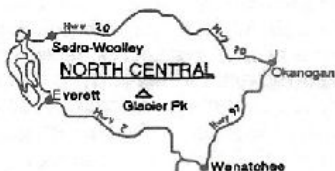
**YELLOW ASTER BUTTE**—New trail completed, trail junction not yet signed. Keep Kool trail no longer maintained. No camping along new trail. Do not walk or camp on heather. In good shape.—Ranger, 8/15.

**LITTLE BEAVER**—Trail brushed out and clear from lake to junction with Big Beaver. Some sections of trail partially underwater at Perry Creek requiring easy wading. Bridge over Little Beaver at Stillwell is unstable, use caution; only one person at a time on bridge.—Ranger, 8/14.

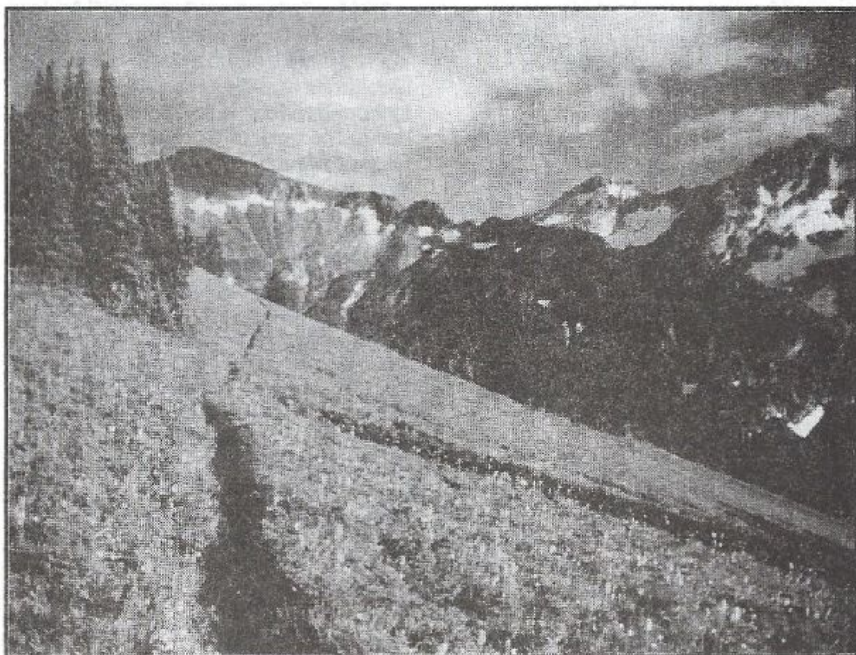
**PASAYTEN WILDERNESS**—For current conditions, fire status reports, call 509-996-4000.—Ranger, 8/23.

**MOUNT BAKER DIST**—For info call the Sedro Woolley office, 360-856-5700, or the Glacier office, 360-599-2714.

## NORTH CENTRAL



**FOURTH OF JULY PASS** (USGS *Ross Dam, Crater Mtn*)  
—I left our campsite at Colonial Creek



Larry Smith

The waytrail near Liberty Cap at Buck Creek Pass, Glacier Peak Wilderness.

campground around 9:30am and walked up the Thunder Creek trail to the junction with the trail up over Fourth of July Pass. I continued up to the campsite near the pass, where I had an early lunch. I had made good time, so I thought it was worth continuing down the Panther Creek drainage, since I was sure I would be able to get back to our car campsite by supertime even if I had to walk the 8 miles of Highway 20 between Panther Creek and the Colonial Creek campground.

When I left camp that morning I told Jo Anne not to expect me back before 6pm since I might end up doing the 19.5 mile crossover (11.5 miles of trail and 8 miles of highway).

The trail as far as Fourth of July camp is in excellent shape. Beyond that point, I had to climb over, under, or around 14 trees, none of which presented any real problem.

What did cause a good bit of delay was that at each avalanche chute (and there are many of them, once one gets below about 2800 feet in the Panther Creek drainage) the brush was terrible. At times I was unable to see the trail below me, and had to feel for it with my feet. Some of these brushy sections are hundreds of feet long.

At a couple of them the trail is perched right above the torrent of Panther Creek, and a slip off the trail would be disastrous. So I was very careful (and slow) in these sections. There was a little bit of old avalanche snow at one point—amazing to see it as low as

2300 feet in August.

Finally I got down to about 1900 feet and figured my problems were over. I could see the bridge (in good shape) across Panther Creek. The trail is on the west side of the creek from the pass to this point, and on the east side from here to the highway. There were a few footlogs across tributary streams near the main crossing, all of which were also in good shape. It was now about 2:15 and I was beginning to feel tired—enough bush-bashing!

This Washington state brush along Panther Creek could hold its own in a competition against what British Columbia has to offer.

I was wrong about my problems being over. I found that I had to climb about 800 feet above the creek on a series of switchbacks, only to throw that all away again dropping down to the highway.

The Crater Mountain quadrangle does not show the switchbacks, nor does it show any reason (such as cliffs) why this altitude gain and loss might be necessary. At least there were no more battles with brush. Near the top of the switchbacks I took a break, drank the last of my 4 litres of carried water, and had another bite to eat.

I got down to the highway about 4:15. I talked a family who had just finished their hike at the nearby East Bank trail head into giving me a ride back to Colonial Creek campground, so I didn't have to scare Jo Anne by being late for supper. And I certainly didn't want to

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walk 8 more miles of blacktop!

The trail is an interesting one, but the brush is bad, and hazardous when the trail is right next to the stream. By the way, during nearly seven hours of hiking I saw no one until I got to the highway.—David, Burnaby, 8/3.

**BLUE LAKE** (*USGS Washington Pass*)—The views were great of Cutthroat ridge, Early Winters Spires, and Liberty Bell. We were greeted at the lake by several mountain goats and their kids. One couple coming in said they thought this hike had the most bang for the effort anywhere.—Ben and Nancy Brodie and Sparky CDX, Edmonds, 7/20.

**HIDDEN LAKE PEAK LOOKOUT** (*GT Diablo Dam, Cascade Pass*)—My friend Carrie and I had the trail to ourselves most of the way on this Friday, seeing only saw six other people the whole day.

Once you leave the forest, the trail switchbacks through dense brush before crossing the East Fork Sibley Creek. The shoulder-high brush was wet from the overnight dew and there were lots of stinging nettles along the way. Then we hiked through granite rocks, heather, lots of varieties of wildflowers and many small streams with waterfalls. Two gullies were still full of snow, so we had to watch our step.

Before getting to the pass, we hiked up a snowfield where we could see the lookout building high on the summit rocks above. The trail around the backside is now snowfree, but steep with some boulder hopping near the top.

Hidden Lake down below still had some ice on it and the clouds kept blowing in and out, obscuring the view of the mountains in the North Cascades. The lookout building is still in good shape, due to the work of the Skagit Alpine Club of Mount Vernon. The group took over maintenance of the lookout in 1960 and we have them to thank for providing us the same view that fire lookouts had when the building was constructed in 1931 until it was last manned in 1953.

You can stay overnight at the lookout, as the bed, table and chairs, a cook stove and other amenities are still there to use. We had fun reading through the hiker register books left by the Skagit Alpine Club. I found names of old Everett Mountaineer members; even the crew of the Starship Enterprise had been by looking for dilithium crystals. This hike has some of the best views in all of the Cascades.—George Chambers, Bothell, 8/11.

**JOHANNESBURG, CASCADE, THE TRIPLETS** (*USGS Cascade Pass*)—Stefan and I met in Lynnwood at 3am and loaded mountain bikes and backpacks into the back of my truck. The Cascade River road was closed at milepost 21 so we biked in to save a little time.

The route we decided on was up the Cascade-Johannesburg Col and out a day later via Cache Col. The climb to the col was in good shape. It was simply a matter of kicking steps up the ever-steepening slope.

It was a long way up, 3200 feet, but direct and we made fairly quick time, reaching the col in 2 hours and 40 min-

utes. Here we emptied our packs of all unnecessary gear and analyzed the route. We scrambled directly up the rock at the col but soon found ourselves doing some stressful climbing over exposed rock that led us toward a ridge crest. The occasional Class 5 moves had me believing that we were getting off route. A quick check of the route description had me more convinced as I read that we should keep left of the crest.

At the crest, we were faced with what looked like a cornice of snow to the right and a wall or fin of snow 15 feet high immediately ahead with slabby looking rock to the left. We decided to rope up. I was on a 60-foot piece of 8-mil rope to the right of the slab hoping that a cornice to my right wouldn't break off as I hacked away at the top of the snowy fin in an effort to see if the route ahead would go.

I backed off once to put my mitts on and nearly backed off again to give up the lead. Somehow I got up the nerve to haul myself over the thin ridge and what I saw gave me hope. It looked like we could traverse the top of this ridge 40 or 50 feet to more steep snow slopes and get back on route.

As I topped out, Stefan stated that he was out of rope and would simul-climb. This initially made me nervous but it was quite safe considering we were on opposite sides of the ridge. We then climbed unroped up the steep snow slopes all the way to the summit ridge at 8000 feet.

The view ahead took us both by surprise. The summit still looked a long way off and a bit complicated. For the most part we stayed near the crest on the south side, crossing gully after gully. This section of the route was mostly snowfree except for the gullies. It was not exactly a casual scramble but eventually we did top out and could finally relax and enjoy the views. We'd made it in time for lunch, 6 hours after we left my truck.

Forbidden Peak, Mount Torment, Eldorado, Boston and Buckner were especially nice. To the east a series of lenticular clouds made me wonder about the wisdom of our planned bivouac.

On the descent we found a steep gully farther south of our ascent that worked out well. We did have to knock down a series of sluff avalanches, however, to clear the route. A bit of Class 3 and 4 rock below brought us back to the col where I was glad to be back on ground I couldn't fall off of.

**Cascade:** Now that we were off Johannesburg it was time to concentrate on our next objective. From Johannesburg there appeared to be a beautiful



Dave Sherbrooke in Spider Meadows, Glacier Peak Wilderness.

Alan Sherbrooke

snow-filled gully on the south side of Cascade Peak that would take us close to the summit.

The bottom of this gully was bare and we used our ice axes in steep wet vegetation to haul ourselves up. A bit of wet rock with minimal holds made us glad to be back on the snow above. We found two gullies rising here that caused a bit of confusion but we decided to follow the right-hand one as it was the more major of the two.

At the top of the gully we made an easy scramble across the rock to the summit. We were the 12th party to sign the summit register since it was placed there in the early '60s.

At the bottom of the col we rapped the snowless area. As I was pulling down the ropes with Stefan below me, several rocks dislodged. One of the rocks struck Stefan just below the helmet taking out a small chunk of his ear. My heart ached for him as he withered in pain. He bled quite a bit but was ready to carry on once it stopped.

**The Triplets:** I had been eyeing some bare spots a couple of hundred feet downslope and was hoping we could find something to bivi on. Stefan glissaded ahead and waved me down. Clouds moved in during the night but at least it wasn't raining. We rose at 5:40am to cloud-shrouded peaks and deteriorating conditions. Nonetheless we packed up and headed over to The Triplets.

We wound around to its east side and followed the southeast ridge to a bit of Class 3 and 4 rock. This took us to easier terrain and soon to a spot where we could climb no higher.

In the near-whiteout conditions we wondered whether we were really on the summit. Finally I found a film cannister with a damp note left by the Skoog brothers from 1989.

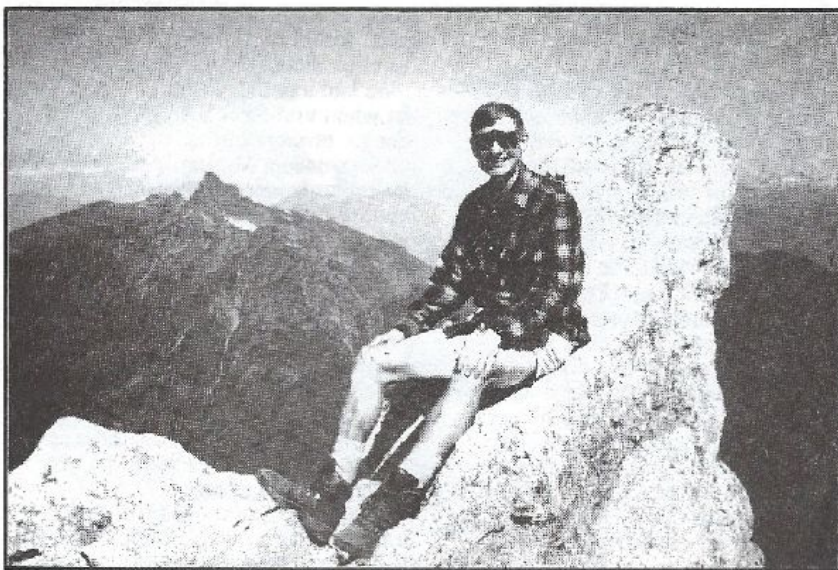
Precipitation began in the form of ice pellets and drove us from the summit. Soon it was downright ugly with a good amount of wind, and wave after wave of rain. Mixup Peak would have to wait. We decided we could climb it today and be miserable or save it for a sunny day and have a good time.

We returned to the Johannesburg-Cascade Col and made quick work of the 3200-foot descent.—Don Beavon, Lynnwood, 7/17-18.



## BEAR, PINNACLE LAKES (GT Granite Falls, Silverton)

—The trail is in good condition and natural (the people with the boards and gravel have not been there yet). Our group of 15 cleared a lot of overhanging foliage and cut off two 6- to 8-inch trees felled by winter winds and ice. We



D. Anschell

Ken Hopping at the summit of Mount Pugh. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

drained a few snow-fed puddles and had a wonderful trek to both lakes.

The lake was glassy smooth and it was clear and bright in the noonday sun. Above Pinnacle's west end, Mount Pilchuck stood proud.

The trail along the top of the ridge was nice. We were able to get our boots muddy in a couple of spots. We even had a few snowballs whizzing around cooling those with whom they collided. The tarns were spectacular.

A couple of bad parts of the trip were the deer flies and the road. On a couple of the sharp turns are a few spring-busting bumps. Not so bad going down, but going up, beware!—Wanderbuns, Kirkland, 8/5.



## INDEPENDENCE, NORTH LAKES (USGS Silverton)—

As Mary Suttiff used to say, if it's going to rain anywhere it will be the Mountain Loop. We figured this time it wasn't going to rain anywhere at all. Beautiful weather greeted us yet again. And the nice thing about the Mountain Loop Highway is that the mountains there are so rugged and up close and personal.

Since the next day we planned to climb Stillaguamish Peak, today we chose something easy. Ha! We figured that with North Lake at only 7 miles round trip, how difficult could it be? Well, if we had read the guidebook concerning the rough trail, we would have known. The smooth trail ended only a few yards in and was replaced by roots and rocks for the remainder of the trip.

Typical lowland Independence Lake comes up quick in less than a mile. Popular with families, we saw many

tents in the camping area at the north end of the lake. From here, the route switchbacks steeply up the open flower-filled slope with views of Devils Thumb across the valley. The huge Alaskan twin cedar along the way is very impressive. We lunched on the ridge overlooking Baker and Shuksan. From atop a little nearby knoll, we were able to see Whitehorse and Three Fingers as well.

Gaining another ridge, we overlooked North Lake far below. Snow covered much of the waytrail down so we decided to just head straight down the heather benches. Eventually we picked up the trail again and were soon at the lake. Although North Lake is in a hole with no views, it is incredibly beautiful. Quite a few guys were at the lake. One told us the shortest and easiest way back was up the large snowfield in the gully and in no time we were back on the ridge.

At 5pm, we were just above Independence Lake when along came little groups of guys and gals all headed for North Lake. No packs and wearing only running shoes, already empty water bottles in hand, I wonder how far they really made it. All the guys looked dressed up in polo shirts and dress shorts. Really weird.

Tired but satisfied, we drove to a campsite along the highway only to have the hot water check valve break and flood our RV floor. So we headed home instead.—Ginny Evans, Renton, 8/5.



## BLUE LAKE, PILOT RIDGE, BALD EAGLE

LOOP (USGS Benchmark Mtn, Blanca

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Lk)—We began our trip at the Bald Eagle trail—but first I had to drop off the car at the North Fork Sauk trail where we'd be coming out. I left Heather with the packs at the trailhead; I ran the 3 miles up the road after parking the car—great way to warm up for our hike; lousy way to digest a sausage McMuffin!

The first 2 miles—old road, blah. The second 2 miles buggy, especially at Curry Gap, no stopping. The third 2 miles—steep to Bald Eagle Peak. The remaining miles fantastic—all high ridge, open meadows, billions of flowers and extensive views.


We continued to June Mountain then dropped to Lower Blue Lake on the Pilot Ridge trail, then up the Blue Lake High Route to pretty little Blue Lake. This was a long day (13 miles trail, 3 miles road) but the payoff high. We set up camp on a ridge overlooking the lake with its floating chunks of ice. Only two other parties of two shared the basin.

The next day without heavy packs we hiked out of the basin on the High Route, scrambled the high point by the pass and feasted on views. Glacier Peak dominated as well as Johnson Peak across from the lake. The highcountry meadows from White Pass to Dishpan Gap spread out below us.

We descended to Dishpan, then hiked the PCT to Kodak Peak. On the way back we hiked the Bald Eagle trail to June Mountain and then repeated the drop to Lower Blue Lake and then back to our camp at the upper Lake.

Our day out was via Pilot Ridge, a traverse of almost non-stop flower-drenched meadows for 6 miles before entering the forest. I did the sidetrip up Johnson Mountain, but it was clouded in. Lots of marmots whistled me a welcome.


Pilot Ridge descends hard and fast and I wouldn't want to come up this way. The final 1.5 miles on the North Sauk is an easy trek through giant cedars. I highly recommend this loop. Trails in great shape; some blowdown trees on Pilot Ridge. All the steep snow, thanks to the weeks of hot weather, has melted out. Bugs are a bit heavy, but not enough to diminish a great time.—Craig Romano, Seattle, 8/9-11.

 **GOTHIC BASIN (USGS Monte Cristo)**—Drive the Mountain Loop Highway to the large parking area at Barlow Pass.

The trailhead is about 1 mile up the gated Monte Cristo road. It is about 4 miles to Gothic Basin and about 1500 feet of gain. The trail is in woods most of the way. Several streams cross the trail. Most were easy, but the last one had a large snow bridge which looked

unstable so we made our way down the gully, across the creek and climbed up the other side. Quite an ordeal.

We had intended to go to Foggy Lake, but when we reached the basin there was too much snow and although there were footprints leading up we decided to stop for lunch at the frozen pond. A few wildflowers near the beginning, along with a few biting insects.—Leigh Champlin, Seattle, 8/13.

 **SILVER CREEK (GT Monte Cristo)**—I had not been up to the old Mineral City site north of Index since I drove up the old road back in 1978. The road has been closed for many years, but you can still hike up to the site of the mining town from over one hundred years ago.


You can drive up the gravel road from the Galena townsite after crossing the North Fork Skykomish River for no more than 1½ miles, but only if you have a high clearance vehicle with four wheel drive.

The first slide above Silver Creek has a trail across it, then you continue along the grown over road past old mine tunnels, crossing several creeks (with and without bridges), past an old rusting bus and a cedar cabin before getting to the Mineral City site. Nothing is left of the former mining town of the 1890s which once had two hotels, two saloons and two stores.

I boulder-hopped across the creek at Trade Dollar Gulch at the Mineral City site since the log bridge was taken out after the Forest Service finished logging farther up Silver Creek in the early '80s. I wanted to check out the old trail to Poodle Dog Pass that was once the route to Monte Cristo. The trail still shows on my 1975 *GT Monte Cristo* map, but is not shown on the newer editions.

Once I got to the end of the brushy road, I could kind of see where a trail might be going. It is now so overgrown with huckleberry bushes that it would be a major bushwhack to ever get through and up to the pass.


On the way back down, I ran into a couple who had been up to Poodle Dog Pass on the old trail two years ago and said that it was very brushy at that time. Since this trail never sees any maintenance at all, it is probably gone forever.—George Chambers, Bothell, 7/29.

 **POODLE DOG PASS, SILVER LAKE (GT Monte Cristo)**—The old mining trail up to Poodle Dog Pass from the ghost town of Monte Cristo is supposed to be rebuilt this summer. It sure does need it.


The trail up to the pass was built way back in 1890 to get to mining claims in that area. The pass got its name in 1900 by Frank W. Peabody who had named a nearby mining claim after his pet dog, "Poodle Dog." This trail was also the original way into Monte Cristo from Mineral City, before the Everett & Monte Cristo Railroad was built to haul ore from the mines to the smelters in Everett. In the early 1890s, mountaineers were hired to haul supplies over the pass at the rate of 6 cents per pound, usually carrying 75-pound packs.

You can now either hike the 4 miles up to Monte Cristo from Barlow Pass on the old road/railroad grade or ride a mountain bike. After crossing the Sauk River on the old broken bridge, the trail forks, either up to Poodle Dog Pass or to Glacier Basin. The 2 miles up to the pass are slow in places due to the bad trail conditions, mostly loose rocks, roots and steep switchbacks. The views up by the pass are great.

I hiked the short distance down from the pass to Silver Lake, which was still about 75% frozen with a few icebergs floating around. The deer flies were out, but a nice wind at the lake kept them at bay while I ate lunch. Had the whole lake to myself, as not too many people make the trek up from Monte Cristo. It is 13 miles round trip.—George Chambers, Bothell, 8/6.

 **WALLACE FALLS (USGS Gold Bar, Wallace Lk)**—The trick with this hike is to get there early, and get out of there early enough to beat the Sunday afternoon traffic jam on Highway 2. I arrived to a half-full parking lot, which was altogether overflowing when I came out.

About 5 miles round trip, less than 2000 feet of elevation gain, and lots of places to stop and watch water splashing. The special treat for this trip was a huge cluster of Indian pipe sprouting at a switchback corner. It was in the upper part of the forest, which always looks so bare to me, as it has so little ground-cover or understory ... the problem with second growth forests until some of the trees get blown over to open it up.—Peg Ferm, Monroe, 7/23.

 **EVERGREEN MOUNTAIN (USGS Evergreen Mtn)**—Getting a late start as usual, Jim and I decided on this short but beautiful hike to fabulous views.

However, about 7 or so miles in, somewhere past the turnoff for the Scorpion Mountain trail, a bridge is out. A berm is placed just before the wash-out restricting further travel. There is a



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sign a few miles prior warning of road closure ahead but we drove on anyhow not totally believing it.

As we came to the berm and looked for a place in which to turn our motor home around, we noticed another car in just the space we needed. And there were Carl and Candy Berner trying to get to the Evergreen trailhead as well. At least they knew that the road had been closed but heard it had recently been reopened. Guess not.—Ginny Evans, Renton, 7/29.

**IRON GOAT TRAIL (USGS Scenic)**—Since it was really getting late now, Carl suggested we team up and do this trail as a one way downhill hike from the upper trailhead near Stevens Pass. Wow! New trail for me. I had no idea that this trail had ever been extended any farther east than the Windy Pass Tunnel. Gee, where have I been?

Now there is a fancy new eastern trailhead but because of the 3:30pm gate closure, we had to park outside and walk the road to the trail.

Wonderful cool woods walk on a very gentle downhill grade about 6 miles. I thought this place was popular. We saw only a handful of people near the eastern trailhead and then no one at all. Ours was the only car in the parking lot when we arrived at the west end. And it was only somewhere around 5pm.

At the beginning of the western end of the Iron Goat is a shorter lower trail which parallels the upper grade we walked on. Not only that but upon our return to the motor home, I read in *P&P* about the eastern trail extension to the old tunnel.

On our way down the road at the beginning of our hike, we met a railroad buff who told us the history of the area and even showed us the old tunnel below the road. I actually wondered why the trail didn't go over there. Now I have to complete that long quarter mile of trail also.—Ginny Evans, Renton, 7/29.

**LAKE JANUS, GRIZZLY PEAK (USGS Labyrinth Mtn, Captain Point)**—We camped alongside the road just a few miles from the trailhead so we could get an early start on this long hike. We were on the trail at 9am which is actually pretty early for us. This day was even hotter than the day before, and the flies and mosquitos were the worst thus far this year. We needed to reapply insect repellent three times throughout the day.

We've never considered this trip before because of its length. Lately, however, I've been doing these marathon



Alan Sherbrooke

Dave Sherbrooke on Lost Creek Ridge. Glacier Peak Wilderness.

hikes in both distance and gain so I convinced Jim that with the small gain, this trip's 17 miles would be like a walk in the park. In spite of the fact that we ran out of water and dragged ourselves back to the car at 7pm, we had a wonderful day. The spectacular scenery more than made up for the heat and bugs.

One thing we didn't expect to find were snow patches at Union Gap near the beginning of the hike. Although we continued to see snow and meltwater along the ridge all day, they were spotty and certainly no problem. In fact, Shadow was delighted and kept well hydrated throughout the day.

We took a break at Lake Janus where we first doused ourselves with repellent. The shimmering deep blue waters of the lake reflecting the bright green slopes of Jove Peak were indeed a delight. Shouldering our packs again, we made our way slowly up the forested switchbacks to the ridgecrest and the start of the areas' famous views.

Almost immediately Glacier Peak greeted us to the northeast as well as Poet Ridge and many other nearby previously climbed friends. After another break and drink, we continued.

No wonder the guidebook lauds this section of the PCT. It sure is the most scenic part we've ever hiked. When we weren't enjoying the peaks on the east side of the ridgetop, we were gazing at the ones on the west side.

The trail continued to switch sides all the way to Grizzly Peak which is actually a nothing peak with not much view on a view-filled ridge. All along I kept thinking that the higher rocky peak beyond was Grizzly until we were virtually on its top, and Jim looked at the map.

After a refueling stop on the summit, we headed back. It was one of those rare crystal clear days that actually smelled like summer. This trail was a perfect choice for this exceptional day.—Ginny Evans, Renton, 7/30.

**SPIDER MEADOWS (GT Holden)**—Amy brought her son Ryan, 17; he brought his buddy Josh. They were a joy to spend time with when we could catch up to them. We left Port Orchard at 6:45am and got to the trailhead at Phelps Creek about 11 and got right on the trail. The trail starts as an old road but narrows into a real trail about 2 miles in.

Biting flies were hideous, worst we have ever had. We had to keep moving. The bugs got better after we made camp and cleaned up and didn't seem too bad the rest of the trip.

It took us 2½ hours to reach the meadow at 6¼ miles. It was very easy hiking, lots of shade too. We found a nice camp across Phelps Creek. Lots of privacy in the trees and surrounded all around by mountains. Got up early and left for Spider Gap about 9am. Hiked up to the gap and looked down across the valley we were camped in. It was a very steep hike but great views and lots of waterfalls.

We then headed up the snowfield, which was also very steep. We felt reasonably safe with our hiking sticks. We stayed close to the edges and the boys pounded out a great trail for us, looking back occasionally to make sure we hadn't disappeared in a snowbank.

At the top we could look out over several peaks and down to Lyman Lake and Glacier and the trail out toward

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Holden. On the way back we took a quick detour to Phelps Basin, a must-see. Here we dowsed our heads in the cold water, took a nap in the meadow grass and watched the marmots playing. We arrived back at camp about 5:30 so it was a full day. We headed out the next morning.

We stopped at the Wenatchee River at Plain and took a swim, then went into Leavenworth and had a great meal at Gustav's, checked out the mountain shop and headed home. We were home by 6:15. Definitely a great hike.—Noelle Morris, Manchester, 8/5-7.

**POE MOUNTAIN (USGS Poe Mountain)**—The easiest to ascend of the "Poet Peaks," Poe Mountain is a former lookout site offering close up views of rugged Whittier Peak and more distant looks at Glacier Peak and the Monte Cristo peaks. A maintained trail of less than 3 miles offers a steep (3000 feet elevation gain) but quick way to a quality viewpoint.

Begin from the Little Wenatchee trailhead and after 1/4-mile toward Meander Meadow, branch right and begin ascending. Views begin long before the top, mentally assisting with the physical toil upward.

A short loop near the top (unmarked trails) can be confusing. The abandoned Poet Ridge trail heads north toward Longfellow Mountain and southeast toward Irving Peak. Either of these peaks could add to your mileage and peakbagging total for the day if desired.—Charlie Hickenbottom, Wenatchee, 8/15.

**CROW HILL (USGS Pyramid Mtn)**—Super views of the Chelan Mountains and Lake Chelan are there for those who venture to this little known summit. It's a short side trip from the Pyramid Mountain trail, accessible from the Shady Pass road in the Entiat River drainage.

With patience, an auto with reasonable clearance could be used to access the trailhead. This area is often sunny when areas closer to the Cascade Crest are blocked by rain and clouds. This is a hard trail to beat for quick views, given the 6500-foot elevation at the trailhead.

You'll be able to begin enjoying mountain views long before reaching the trailhead, given the high elevation and large openings left from old burns in the area.—Charlie Hickenbottom, Wenatchee, 7/6.

**BALDY (USGS Baldy Mountain)**—Several curious rock formations near or atop Baldy afford

big-time views of the Entiat Valley on one side and Lake Chelan on the other. The climb is mostly done on logging roads, with the final 800 feet of elevation gain done on the south slopes.

The north side of the highest rock formation offers a Class 2 route to the top. From the Entiat Valley, either Mud Creek or Potato Creek provide access to a myriad of logging roads leading up. If time allows, a road leads north from the Baldy area toward Stormy Mountain, eventually following Slide Ridge down to Lake Chelan.—Charlie Hickenbottom, Wenatchee, 7/28.

**POINT 8112 (USGS Trinity, Holden)**—High above the Carne Mountain-Leroy Creek High Route, Point 8112 features close up views of Mount Maude and Ice Lakes. It's a natural to do while traveling the high route. I suggest doing the route counterclockwise, since Carne Mountain provides a nice view of much of the route ahead, aiding in route finding.

The Carne Mountain trail has been maintained to Carne Mountain basin. Most of the high route has adequate tread, but in many places the tread disappears for short sections, necessitating map and route finding skills. Tabor and Crowder mention in *Routes and Rocks*, page 130, a nose that divides the Box Creek basin.

That proved to be a serviceable route upward toward Point 8112. After descending part way off Point 8112, I was able to make a descending traverse toward the saddle (7000+) between Box Creek and Chipmunk Creek.

Instead of descending into the basins of Chipmunk Creek I got a taste of the Ice Lake High Route by ascending to the next saddle (7400+). Easy glissading from there allowed a descent to the saddle leading into the Leroy Creek basin. The Leroy Creek trail and the Phelps trail closed the loop, perhaps 15 total miles for the day.

Many attractive campsites with water and views are along the high route, inviting a longer stay than one day.—Charlie Hickenbottom, Wenatchee, 8/4.

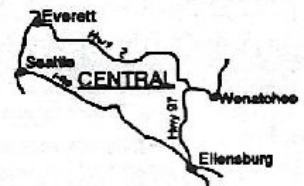
**MIDDLE FORK CASCADE**—Lots of blow down starting at 2 miles. Trail completely lost in avalanche half mile before end of trail. Poor condition.—Ranger, 8/23.

**CHELAN DIST—509-682-2576.** Flat Creek fire continues to burn after being ignited by lightning at the end of July. Flat Creek trail is closed.—Ranger, 8/15.

**ENTIAT DIST—509-784-1511.**

**LAKE WENATCHEE DIST—509-763-3103.** Heather Lake has a new trail bypassing the washed out bridge. Hikers can cross on the log jam.—Ranger, 8/15.

## CENTRAL



**LAKE SERENE (USGS Index)**—This was my first visit to the new trail, which splits off from the falls trail about 1.5 miles from the parking lot, right before the bridge. The new trail goes up the opposite side of the creek from the old "trail." You cross the creek, and then the trail switchbacks up the hill another 2 miles to the lake.

It's steep in places, and the trail builders have built about a thousand (someone counted them; but this is hearsay) timber steps. They were great going up, but my knees found them very difficult going down, due to the spacing. There is a very nice waterfall in a small creek part way up.

The trail is "developed" right to the lake, and then partway around the lake to the right, where it ends at a lovely smooth huge rock that plunges steeply into the lake. It's so big that it can (and did) hold quite a crowd. Some young fellows were jumping off a big square boulder on the north side of the lake, and swimming (briskly) to shore.

The lake is lovely, with the peaks of Mount Index towering over it, and with huge fans of yet-unmelted snow on the north side. Elevation gain about 2500. Once we heard the sound of avalanche, but saw no sign.

I decided not to wade, as there is a lot of broken glass along the lakeshore, so doubtless there is some in the lake as well. Keep your Tevas on for wading and swimming.—Peg Fern, Monroe, 7/29.

**LAKE SERENE (GT Index)**—I have criticized many USFS projects but not this one. The new Lake Serene trail is great!

Though it is 3.9 miles long, gains 2000 feet, and has 436 steps, it captures the essence of that magnificent and rugged mountainside: the cave, the huge trees, the huckleberries, the floral displays, and yes, the views!

I was pleased at the placement of the bridge. It allows a fine view of the falls.


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This is the only trail I have found that I would recommend hiking just to experience the trail. The lower part is the same humdrum I experienced in the '60s and '70s though somewhat grown over now. However, after the graveled road, you have a wonderful experience ahead.

Thanks to the Forest Service and you trail builders; it is a job well done!—Wanderbuns, Kirkland, 7/29.

## SKYKOMISH RIVER

 (USGS Index, Gold Bar, Sultan)—We met seven other canoes from the Paddle Trails Canoe Club and headed down the river from Big Eddy to Sultan city park, ably led by the cheerful and energetic Eric Hughes.

Reasonably warm weather with short stretches of Class 1 and maybe some Class 2 rapids. Great people to travel with. That evening we headed over Stevens Pass and stayed in Leavenworth.—Charles and Nancy Bagley, Seattle, 7/23.



## MELAKWA LAKE (USGS Snoqualmie Pass)

—A short drive and a fairly easy hike. The trailhead (Denny Creek trail) is reached from exit 47 on I-90 (marked Asahel Curtis). This is a very popular trail and the parking lot was nearly full when we arrived. The trail ascends through forest, soon passing under the high bridge of westbound I-90. At about 1 mile the trail crosses Denny Creek on a large slab which is a stopping place for many families with small children.

The trail soon leaves the woods and climbs through ferns and bracken passing Keekwulee Falls, ascending to Hemlock Pass, then dropping into the lovely basin of Melakwa Lake. No snow in the area. Splendid views of the Snoqualmie Pass peaks: Bryant, Chair, Denny, etc. A lovely hike in spite of the crowds.—Leigh Champlin, Seattle, 8/6.



## DENNY PEAK (USGS Snoqualmie Pass)

—Wanting to get into the mountains but having to be back in town early, Sheila and I chose to hike up Denny Mountain. I've skied at Alpental many times but have never been on the high point of the mountain on which the ski area sits.

We ascended under the main chairlift and then up the ski slopes serviced by the Edelweiss chair. I was surprised that the majority of this route was still snowcovered. At the top of the chair we traversed across a steep slope to the final scramble. The atmosphere was exceptionally clear, washed clean by the previous couple of days of precipita-



Ken Hopping

Mount Thompson from Red Mountain. Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

tion. All the peaks from Glacier to the summit tip of Mount Adams were out in full glory.

It was wonderfully warm and we enjoyed some good lounge time on the summit. As we got ready to leave I spent some time on the summit area bouldering. Lots of good routes here. At the top of the upper chair we enjoyed some more lounging followed by enjoyable glissades back to the truck.—Don Beavon, Lynnwood, 6/20.



## KENDALL PEAK, MOUNT THOMPSON (USGS Chikamin Pk)

—Paul and I finally got a day to climb and, boy, did we take advantage of it! Going north on the PCT we headed up to first do Kendall. We walked under the main peak almost to the saddle before realizing we had missed the route up Kendall. We kicked in plan 2 and decided to climb all five of Kendall's summits. This took a while!

After dropping below the first two northern summits we regained the summit ridge and easily made it over the other three bumps to the true summit. The register was placed by Steve Fellstrom and had four entries from *Pack & Paddle* hardman Garth Warner so you know this is a good peak to climb.

After returning to the trail and gathering our packs we continued on the Crest Trail over the catwalk and passed a couple of snow crossings before we hit solid snow a mile before Ridge and Gravel Lakes. Here we snacked and filtered water for our trip over Bumblebee Pass. Locating this pass is easy: a nice but steep trail climbs right out of the

Crest Trail. Once at the pass we gazed on our route, the seldom climbed West Ridge. It took an hour to drop into the basin below Thompson and regain the ridge at a notch at the start of the climb. The climbing on this ridge is incredible, but much longer than we expected. Altogether we climbed seven pitches of mid-class 5 rock, the last two using a running belay to the true summit. It was now 7pm and once again our fate was sealed for a long, dark walk out. We found no register.

After cell phone calls home, we made two quick rappels down the East Ridge, which is the standard route. Here a nice climbers' path led us down to the wide notch on the ridge that feeds back down into the basin. The loose rock leading to the basin is too terrible to describe, especially when you are racing against darkness to get back to the Crest Trail. We finally made Ridge and Gravel Lakes at 9pm! Here we got out flashlights and lost our way for awhile on the snow above the lake.

An hour later, after retracing our steps and consulting the compass, we found the real trail. It was snowfree but way too long. We rested several times, lying down in the darkness of the trail, before finally seeing the lights of cars coming over the pass. Soon we heard car sounds too, but this was a cruel blow at one in the morning. It was not until 2:30am that we arrived back at the car! Another great trip in the books. 10½ hours up, 7½ hours out; about 20 miles and 6000 feet of gain.—Mark Owen and Paul Cho, Shoreline, 7/19.

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## CHIKAMIN PEAK (USGS Chikamin Pk, Polallie Ridge)

—In the heart of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and very close to the Pacific Crest Trail, Chikamin Peak's south route should appeal to experienced scramblers. While Beckey rates the peak as a Class 2 scramble, I disagree. Raising the rating to Class 3 is appropriate, since the final approach to the summit requires use of both hands and feet and has some significant exposure.

The south ridge of Chikamin can be reached from the west side, ascending steep slopes directly from the PCT. A gentler approach from the Glacier Lake side, however, has easier access to water and offers fine views of Spectacle Lake far below.

The Mineral Creek trail offers the shortest approach to Chikamin but has many obstacles. While the route is passable, windfall and brush make it difficult to recommend traveling this way. The Pete Lake trail toward Spectacle Lake offers easier going, but of course, more people and stock.—Charlie Hickbottom, Wenatchee, 8/7-9.

## RACHEL LAKE (USGS Chikamin Pk)

—The register box at the trailhead was stuffed with cards that hadn't been picked up, but I dutifully filled out a card and stuffed it in.

Rachel Lake has got to be one of the most beautiful in our mountains in spite of being visited by hundreds of people a year. The water here is very clear. There were maybe six or seven cars at the trailhead and a couple of guys just ahead of me, and right on the steep part a Scout troop coming out, probably 9 or 10, with girls yet! There were only a few people around when I got to the lake.

People I talked to said there were several camps at the Ramparts. I could see Big Rampart Lake from the Lila Lake trail, and it appeared to be wide open; snow was no problem and probably hadn't been for several weeks.—WG Bucher, Kirkland, 8/2.

## RAMPART RIDGE (GT Snoqualmie Pass)

—The trail to Rachel Lake where it leaves the valley is in its usual bad shape over tree roots and rocks. Once at the lake, I headed up the path that goes to the trail junction to either Rampart Lakes or to the ridge and Lila Lakes.

I hiked over to the Lila Lakes first to check them out. I found a trail that took me back up to Rampart Ridge with views down to the lakes where I counted about 15 of them with campsites. Hik-

ing up the ridge, the wildflowers were in bloom and the views of all the mountains in the area were grand.

I could see several different trails that didn't show up on my map. Looks like lots of area for future exploration. I could see across the valley to the west to the Crest Trail and the Kendall Catwalk. You can follow that trail as it meanders toward Stevens Pass to the north. The Rampart Ridge trail keeps going up to Alta Mountain for more scenic views and is very steep in places. (This trail does not show on the Green Trails map).—George Chambers, Bothell, 8/13.

## WENATCHEE RIVER

(USGS Plain, Winton)—Our 35th anniversary. Chuck left Nancy and the gear on the north side of the highway bridge where the Wenatchee River first leaves the lake. Chuck then took the truck down to Tumwater Campground on Highway 2, where the highway crosses the river just before the river plunges into the Class 4 rapids of Tumwater Canyon.

Parked in the National Forest campground picnic area lots—no permit needed. We had arranged a shuttle back to the bridge.

The first half of the trip was mostly a float on fairly rapid water with slight Class 1 rapids here and there. The banks were populated with osprey nests, over half a dozen, the young complaining loudly, and the adults circling.

Just before the river passes under the highway bridge at Plain is a short stretch of Class 2 rapid, a few holes and several rocks to dodge. No real problem. From Plain down to Tumwater, the river is more active, very frequent Class 1 rapids but nothing difficult. More ospreys as well. All in all, an exceptionally pleasant anniversary day. The 19-mile trip took us altogether about five hours.

After a layover day, we went on down to Cashmere, putting the canoe in at the city park. Chuck then again drove the truck downstream, this time to leave it at Walla Walla Park in the town of Wenatchee. This is about 2 miles south of the point where the Wenatchee River pours into the Columbia, and has convenient free parking near a good takeout by the swimming area.

Chuck called Courtesy Taxi (509-662-2126) who got him back up to Cashmere—\$20 including tip. To call the taxi there is a telephone in the Sports Center near the parking lot, another in the Eagle Hardware store about two blocks away.

We had another sunny and exceptionally pleasant day. This is about 12

miles on the river, the first 7 or 8 miles being very frequent stretches of exceedingly charming Class 1 rapids, just a few of which had prominent haystacks with potential for swamping. We just bailed afterward.

No ospreys this time, but interesting farm equipment, houses, and stretches of gravel beach along the way until one reaches flat water just where the highway crosses the Wenatchee on the northern boundary of town. Since there were no major winds, we had a pleasant 2-mile paddle down to the takeout. The trip took about three hours.—Charles and Nancy Bagley, Seattle, 7/24-26.

## POINT 7534 (GT Chiwaukum Mts)

—The Chiwaukum Mountains rank high on our list of all-time favorite places and we always make it a point to visit them once or twice a year. On this occasion, we decided to climb Point 7534, which lies directly north of Deadhorse Pass.

Old maps show two distinct trails which leave the Wildhorse Creek trail, and head for Deadhorse Pass. At one time, they met below the pass and continued up and over, then down to Cup Lake and on to Larch Lake. Unfortunately the upper portions of these trails have disappeared. However, the lower portion of one of them can be located. It takes off directly opposite from a campsite that obviously sees a lot of use. We followed it for a few minutes but left just before it heads over to an attractive camp (remnants of the other spur can also be found in this area).

Proceed uphill in easy open terrain until you reach the great basin (not visible until you are there), then go on to the summit (nothing is to be gained by going first to Deadhorse Pass). Terrific viewpoint!

Note: We know this area well, having been there many times. With all due respect to John Roper, the terminology suggested by him in the last issue of *P&P* (August, page 15) is, in our view, very misleading. The geography of the Chiwaukums is simple. Snowgrass Mountain anchors the southern extent of the range. Moving directly north, there are three peaks in a row: Big Chiwaukum itself, then a steep, rocky middle summit, and finally a bulky northern summit, which terminates as the southern part of Deadhorse Pass. The next peak to the north of Deadhorse Pass is Point 7534, then Point 7377, then Point 7423, etc.

If anything should be called "Middle Chiwaukum," it seems to us that the summit immediately to the north of Big

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Chiwaukum is the logical candidate.—Garth and Judy Warner, Rodger Gallo-way, Carnation, 8/13.

**COLCHUCK LAKE (USGS Cashmere Mtn, Enchantment Lks)**—For our first backpacking trip with our baby Sarah we choose Colchuck Lake for several reasons. First of all, almost the entire trail is in the shade! Mom is much happier when baby is out of the sun. Second, the campsites at Colchuck are well secluded and thus provide privacy for us and some quiet for other campers. Three, if you are lucky enough to get an overnight permit you can be assured of few people, which is always nice!

We arrived early for the morning drawing at the ranger station in Leavenworth and were the only ones there. The one and only camping pass to Colchuck was given straight to us without even a drawing! A few minutes later several parties showed up and picked up some of the other permits. They don't wait for a crowd to gather, so be on time!

The hike up to the lake was wonderful! Very few bugs and pleasant temps. Jill carried Sarah and I carried the rest of the gear. Plan on having a big pack to carry the necessary toys for the baby. Some of Sarah's things we attached to Jill's baby pack. This worked out great because Sarah was able to play with her toys while riding in the pack. Carabiners are great for attaching stuff.

We took several breaks along the way, including at the bridges over the two creeks you will have to cross. A cold splash is always good for everyone. Jill did a great job of carrying Sarah up over 2000 feet of gain. As a new mom she has done very little hiking the past year. Her young hiking legs kicked in and she easily made the lake.

Once at the lake we found a great spot near the north side where the trail goes between the small lake next to the big lake. Sarah loved playing in the tent after riding for several hours in the pack. After a snack we explored the shoreline and dipped our feet in the water—It was amazingly warm! We had dinner up on a rock above the lake. Incredible views of Aasgard Pass, Dragontail, and Colchuck Peaks surrounded us.

We all slept well that night except for about an hour in the middle of the night where Sarah decided to crawl all over the place. Jill took the duty as I slept peacefully.

We packed up the next morning and had an easy hike down the valley in the cool morning. One night is enough for

young families.—Mark, Jill and Sarah Owen, Shoreline, 7/13-14.

**NAVAHO PEAK (USGS Enchantment Lks)**—We started this backpack after 1pm on a south-facing slope on a hot sunny day. Eating a piece of homemade coconut pie halfway up sure made hiking to the meadow below Navaho a lot easier. We had the meadow and horsecamp all to ourselves. The winds from the pass kept the mosquitoes and baby flies away.

The next day we hiked to the pass and followed the sign that directed us to the boot-beaten County Line trail, which we soon lost. We went too high on the peak when we were supposed to drop through light timber to the flat area below and pick up the obvious tread through sandy dirt toward "Earl Pass." This is where I really began to love my pole. The way was steep through loose dirt, with a big snow patch right where the trail crossed the top of the pass. We were able to skirt around it, and Sparky taught herself to glissade on it on the return.

The steep trail on the other side was quite visible until we hit another big snow patch. Then we found the cairn, and the old blazes on the trees. After that, it was easy. There were lots of cairns and blazes right when you needed them. We crossed little streams, small snow patches, and basins filled with flowers and larches, all with views of the Enchantment Peaks and of Earl Peak above us.

In a lovely basin for camping we found an old sign nailed to a tree telling us we were on the Hard-scrabble-Fourth Creek trail. Shortly after, the trail went over a pass and a hard scrabble it was. We went up a gully that looked like the trail. On the way back, we could see better and realized that the trail skirted this. Beautiful views of Mount Stuart, Iron, and even Mount Rainier awaited us. A good trail went down to the Beverly Turnpike far below.

Ben talked with some Boy Scouts and their leader at our meadow, the first people we had seen all day. They were camped below us and had just climbed Navaho and did Earl the day before.

The next day was another beautiful day, but the bugs were getting bigger.

This was a great early July backpack. I thought it was more scenic than the Enchantments.—Ben and Nancy Brodie and Sparky CDX, Edmonds, 7/11-13.

**NAVAHO, THREE BROTHERS, EARL (GT Mt. Stuart)**

—Going up the Stafford Creek trail on Wednesday we were in trees most of the way as we gained the 3000 feet in elevation from the trailhead. When the four of us arrived at the camp spot southwest of the pass there was a welcoming committee waiting for us. A large swarm of mosquitoes decided our group would make a tasty meal for the next four days. We felt like we were in Alfred Hitchcock's "The Bugs," as these insects would not leave us alone for a second.

After setting up our tents and fixing dinner, we went up to the pass and walked to a viewpoint about ½-mile west on the County Line trail, where our friendly bugs decided to go too. With a quick breakfast on Thursday morning, we headed east on the County Line trail from Navaho Pass to the junction with the climbing path to Navaho Peak.

The trail is steep in places, but was snowfree all the way to the summit. The



Mark Owen

Backpacking with baby: Mom and Sarah have a snack in the tent at Colchuck Lake. Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

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views were great from the 7223-foot peak with the Stuart Range just to the north across the Ingalls Creek Valley. Mount Rainier was out to the southwest, as well as Mount Adams. Our mosquitoes were replaced by a band of gnats who knew that we would be a good midmorning snack.

After taking some photos and having a bite to eat, we headed crosscountry to the southeast to connect with the County Line trail and go over to the Three Brothers area. We had to drop a lot of elevation to get down to the junction with the Falls Creek trail and then head up the ridge of the west peak of the Three Brothers.

Finding a spot with some shade and a breeze on this hot day made our lunch stop. After eating we decided that we didn't have enough time and water to keep going up, so headed back down to a creek to refill our water bottles. Heading west on the County Line trail we found a good breeze blowing on a ridge crest, so took a good break before heading back to camp.

Friday was our day to go up Earl Peak and see the views from a different angle. We hiked back down the Stafford Creek trail to the junction with the Standup Creek trail. Going up the Standup Creek trail we crossed a few good creeks and went through some flowery meadows along the way to a pass south of Earl Peak. At the pass we refilled our water bottle from a spring that is about 1/2-mile to the west. We followed the ridge to the northwest to scramble to the top of Earl Peak at 7036 feet.

Once at the summit with its great views all around, it was hard to enjoy our stay with gnats and small black flies buzzing us the whole time. Also at the summit were a large number of colorful butterflies and even two chipmunks who made the climb. We signed the summit register, took some photos and had a quick lunch.


The way back down was really hot in the afternoon sun. I got overheated even though I was drinking lots of water and pouring some on my head to try to cool off. Putting my head into a cold creek helped some, but resting back at camp after drinking some Gatorade helped a lot.

With the bugs so bad, we didn't eat dinner until about 7:30pm. We had to wear coats and long pants, with a bug screen over our heads while cooking. In order to eat, I had to walk around with a towel over my head as the mosquitoes would land on my hands if I sat down to eat. I hadn't seen bugs this bad in many years on a backpack trip.


Since we were heading out on Saturday anyway, our group decided to get up early, break camp and get down the trail since life in "Bugville" was so bad.

We awoke earlier than expected when a thunderstorm to the west of us went through. The lightning lit up all the mountains as it flashed, starting at 3am. The bright lightning even woke up the mosquitoes who thought it was time to start buzzing our tents while waiting for their breakfast of blood.

We were gone by 6:50am. We saw only one other hiker the whole time we were on the trip. Since it was still early, we decided to head over Blewett Pass and have lunch in Leavenworth. By the time we got to Stevens Pass, it was fogged in and raining on the west side of the Cascades. But at least there were no mosquitoes!—George Chambers, Bothell, 7/19-22.

 **MILLER PEAK (USGS Mt Stuart, Liberty)**—The trailhead is at the end of road 9703 which turns off the Middle Fork Teanaway road about 15 miles from Highway 970. It is about 5 1/2 miles to the 6000-foot summit of Miller Peak. The trail begins in forest and follows Miller Creek for a couple of miles, crossing the creek 4 or 5 times (easy rock hops). The trail is in fairly good shape despite the fact that motorized bikes are allowed on the trail. After about 2 miles the trail opens into meadows and climbs steeply to a junction with the County Line trail.

A right turn brings you in a few hundred yards to the turn-off to the summit of Miller, about another mile. Just a small patch of snow below the summit. The views were splendid from the Stuarts around to Adams and Rainier and everything in between. Still a few wildflowers near the summit where the snow has not been gone long. This is a strenuous hike, but worth it for the views.—Leigh Champlin, Seattle, 7/23.

 **PADDY-GO-SOUTH, SHERPANI PEAK (USGS The Cradle)**—Last month's *P&P* got me fired up to get back into this area. Warren Gunthroth, 73, an extremely accomplished technical climber, who still turns the heads of rock jocks at the UW Climbing Rock, suggested that Paddy-Go-South, Peak 6566, above Sprite Lake might be a Class 4-5 climb. He also kidded that I might like to try it at night, blindfolded.

It was daylight, and we did it with no blindfold, but Warren, I've got to confess, this is a dog walk. Sasha could have done it. 1 hour 45 minutes to Paddy-Go-Easy Pass, then another 45

minutes to the top. No problems up the slope above Sprite Lake. Take an ice axe early in the year.

Jani Stonington took some joke pictures of me, blindfolded on the top. We then headed back to Paddy-Go-Easy Pass and contoured west around Paddy-Go-North, Peak 6573 (which also was no particular problem on a solo scramble a few years ago). The pass here was named for Paddy, a local prospector's burro, whose owner would beseech to "go easy" over the rough spots along this trail.

We contoured east under Peak 6564 (which was "Peak 1500" for me on 10/24/95), the next summit north of P-Go-N. On that date, the next peak north along the crest (Peak 6720+) looked intimidating, with a huge horizontal block of rock balanced on the top, reminding me of a coffin. If I proceeded, I thought I might end up in one, so decided to come back with company, and try it when it wasn't plastered with snow.

But on our sunny climb today, Jani and I had no worries, having read the nice description of 6720+ "Sherpani Peak" by Don Beavon in his "Peak Bagging" article in last month's *P&P*. I followed Don and Mitch's route through the rock lean-to, while Sherpani Jani found her own way up the east ridge. About 2 hours over from Paddy-Go-South.

The register inside a decorated metal box made it obvious that this peak is a very special place for the Praters. Bill and Gene Prater first climbed this peak in 1949 and dreamed of having lady Sherpas along on future trips here. On October 25, 1992, such was the case when Gene was delighted to bring six lady "Sherpanis" back here, one of whom was Jeri Prater, his bride of only 6 months. Sadly, Gene died just a few months later, on February 2, 1993. Jeri, though, has been returning to this peak regularly since, to remember Gene and their happy times together and to be close to him, always with her friend and inspiration, Ruth Ann Stacey. Bill Prater climbed Sherpani with Jeri and Ruth Ann in 1995. Jeri was 75 years young on her pilgrimage to the summit this year.

We made the wrong call on our descent, and instead of returning to the trail, bailed out to the west, cross-country down the buggy and brushy ridges first north, then south of Skeeter Creek to the Hvas Lake trail, and on back the dusty road to the car. 2.5 hours down. —John Roper, Bellevue, 7/29/00.

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## SOUTH CENTRAL



### KELLY BUTTE (GT Lester)

—The abandoned lookout is reached by an unmaintained trail which is a bit difficult at the beginning but very pleasant thereafter. The round-trip hike is about 3.5 miles, gaining only 1200 feet.

From Highway 410 find your way to road 7030. If coming from the west, turn onto road 70 2 miles south of Greenwater and proceed for a few miles to road 7030. If coming from Yakima, turn onto road 19 along Little Naches River and proceed a few miles to road 784; this climbs over Green Pass and becomes road 7038, then 7036 before meeting road 7030.

Follow 7030 northwest about 2 miles to where the map shows it curving left toward Kelly, and park. Ignore the new unmapped extension continuing north beyond this point. The last 1/2-mile of the old mapped road curves along the south-southeast slope of Kelly Butte and should be walked, not driven. At its end, the trail begins.

The first 80 vertical feet climb steeply through a gully filled with dusty soil and loose rock. Travel is assisted in the upper part by a fixed cable (especially helpful descending). Parties should beware of dislodging rocks. Above this gully, the trail is fine, switchbacking higher as the open slope becomes less and less steep. The last 3/4-mile climbs very little, now among huckleberries and scattered trees. Near the end, ascend a few feet to the rocky summit ridge, pass an old helicopter landing site, and at the north end find the 1950 lookout.

Here are views in all directions, including the central Cascade peaks, the Stuart Range and Rainier. A few feet north of the lookout the trail starts down into the Green River watershed, a route probably never used anymore.—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 8/8.



### BLOWOUT MOUNTAIN (GT Lester)

—The gentle top of Blowout Mountain is a few rocks sticking up out of a sea of wildflowers, and is an easy 5-minute stroll from the PCT. At 5750 feet, the peak has a clean prominence of 870 feet.

The closest approach by road is Green Pass. From Yakima take High-

way 410 and roads 19 and 784. From the west, take Highway 410 and roads 70, 7030, 7036 and 7038. The Crest Trail crosses the road a couple of hundred feet south of the pass, elevation about 4970 feet. Ups and downs add to the gain a bit, the total about 1100 feet with a round trip distance of about 4.5 miles. At the top ignore the nearby logging scars and enjoy the long views in all directions.—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 8/8.



### SAWMILL RIDGE (GT Lester)

—Sawmill Ridge rises from the floor of the Green River valley just south of the confluence of Sunday Creek and Green River at 1750 feet. Its highest point is Peak 5207; this apogee has a respectable clean prominence of 1047 feet. The round-trip cross-country hike is less than 1 mile, gaining a mere 447+ feet.

From Highway 410 find your way to the junction of roads 7030 and 7036. If coming from the west, use road 70 2 miles south of Greenwater. If coming from Yakima, turn onto road 19 along the Little Naches River and proceed a few miles to road 784. Once at the aforementioned junction, follow road 7030 northwest 1/2-mile and turn right onto road 7034. This climbs around the south side of points 4600+ and 5022; park at the second saddle where the road crosses to the north of the ridge. The objective is immediately northeast of here.

Walk through a few trees, then up a grass and wildflower slope with occasional scree, soon reaching the nearly naked top. Here enjoy distant views in all directions; avoid looking at the nearby scalping by tree farmers. In season, pick a few huckleberries just down from the summit.—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 8/8.



### NOBLE KNOB via Dalles Ridge

(USGS Sun Top, Noble Knob)—I'd just read the Dalles Ridge approach to Noble Knob in the August P&P. It turned out to be a good choice except for all the bicycles.

I had no idea there were so many different routes to Noble Knob as we'd only hiked the popular trail from Corral Pass. Many hikers, even babies and small chil-

dren, were enjoying Noble Knob this fine day.

Because the Bike Nationals were held at the Crystal Mountain Ski Area that weekend, we saw quite a few bicycles on the trail as well. The Dalles Ridge trail didn't see the same traffic as the Corral Pass trail but there were a few cars at the trailhead. The gentle trail actually skirts around the side of the ridge but on our return trip, we walked the open ridgeline to gather in the views.

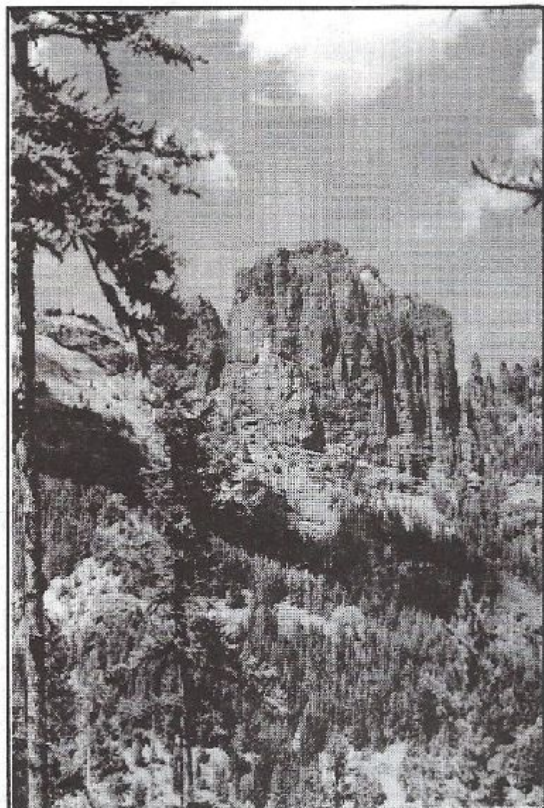
Half a mile in from the trailhead is a junction with the Ranger Creek trail. We'd previously hiked that entire loop trail from Snoquera Palisades to Ranger Creek. The only piece we hadn't done was the 1-mile section from the Boy Scout shelter to the Dalles Ridge trail. So of course we needed to hike that on our way out just to connect it all. The dreary looking shelter was in a buggy forest absolutely full of bicycle riders.

The thing I hate most about bicycles is that they quietly sneak up on me and make me jump. I always feel so stupid.—Gianny Evans, Renton, 8/6.



### KNAPSACK PASS (USGS Mowich Lk)

—The road to Mowich is little changed, a tooth-rattling, washboard dustbowl. Hang onto your hubcaps. One might question the



Fife's Ridge. Norse Peak Wilderness.

Paul Schaufler

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intelligence of someone who would drive that road for a 1-mile, 1500-foot elevation gain trail. The answer lies in the plethora of landscapes compressed into such a short distance. Rockfall, waterfalls, cascades, wet flowered meadows, and, at the ridgetop north of Knapsack Pass, views.

I had been in the Yellowstone Cliffs area the previous week and it was interesting to view them from a distance. Flowers and insects typical of wet meadows abound. Good flowers, bad bugs. Trailhead to trailhead, 7½ hours, a lot to appreciate.—Paul Schaufler, Olympia, 8/8.

**SPRAY PARK LOOP (GT Mt Rainier West)**—The trail up Ipsut Creek is in good shape as I hiked through the old growth forest and crossed many streams. Once I left the forest and headed up the steep switchbacks through slide alder, the trail became very overgrown with brush. It took a while to get to Ipsut

Pass, with the sun out heating up the rocks as I hiked up the trail.

At the pass a cold wind cooled me off during a rest stop. The trail from Ipsut Pass to Mowich Lake has just a few ups and downs to the junction with the Spray Park trail at the south end of the lake. The lake is in a pretty setting with Fay Peak to the southeast and forest all around. I went to the Eagle Roost camp, about 2 miles up the trail.

I spent two nights at Eagle Roost to be able to have one whole day to explore around Spray Park, which you cannot do if you are just hiking through on the main trail. So on day two, I headed up to Spray Park. About 2-mile from camp is a junction with a short trail going out to Spray Falls. The falls is about 300 feet high coming off the cliffs high above in Spray Park.

The main trail switchbacks steeply for about a mile, then I began entering some of the flower-filled meadows with views of Mount Rainier. There are many small streams and ponds with

gorgeous scenery all around.

When I got up to Spray Park Pass, 6000 feet, I found a climbers' trail that goes along a ridge to the southeast. The views from up at the pass are great and I could see avalanches coming down near Willis Wall. Going up the trail, I found snow on some of the slopes as I continued to better views. Past a climbers' campsite, I went up one more snow slope to a rocky knob below Echo Rock, where I could see out to Glacier Peak.

Back at camp, I met some inter-

esting people. Two guys had flown up from Dallas to do the Longmire to Sunrise section this year. They had planned the trip for two years and it was their first backpacking experience. Another group of six had come out from Virginia to do the whole loop and were really enjoying the Park.

Day three, I packed up my gear and headed back to Ipsut Creek Campground via Spray Park. At Spray Park Pass the trail was covered in snow as I headed down to the Carbon River. I went down the snow slope for about 500 yards to bare trail. The section between Mist Park and Seattle Park is wonderful to hike. Lots of small meadows and streams with waterfalls, flowers all around as I went down the steep trail.

Before getting to the junction with the Wonderland Trail by the Carbon River, I hiked by a section where really large Douglas-firs had been blown down in a storm. Some of the trees had been snapped in two like matchsticks.

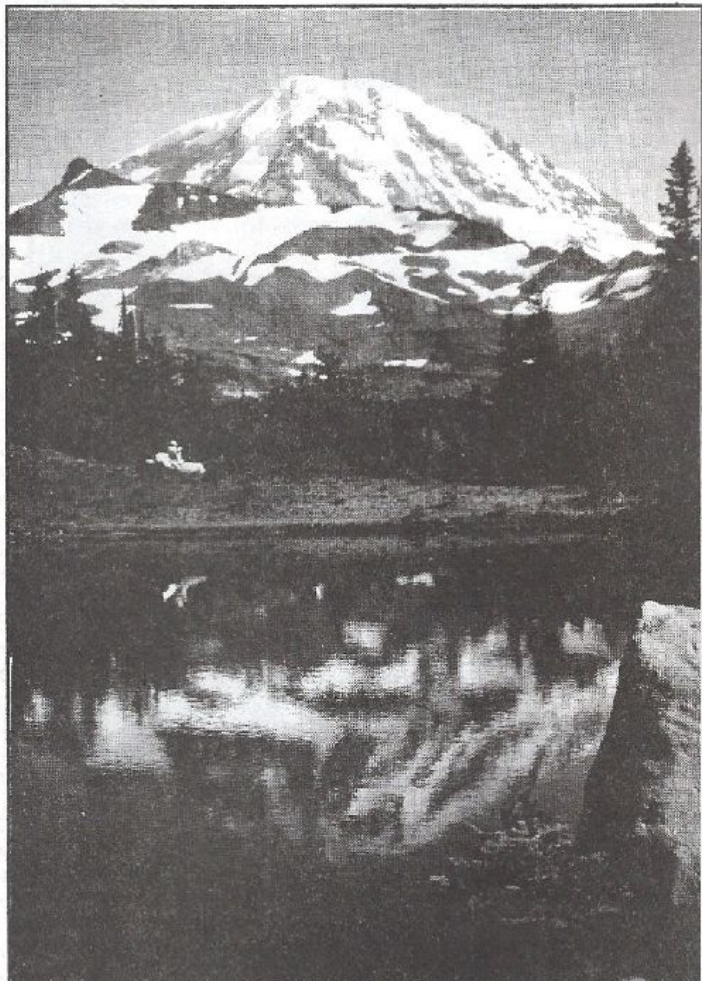
I met a park ranger who was looking for a group of six who were coming down from Spray Park and heading for Mystic Lake. I told him one of them was waiting up at the junction of the Spray Park/Wonderland Trail for the others in the group who were behind him. The ranger said that one of them had a family emergency back at home, so sounded like their trip would be cut short.

While hiking the last couple of miles, I passed day hikers heading up to look at the Carbon Glacier, about half of them without day packs or even a water bottle. I guess some people never get thirsty.—George Chambers, Bothell, 8/15-17.

**SNOW LAKE (USGS Mt Rainier East)**—This wonderful short hike introduced my cousin Amy from Oklahoma to Mount Rainier's backcountry. Snow patches were easy to cross. Hummingbirds flitted above Bench Lake, ¾-mile south of the Stevens Canyon Road. In another half-mile, we found Snow Lake, deep green by Unicorn Peak's glistening snowfield. A lone fisherman tended his pole. A campsite occupies the stubby peninsula into Snow Lake. It couldn't be more inviting.

The introduction may lead to future dates. Amy, who's hiked the Appalachian Trail straight-through, added the Wonderland Trail to her hiking desires.—Susan Wineke, Bellevue, 7/16.

**EAGLE and CHUTLA (USGS Mt Rainier West)**—Trailhead at Longmire (2700 feet) to



Mount Rainier from Spray Park. Mount Rainier National Park.

Alan Sherbrooke



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Eagle Peak saddle (5700 feet) is 3½ miles, mostly on good trail until the last ½-mile where it turns into a good boot track. From saddle to Eagle (5959 feet) about an eighth of a mile, moderate rock scramble. From Eagle to Chutla about 3-mile on top of and either side of the ridgetop with a little rock and lots of brushy trees on fairly easy-to-follow track if you stay alert.

Travel times for a group including three student scramblers: trailhead to Eagle, 2:50; Eagle to Chutla, 1:30; Chutla to trailhead, 2:30.

We did not tarry long at summits, scarfed treats and left. Promise of afternoon clearing not kept, in drizzle and blowing fog all day.

Flowers in abundance, many species, but the beargrass on the south slope below Chutla and the penstemons on the rocks deserve special mention.—Paul Schaufler, Olympia, 7/22.

## DEGE PEAK (USGS Sunrise)

—This trail starts either at Sunrise or Sunrise Point and goes along the Sourdough Ridge trail. Being 30 weeks pregnant my husband and I were looking for something easy and not too long. It was a beautiful day and the parking lot was packed but lo and be hold a spot opened up.

We put on our packs and got started about 2:30 with no real destination in mind, just a good walk. After about an hour my husband wanted to turn around but I convinced him I was fine as long as we went slow and that I wanted to make it somewhere.

We saw that Dege Peak was just ahead so decided to stop there. The views of the mountains were wonderful; only a couple of patches of snow along the way. We saw only about 4 groups of people.

On the way back we walked to the second trail down to the parking lot. This added a little mileage that was mostly flat. While descending to the parking lot we noticed lots of new work on the trail that isn't quite finished yet but looking wonderful. As we were leaving at about 6ish I was amazed at the number of people still arriving at Sunrise, since I thought we had gotten a late start that day.—Ralph and Virginia, Tacoma, 7/29.

## SLIDE MOUNTAIN (USGS White River Park)

—As life has its ups and downs, so does the trip from Sunrise Point to Slide Mountain. The net elevation gain is 300 feet. Gain outbound 1900 feet, gain return 1600 feet. About 3.5 miles from Sunrise Point to the overlook of Upper Palisades Lake, 1½ hours through trees

and flowered meadows and past ponds. The meadows with an understory of lupine, paintbrush and overstory of bistort were especially attractive.

Leave the trail above the lake and head straight up on a boottrack to the summit of Brown Peak, .3-mile and 25 minutes. Then head almost due north on the spine of the ridge to the high point on the ridge, a distance of 1 mile, 45 minutes. Long lunch and panoramic view. From there it's .7-mile and half an hour to the summit of Slide Mountain via the open grassy ridgetop and an easy beensy rock scramble on large (bigger than a breadbox) unstable talus. Ample evidence of elk residency in recent past.

Trip out, three hours. 109 miles from Olympia to Sunrise Point, time 2½ hours.—Paul G. Schaufler, Olympia, 8/13.

## NORTHERN LOOP (USGS Mowich Lk, Sunrise)

—Ipsut campground to Northern Loop trail, 2 miles and 2 hours. Carbon River crossing to Yellowstone camp at 5000 feet, 3.5 miles and 3 hours.

Camp to Windy Gap at 5800 feet, 1½ hours. Windy Gap to Natural Bridge, 30 minutes. Main trail to west end of Tyee Peak Ridge, 1 mile plus at 6200 feet, 1 hour. If the ford over Carbon River is not passable add 2 miles and a little over an hour.

Fantastic flowers, meadows beyond Yellowstone cliffs white with beargrass and valerian. Interesting associations of species at different sites. Many pedicularis, paintbrush, penstemons, asters. Butterflies too.—Paul G. Schaufler, Olympia, 7/31-8/2.

## WONDERLAND TRAIL (GT Mt Rainier West, Mt Rainier East)

—Our party of six was very fortunate indeed to have thirteen days of no rain and very few clouds on our hike around a mountain known for its dreadful weather.

We began and ended in Longmire and traveled counter-clockwise. We met people of all ages, shapes and hometowns en route; some doing the trail for the second or third time. We gave many of our fellow travelers nicknames as they were doing the same to us: The Super Sisters, Mr. Pemmican, Gearhardt, Aunt Leora and her Terrible Traverse, The Honeymooners, The Water Boy, The Axe Murderer (who turned out to be a really nice guy.)

We went for a dip almost every day. (Yes, even in the frigid Ohanapechosh River and the creek at Summerland—you feel so good afterward and it makes

the Mowich Lake swim seem downright tropical!) My grown kids had the Carbon River suspension bridge undulating like Galloping Gertie when I tried to cross. They had a little more respect for their old Dad at the Tahoma Creek bridge.

We got to see virtually all the subalpine and forest flowers in bloom due to the numerous life zones and microclimates we passed. A bear graciously shared his berries with us at "The Burn" above Golden Lakes. Almost every day afforded a jaw-dropping, ever-changing view of The Mountain.

As we passed clean-shaven hikers on our last two days they often asked where our favorite place was. "It's all good!" I had to answer.—Dave Parent, Freeland, 7/31-8/12.

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

—In July P&P, I mentioned that the river had cut away at this trail which precluded our upriver travel after a few miles. Warren Jones recently checked out the trail. Apparently, I was on the trail, crossed a log and was marooned on an island that is no longer there since the water level is down. This confused me and I thought we were off course. The trail is still intact. However, Warren reports that it is rough going now as there are many new stream crossings on logs, etc. There is one new river channel that didn't used to be there but it doesn't affect the trail at all. The trail can still be hiked but not as easily as it used to be.—Ginny Evans, Renton, 8/6.

## CRYSTAL RIDGE TRAIL (USGS White River Park, Norse Pk)

—Carl Berner showed a few of us this old trail. It goes straight up the ridge to the south beginning just around the big turn approximately 1.5 miles uphill on the Crystal Mountain road. There is no sign and if you didn't already know the trail was there, you'd never spot it from the road. Parking in the large gravel area across the road from the trail, we discovered the remainder of the trail going downhill. This .7-mile piece is the only part that is signed with "Crystal Ridge Trail No. 1163."

Another warm sunny day as we entered the deep forest. With such a dark canopy, not enough light gets through for much undergrowth. Thus, there were no bugs. The old trail, which is shown on Carl's out-of-print Kinzbeach map, is in remarkably good shape and easy to follow. It is extremely steep however. Guess they didn't know the word switchback when they built this

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onc. We could see bicycle tire tracks which made the dry earth even dustier.

After a few miles, the steep incline abates somewhat, and it was in this vicinity that Warren noticed a few Mount Rainier Park signs as we skirted the park boundary. The forest began to open up a bit, letting in more light and bugs as well as more shrubbery underfoot. Soon thereafter, we gained the top of the ridge with views both east and west.

The old trail joins the currently used one right where the new trail tops the ridge at the viewpoint 3 miles in. After a short lunch break, we took the new trail back down.

A few days later, I returned to this area and hiked the lower portion of the trail which ends on a dirt road in a housing area near the Corral Pass road. This short section of road only loses 200 feet in .7-mile on a gentle grade in open forest full of salal. Quite a contrast from the upper section.

A few observations about this old Crystal Ridge trail. First of all, the lower section is signed at both ends; however, the bottom trailhead calls it trail 1162 while the trailhead sign on the Crystal Mountain road says trail 1163. And the newer well known Crystal Ridge trail is also trail 1163 according to the Green Trails map. Only the lower section of the old trail is shown on the GT Mt Rainier East map.—Ginny Evans, Renton, 8/2 and 8/6.

**SOURDOUGH GAP to CRYSTAL LAKES** (USGS *White River Park*)—The Midweek Mountaineer hike was full so Dick, Trudy, Inga and I did the trip on our own. Today must have been THE day to hike this trail as we kept running into people we knew, first in the parking lot at Chinook Pass and then along the trail. I even met a new friend, Jack

Kinney, a Mountaineer and *P&P* subscriber. When I introduced myself, he recognized my name, as well as my now famous hat which I was wearing, of course.

Trudy hiked as far as Sheep Lake and agreed to bring the car around to the Crystal Lakes trailhead so we could hike clear through. It is actually getting boring talking about our beautiful weather lately so I will mention the exceptional flower displays we encountered all the way to the Gap. North of the Gap, Dick decided to turn left and take us on a sidehill traverse to explore the high country above upper Crystal Lake. Some pretty little meadows up there.

Inga and I lost Dick for awhile when he went down a different gully but he rejoined us in the middle of lunch at the lake. Halfway through lunch, the Mountaineer group also joined us. With many longtime members in the group, a discussion began as to who had the lowest REI number.

The flies were getting thick as we began the long slog down to the Crystal Lakes trailhead where Trudy was waiting as promised. At an ice cream stop in Greenwater, we met another Mountaineer group that had hiked to Summerland. More old friends to visit with.—Ginny Evans, Renton, 8/9.

**NORSE PEAK** (USGS *Norse Pk*)—What a glorious day for this beautiful hike. The perfect trip—warm and sunny with a cool breeze, no bugs and hardly any people. The easy grade was delightful. Though we apparently gained 3000 feet, the gentle trail took us clear to the top of the peak in a couple of hours without one rest break.

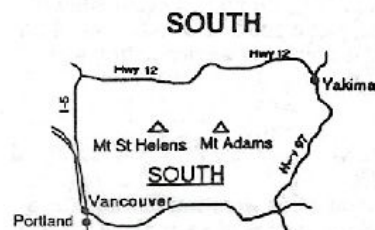
I thought this was a popular destination but even on a sunny Saturday in July, we didn't meet one soul on the hike in and saw only three others near

the summit. Views abound with Rainier dominating the scene. We encountered only a few small snow patches.—Ginny Evans, Renton, 7/15.

**FIFE'S RIDGE** (USGS *Goose Prairie*)—Leave Olympia 3:15am, arrive Crow Lake trailhead 5:30, about 110 miles. Trailhead is at Fife's Ridge viewpoint between mileposts 81 and 82. Expect delays due to construction on Highway 410 between Cayuse and Chinook passes.

Head up steep switchbacks to ridgetop viewpoint overlooking American River. This trail is used heavily by horseriders and the dust is thick. Do what your mother told you: don't scuff your feet. To 5600-foot high point is 4 miles. Slather on sunscreen and head easterly on boottrack. Cross two streams and turn north straight up an open slope with a few scattered trees to the ridge. From ridgetop a few hundred feet west to the 6685-foot west high point. Arrive 10am.

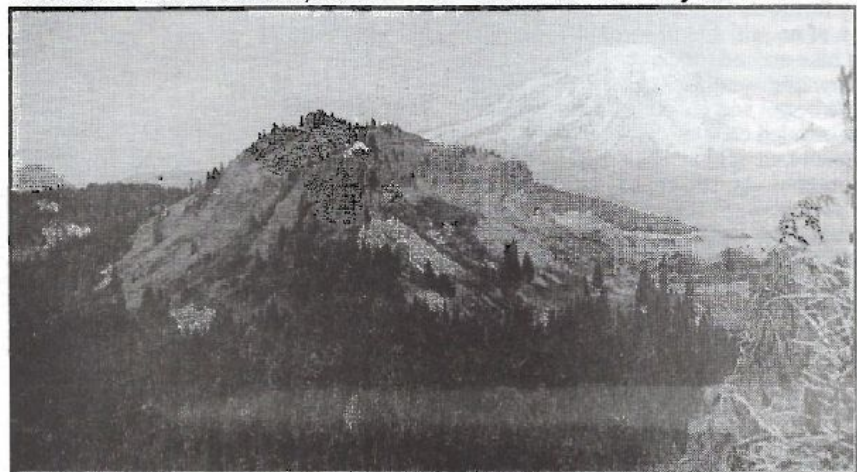
Spend time here for photos of Fife's Ridge Peaks, mainly west and northwest, also fine view of Rainier. Made a list of flowers—almost 4 dozen. Reason I saw so many is that one's eyes are very close to the ground ascending the ridge.—Paul Schaufler, Olympia, 7/17.



**CASTLE BUTTE** (USGS *Blue Lk*)—Castle Butte (5767 feet) stands astride the Klickitat Trail south of Packwood. Its prominence is 407 feet. It boasts many cliffy facades atop which is a summit block, the appearance giving rise to its name.

The shortest approach is from road 20, off Highway 12, about .4-mile west of Jackpot Lake parking area. This is the same approach cited by John Roper (*P&P*, October '99, page 23). Here the unmarked trailhead is obvious, elevation 4600 feet. The trail finds its way up a ramp through the lower cliff bands to the flat ridgetop plateau upon which sit the various peaks. At 1.2 miles is a signposted trail to Cispus Point. At about 1.8 miles reach the southwest slopes of Castle Butte.

Erik Bjarke and I hiked up through brush to the west ridge at about 5500 feet, then up the ridge through scree



Castle Butte (5767 feet) from the south, at Cispus Point.

Mick Campbell


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and heather to 5600 feet. We then passed through a few trees to the upper northwest slope. This leads straight up to the summit block, where a gully in the otherwise vertical rock leads up 20 feet or so to the top (Class 2-3). The rock is solid.

Views abound. For anyone who feels uncomfortable scrambling the summit gully, a walkable north point affords nearly equal vistas.


Round trip from road 20 is about 5 miles (depends upon how straight up the slope you trudge); elevation gain is around 1200 feet.—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 7/8.

 **CISPUS POINT (USGS Blue Lk)**—Cispus Point (designated simply "Cispus" on the USGS map) is .9-mile west-northwest of Jackpot Lake and .8-mile south-southeast of Castle Butte. Its summit is a short hike along a branch off the Klickitat Trail. Its prominence is 336 feet. The summit is protected by cliffs except for the southern slopes, up which the trail ascends. Its northeast side drains into Smith Creek and on into the Cowlitz River. All other sides are drained by Swede Creek and other unnamed streams into the North Fork Cispus River.

The shortest approach is from road 20, off Highway 12, about .4-mile west of Jackpot Lake parking area. This is the same approach cited by John Roper (*P&P, October '99, page 23*). Here the unmarked trailhead is obvious, elevation 4600 feet. The trail finds its way up a ramp through the lower cliff bands to a flat ridgetop plateau. At 1.2 miles a trail signposted "Cispus Point" heads south. This path passes pleasant ponds, attains the southeast ridge, turns north and climbs to the top.

A few glass and metal fragments remain from a former lookout. Near and distant views are good, especially that of Castle Butte.

Round trip from road 20 is about 3.6 miles with an elevation gain of 1100 feet.—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 7/8.

 **PEAK 5760+ (USGS Blue Lk)**—This summit is located south of Packwood and exactly 1 mile directly east of Jackpot Lake. One of many peaks along the Klickitat trail, it sports a prominence of 560+ feet. The high point is at the southern end of a ridge that is over a half mile long. The naked summit block affords widespread views of the Goat Rocks, Adams, Rainier, St. Helens and points between.


Erik Bjarke and I ascended the peak from the southeast col between the valleys of Siwash and Deception Creeks.

We got there by driving from Highway 12 on road 20 to Jackpot Lake (elevation 4560 feet), then hiking the Klickitat trail east [see NOTE]. There are logging roads on the west slope of Horseshoe Point and high in the valley of Deception Creek which might offer a shorter approach.

From the southeast col a faint abandoned trail leads north and upslope, crossing two small creeks and ending at a larger creek in a deep gully. From here we made our way straight up through forest, brush and snow. We kept the large creek to our north until about 5600 feet, where the trees thinned out and we could see the summit ridge. We then crossed the creek, heading northwest, then headed straight west again to the summit rocks. We found two gullies leading up the 15-foot summit block to the top; Erik took the one on the east side, and found the rock crumbly with mobile handholds (exposed Class 2). I looked at the gully on the west side; it looked worse, so I elected to forgo the actual summit.

From Jackpot Lake the round trip is about 6 miles; including the ups and downs of the trail, the total gain is approximately 1900 feet.

[NOTE: the Green Trails map erroneously shows the Klickitat trail climbing around the north side of Peak 5760+, and shows an old road around the south side. In fact, the newly signed trail follows the course of the "road" on the Green Trails map, but the actual old road ended before leaving the valley of Jackpot Creek; there never was a road along the south side of the peak. The USGS map shows the trail correctly.]—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 7/8.


 **THREE PEAKS (USGS Packwood, Ohanapecosh Hot Sps)**—I question the reason this trip is even in the guidebook. It doesn't begin to get pretty until the meadows just before Lost Lake many miles up the trail. There are many other ways into the area besides this one, and the three tree covered peaks aren't worth all the effort in my opinion. Besides that, the total in and out gain to Lost Lake on this trail is 4050 feet which is almost twice what the guide states.

We planned to do this hike as a one way trip returning on the Bluff Lake trail. By the time we placed cars at both ends and got on the trail, it was after 11am. Then, as the guidebook says, the beginning is a confusing mess of roads and trails but we didn't lose much time routefinding. The rather ugly trail goes up and down in deep forest along a tree covered ridge. The best views were of a

piece of Packwood Lake with Johnson Peak high above at the beginning of the trip while we were still hiking the old road.

After what seemed like two lifetimes, we came to the junction with the trail to Mosquito and Packwood Lakes. Here we turned left toward Lost Lake and finally got into some beautiful meadows abundant with flowers and views of Johnson and other peaks. Lost Lake, when we finally found it, was delightful but due to the late hour, we didn't have much time to spend there and gave up all hope of attaining Lost Lake Lookout, our original intent. The dogs swam in the lake, we ate and took pictures, and beat a hasty retreat back the way we had come.


After retrieving the other car and grabbing a quick bowl of soup in town, I got home at 11:30pm and found Jim pacing the street in front of our house, really worried.—Ginny Evans, Renton, 7/27.

 **SLEEPING BEAUTY (GT Mt Adams West)**—A short hike to the site of a former lookout, this trail made a good stop for us to stretch our legs after a long drive. It starts out steep and stays that way, gaining about 1400 feet in about 1¼ miles, but is well worth the effort.

The first mile climbs through second-growth forest, then reaches the ridge crest and travels a short distance through old-growth to the base of the summit pinnacle. Here the trail switchbacks steeply up through narrow, rocky cracks to the summit ridge. Turn right and scramble over rocks the remaining few yards to the summit at 4907 feet elevation.

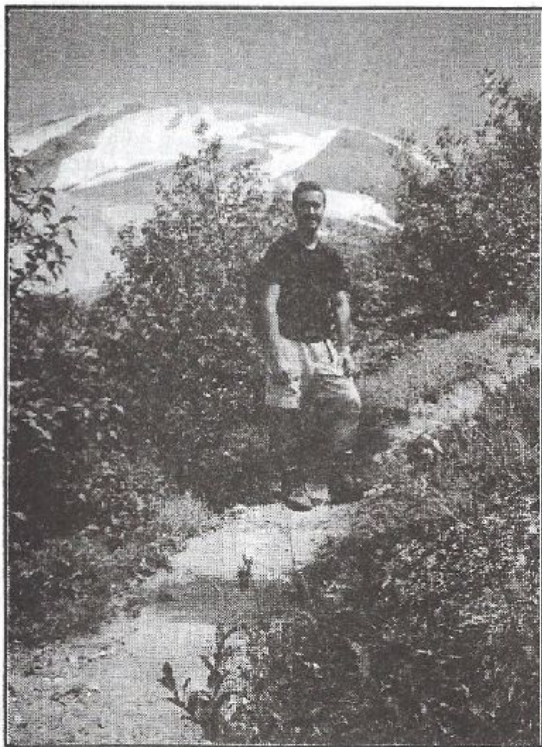
We had cloudless skies and impressive views to Rainier, St Helens, Adams (only 10 air miles away), Hood, and the Goat Rocks. No bugs. Eight vehicles at the trailhead when we arrived about 1:30, but we passed everyone on our way up and their way out, and had the summit to ourselves. This seems to be a fairly popular hike in the area.

From Trout Lake drive west 1.8 miles on Highway 141, then turn north on road 88. Follow it for 4.8 miles, then turn right onto road 8810. In 5.3 miles turn east on road 040 and drive .6-mile to the trailhead. Parking is along the shoulder of the road with space for a dozen vehicles. The roads were in good condition and well signed.—C. Berner, Renton, 7/23.

 **BIRD CREEK MEADOW LOOP (USGS Mt Adams East)**—Short, but very sweet, this 5-

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Coby Farnham on the Sheep Canyon trail. Mount St Helens Volcanic Monument.

mile loop through flower gardens and alpine meadows to the lower flanks of Mount Adams. There were many creeks along the entire length of the trail, and several very nice waterfalls. The highpoint was at Hellroaring Overlook (6500 feet), where we ate lunch and were close enough to watch climbers high up on the mountain.

The trail seems to be well used, but needs a little maintenance. We encountered many snow patches which should all melt within the next few weeks. And on this cloudless Monday, we saw only a few mosquitoes, and caught a quick glimpse of two other hikers.

There are several loop and trail possibilities in the immediate area, but we chose one starting at Bird Lake. Bluff Lake trail 105 gently ascends through meadows and forest ½-mile to Bluff Lake. We continued on trail 105, passing a junction with trail 90, and reaching another junction in about .8-mile signed as a self-guiding Flower Walk Trail (we saw no evidence of interpretive signs). We followed this trail about ½-mile, then turned onto a trail marked Hellroaring Overlook.

In .3-mile is the cliff edge, 800 feet above Hellroaring Creek, meadows, and glacier rubble. Mazama Glacier is just above. Across the valley is the Ridge of Wonders and Little Mount Adams.

Retracing our steps back to the start

of the flower walk, we continued on trail 9 gently up and down to trail 100. Here we turned left and in a short ½-mile descended to the base of picturesque Crooked Creek falls. The trail continues gently downhill mostly through light forest back to Bird Lake. A path around the shoreline, with views across to Mount Adams, makes a very nice ending to the loop.

From Trout Lake, drive north on Mount Adams Recreation road 1.3 miles. Bear right at a junction with Highway 23. At .7-mile farther, keep right on a road that eventually is signed road 82, and follow it approximately 7 miles. Bear left at a junction and enter the Yakama Reservation. Travel approximately 4 rough miles and turn left at Mirror Lake. In 1 more mile is Bird Lake campground and the trailhead.

Nice, clean campspots here. NOTE: The final 5 miles are very rough and not recommended for ordinary

passenger cars. And I don't think this road should be attempted if rain is in the forecast, as it looks like the mud would be axle deep.

This trail is on Tract D of the Yakama Reservation and fees are collected. Currently the charge is \$5 for day use and \$10 per day if camping.—C. Berner, Renton, 7/24.



## AVALANCHE GLACIER VIEW (GT Mt Adams West)

Another mostly clear day on our 3-day trip to Mount Adams territory. This time we chose the Stagman Ridge trail 12 on the southwest flanks of Mount Adams, with close-up views of glaciers and timberline moraines. We hiked about 11 miles with an elevation gain of around 2000 feet.

The first 1.5 miles is very gently uphill along the wooded crest of Stagman Ridge. Then the trail climbs up and over a bump and descends to a small creek and camp, then up again gently. In about 3.5 miles we left the main trail and turned onto a side trail (shown on old maps) heading directly across to Lookingglass Lake and Madcat Meadow.

This trail seems to get plenty of use. However, just before the lake, we were stopped by Cascade Creek, a roaring glacial stream. We were prepared to ford, but the current looked too swift to attempt, and we knew from the map

there would be another large stream crossing just ahead.

So we followed gentle uphill terrain cross-country, passing a marshy meadow filled with elephanthead and shooting stars, and within about ½-mile came to trail 9A. We decided at this point to leave the lake and meadow for another trip maybe later in the season after the streams have settled down.

At the junction of trails 9A and 9 (Round-the-Mountain Trail), the guidebook suggested a cross-country side trip to unobstructed views of glaciers and Mount Adams at timberline. So we did this, climbing above the trail about ½-mile and finding perfect rocks for sitting and enjoying fabulous views at about 6200 feet elevation while having a leisurely lunch.

Returning to the trail, we proceeded a short distance farther east along trail 9 to Cascade Creek to see if a crossing could be made at that point, and found no bridge, nor a safe crossing at this time. We then travelled west 1.1 miles along trail 9 to Horseshoe Meadow and a junction with the PCT.

Here we met three horsemen heading up the PCT, the only people we saw all day, though there was one vehicle at the trailhead when we started out.

Continuing .4-mile along the PCT, we came to a junction and turned south on trail 12. In a short mile we completed a loop, and followed Stagman Ridge back to the car in another 3.5 miles. Just before a large meadow halfway back, we heard crashing through the woods to our left and caught a glimpse of elk.

From Trout Lake, drive north on the Mount Adams Rec road 1.3 miles and veer left onto road 23 that goes to Randle. In 10 miles turn right onto road 8031 and follow it for .4-mile. Turn left on road 70 for 3.1 miles, then right on road 120 for approximately .6-mile to the trailhead at 4193 feet. There are several nice campspots here with picnic tables and views to Mount Hood. The roads were in great condition.—C. Berner, Renton, 7/25.

**MOUNT ADAMS DIST—509-395-3400** (Trout Lake). 509-427-3200 (Wind River. Prime huckleberry time is the end of August.—Ranger, 8/8.

**COWLITZ VALLEY DIST—360-497-1100** (Randle). 360-497-0600 (Packwood). High Rock lookout is staffed Wednesday through Sunday.—Ranger, 8/8.

**MOUNT ST HELENS—360-247-3900**. For climbing info call 360-247-3961.

# BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

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## NORTHEAST



**MARCUS TRAIL** (*Colville Natl Forest*)—Before heading into Canada, Heather and I spent a week visiting and revisiting some of my favorite eastern Washington spots. We have been coming to the Kettle Mountains for 4 years now. The high country of Ferry County is one of my favorite spots in the state.

The Marcus trail accesses Kettle Ridge allowing an easy ascent up Copper Butte, which at 7135 feet is the

highest peak in the range. The Marcus trail begins off road 2040 but a washout forced us to walk an additional 2 miles. The trail begins in burned forest then travels for over 2 miles in open flower-saturated meadows. It is truly one of the best feeder trails in the Kettles. It is a bit hard to find in spots but it is generally in good shape. Once again we encountered no one. I have yet to meet a fellow hiker on a trail in the Kettle Mountains. Heather and I did, however, encounter a brief but intense episode of thunder and lightning, a far more common occurrence!—Craig Romano, Seattle, 7/8.



## SHEDROOF DIVIDE

(*Salmo-Priest Wilderness*)—Heather and I did two hikes on the Shedroof Divide, one from Thunder Creek with its glorious old-growth cedars and the other from Pass Creek Pass. The trip from Pass Creek Pass to the fire-charred 6734-foot summit of Helmer Mountain makes a good 12-

mile roundtrip of mile-high ridge walking.

If you have never been to this wilderness in the extreme northeast part of the state you are missing out on some of the wildest country left in Washington. The Salmo-Priest is home to both woodland caribou and grizzly bears. I have never seen so much bear activity in Washington than along the Shedroof Divide. You can follow this trail for over 20 miles to Idaho, but we just went up to Helmer Peak. We took a sidetrip up to the old lookout on 6466-foot Round Top Mountain too. The views of the Idaho Selkirks and upper Priest Lake are breathtaking.

Except for the wilderness ranger doing some trail work, we saw nobody. Trail is in good shape, all downed trees should be cleared by now. You probably won't encounter a grizzly, but millions of flesh-seeking mosquitoes anxiously await your arrival!—Craig Romano, Seattle, 7/10.

## 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**—A disposable camera on the Badger Valley trail at a small stream before the crossing of Grand Creek (on the Grand Lake side). This camera was taken to and left at the ONP Visitor Center in Port Angeles.

**LOST**—Pair of prescription sunglasses in brown case along West Fork Miller River trail/road. Call Don, 425-883-5575 (Bellevue).

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

**FOUND**—Bag tent poles, Mount Jupiter trail approximately 4 miles in at about 4200 feet. Call to identify. Jim, 253-884-5082, 9am to 5pm (Lakebay).

**LOST**—Motorola StarTac digital cell phone 2/25 in northeast gully of Mc-

Clellan Butte. Contact Fay Pullen, 253-631-1177 (Kent).

**FOUND**—Roll of exposed film 6/2 on summit of Bean Peak. Contact Fay Pullen, 253-631-1177 (Kent).

**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>.

**WANTED**—Used sit-on-top surf kayak by Ocean Kayak. One of the following: Yak Board, Yahoo, Frenzy or Scrambler. Call Kasia, 360-796-0594, or e-mail <kasia\_pierzga@hotmail.com>.

**FOR SALE**—Two goat packs with pads and saddle bags and harnesses: \$45 each. These fit larger goats such as the Alpine brand. 360-677-0412 (Baring).

**FOR SALE**—Tents. A 2-3 person Eureka dome in good condition. Make me an offer. And a 3-4 person Walrus dome, like new, used only twice. Very lightweight, only 8 pounds. Asking \$150, or make an offer. Call Mary, 360-435-9574, or e-mail: <mturider11@webtv.net>.

**FOR SALE**—One pair Merrell 3-pin Telemark leather boots, men's size 10 (rarely used). \$40. 360-677-0412 (Baring).

**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: <powrie@sprynet.com>.

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

**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).

**OSAT**—A clean and sober climbing and mountaineering club. 253-236-9674 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).

# KEEPING PACE

EQUIPMENT, RECIPES, TIPS

**BEES**—Beware: trail crews are reporting an abundance of yellowjackets and white-faced hornets this season, more so than the past few summers.

**REMEMBER YOUR PASS**—In the last issue (*August, page 31*) Lindy mentioned having left the forest pass behind and getting ticketed.

Ben made up a ditty to help us—

The lights are off,  
The car is locked,  
The parking brake is on,  
The pass is near the driver's seat  
And now we can be gone.

Well, I hope it works.—*Nancy and Sparky, Edmonds.*

**CELL PHONES**—“How many bars did you get?”

“Huh?”

“On your cell phone—it’s the new deal. When you reach that remote high lake you get out your cell phone and try to get through to your significant other!”

I was the only one who got through from Hawkins Lake on my old analog phone from (formerly) AirTouch. Steve has this newer phone and if he gets a “D,” he doesn’t even need any bars or signal strength whatever.

Anyway the old guy, his son, Steve and Ron Oglund had an adventure to Hawkins and Shelf Lakes today and all we got was ... bars!—*WG Bucher, Kirkland.*

**GPS**—I finally got bitten by the GPS bug. I’ve always been a traditionalist, figuring if a map and compass couldn’t get me there and back, forget it.

But I saw this ad for the Garmin eTrex Summit—weighs 5½ ounces, waterproof, and is a combination compass, altimeter, watch and GPS. It costs \$250—about the same as a medium-priced backpack (or so I justified the expense).

So I bought one at REI and have been having a ball learning how to use it. I go out for a walk and can find my way home even if I go back a different way.

I know, I know: I could find my way home anyway without consulting a pointer, but it wouldn’t be as much fun. There is a little walking man on the screen. Whenever I turn left, he turns left. When I go uphill, he goes uphill. Can you imagine a neater toy?

Next week we will be backpacking up in the Willowa Mountains of north-eastern Oregon so hope I will have it all figured out by then (it seems pretty easy). As I recall there are great possibilities for crosscountry travel up there.

So if you don’t hear from me in a long time you’ll know I’m lost up in the Willows staring at a GPS screen.—*Jim Miller, Portland.*

**TASTY OATMEAL**—Those little packets of instant oatmeal can be made quite tasty for a backpacking breakfast.

To a ziplock bag, add one packet of regular oatmeal, 2 dozen (or thereabouts) plump raisins, a half-teaspoon of brown sugar, and a tablespoon of Milkman instant milk.

In camp, empty contents of bag into your cup, add 6 to 8 ounces of water (whatever looks right), and stir thoroughly. Now—this is the important part let it stand to rehydrate for 5 minutes. Eat and savor.—*YC.*

**GO LIGHTER**—Is a ground cloth for your tent really necessary? Maybe not. If you are reasonably careful in placing your tent, the floor is likely to last as long as the upper, which will deteriorate eventually from sun damage, zipper damage, and wear and tear anyway.

A ¾-length sleeping bag will also save weight. Position the pad to start at your shoulders, and use your foam sit-pad under your head.—*YC.*

**PASSAGES NORTHWEST**—Passages Northwest has announced their new programs for the fall 2000 season for girls and women. There will be two weekend-long mother/daughter courses, a two week-long courses for homeschool girls and a weekend paddling course for women.

Mother/Daughter courses provide quality time away from the pressures of everyday life for mothers and their 10 to 15 year old daughters. The courses are:

- Ropes Course: Randle, September 22-24. \$250/pair.
- Sea Kayaking: South Puget Sound, October 7-8. \$250/pair.

Girls Wilderness programs not only teach girls about kayaking, but also a strong science, art and theater curriculum is integrated into the expeditions. The courses are:

- Girls Sea Kayaking: South Puget Sound, September 25-29. \$375.
- Sound Explorations: Seattle vicinity, October 2-6. \$510.

Our women’s programs are for women who want to learn a new skill and to get away from the rush of everyday life. These programs will teach basic kayaking skills so no previous kayaking experience is necessary.

- Women’s Paddle: San Juan Islands, September 23-24. \$160.

For more information on these and other programs, please contact 206-286-8601 or email <info@passagesnw.org> or see our website at <www.passagesnw.org>.

**CHANGE AT MBSNF OFFICE**—

Starting September 1, the Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest office in Mountlake Terrace will *no longer* offer maps, permits or information. [Ed. Note: What? Not even *information*?]

They say it is due to budget and staffing reductions.

You’ll have to get your maps, permits and information at the main ranger stations (Skykomish, North Bend, Darrington, Sedro-Woolley), at the “service centers” (Snoqualmie Pass, Verlot, Glacier, Enumclaw), or at the Information Center at REI/Seattle.

**SYMPOSIUM**—The West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium will be held at Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend September 15 through 17.

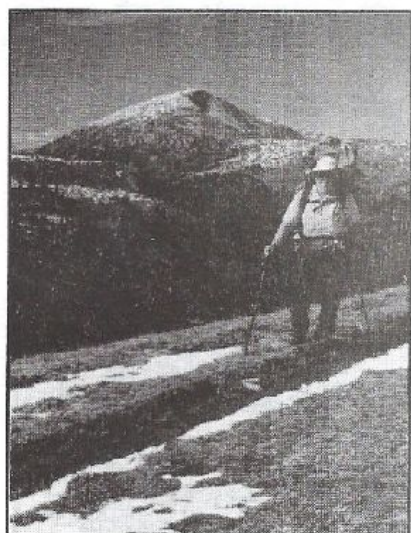
It is the premier event to attend if you are at all interested in learning more about sea kayaking. Seminars, slide shows, demonstrations, kid activities, great prices on gear and boats are all available.

The beach display offers dozens of boats to “test-drive” and compare on the spot. (Bringing your own PFD and paddle speeds the demo process, but isn’t necessary.)

The Saturday evening feature presentation will be from Crossing Latitudes, the same folks with whom the P&P staff spent a week kayaking in Sweden this summer.

For registration information, prices, and schedules, call 800-755-5228, or on the web, <www.gopaddle.org>.

# EDITOR'S JOURNAL



In the Pasayten Wilderness.

**FROM THE MAIL BOX**—"I noticed in the last issue that someone mentioned a *P&P* pin and patch. Are these available? If so, I want one of each."—*Renton* [Not yet; we're still working on it.]

"Was weeding when the mailman came with the last issue—sat right down in the yard and read it cover to cover!"—*Edmonds*

"Thank you for the momentary, refreshing escapes from the Rat Race."—*Seattle*

"I took a 40-pound pack 6.9 miles up to Camp Plesant last week. At age 81. That will be my last overnight hike. Just day hikes from now on."—*Vancouver, Washington*

"I so enjoy the articles written about local trails. I walked them until I was 90, and it brings back memories."—*Port Angeles*

**NEW FRIEND**—The Bulletin Board notice for a hiking buddy worked great for Amy and Noelle.

Noelle writes: "Thank you for my new friend and hiking pal, Amy. I answered her ad back in March and we have been on several great day hikes, and just came back from a backpack to Spider Meadow. I believe I have made a friend for life."

She adds: "If other gals would like to join in, we'd love to have them!"

**CDX**—"What," I asked Nancy Brodie, "does CDX mean?"

She has been putting CDX after Sparky's name on all her reports recently.

She explained, "CDX is an advanced obedience title earned at dog shows which we have been working on all winter. Last year, only seven bouviers (Sparky is a bouvier) earned this title nationally, so maybe I can say I have a well trained dog."

"I am sure trying to present a positive image of dog people on the trail," she continued, "Perhaps the most positive image is that Sparky carries a pack with my stuff so I can hike farther!"

**CRAIG ROMANO**—It's good to see reports from Craig Romano again.

Craig has been busy writing for other publications, including *Backpacker*, so look for his by-line in outdoor magazines. Remember, you read him here first!

He and Heather travel to some interesting places in the state. His reports in this issue are from the little-visited Kettle mountains in northeastern Washington.

**REPORTS ISSUE**—This month has turned out to be an All-Reports Issue. The combination of wonderful weather, e-mail, and the alignment of the heavens has produced a bountiful crop of trail reports, which we are happy to bring you.

If you're wondering where the feature stories are, well, we'll get them back when school starts and the weather gets cool and damp again.

**TRIPS**—Lee and I had been rushed and busy in July and we hadn't been out backpacking yet. We quickly set aside a couple of days, got our gear together, and set out for the PCT ... just as several days of rain arrived.

It gave us a chance to try out some new gear (which we'll report on later), however, and to plan our next trip,

which took place under dazzling blue skies with great views.

**E-MAIL CRASH**—Our internet provider chose the week of August 21 to take a nose dive. Coincidentally, that happened also to be press week, so those of you who tried to e-mail your reports for this very issue couldn't get through to us.

You probably received a message saying our address didn't exist, or there was a "fatal error." I'm sure you were as frustrated by the wonderful world of electronic mail as we were here.

Yellow Cat has vowed to go back to paper and pen.

**ROOM WITH A VIEW**—In early August I joined my women friends on a week-long backpack trip. Most of our camps were up high and in the open.

Elin and I shared my Mountain Hardware tent with the "windows" in the fly and we enjoyed being able to see the sky and stars. Elin even reported spotting a shooting star through the skylight!

Although we were in the high country for the partial solar eclipse, a ridge-line prevented our viewing it.

See you in the backcountry,

Ann Marshall

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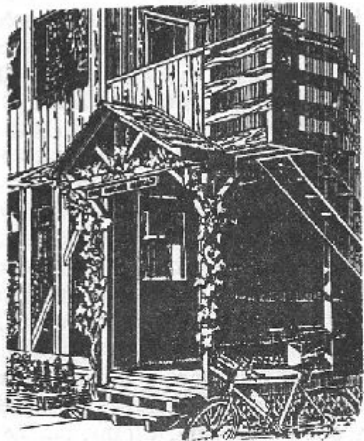
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