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Lucky cools off near the summit of Mailbox.

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COVER PHOTO:

Bob Packard, the County High Point King, on a trip to Buckner Mountain, the High Point of Skagit County (see <www.cohp.org>); The Triplets in back. North Cascades National Park, Washington. Photo by John Roper.

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WORST BACKCOUNTRY TRIP

Hey, Karen. The worst of that route (Marble Pass) lay ahead of you (*June, page 16*). There does come a point where there is no trail, only (nearly) impossible brush. I'd been there some years back. And I swear—and still swear—that I would never do that route again. It is by far the worse backcountry trip I've ever done.

But if you must do it: go in September when the river is down and the brush has lost most of its foliage.

Hope the eye gets better. I had the same thing happen to me up there. Went to the E.R. Had only a scratch.

David Mac Farlane
Lake Stevens, Washington

GONE POSTAL

Diary, April 15, 1993

My third climb of Mailbox. The 4000-foot gain in 4 miles is always a good spring conditioner. The toothbrush at the road edge marking the turn-off to the trail is still there. Cut one log out on the way up. As usual, saw no one on the way up or on the summit. Encountered one person heading up on the descent. Sure beats the crowd on Si.

Diary, April 28, 2001

Due to the weather deteriorating John, Nat and I went to Plan B, some exercise on Mailbox Peak. I was shocked to count 25 cars at the trailhead! The trail has become a rutted, muddy mess in many areas, especially the upper third leading to the ridge proper. Encountered 40+ people and 5 dogs including at least one large party of Mountaineers. Still a good workout but no longer a wilderness experience!

A Thought: The Mailbox Peak trail has had an interesting history. Essentially unknown to recreational hikers prior to the 1980s the grade was likely laid in as a trap line, by hunters, or miners. The existence of the tread was a well-kept secret among those frequenting the Middle Fork valley.

That was then and this is now—the word is out! I believe the trail is noted in a number of hike guides and is routinely advertised as a destination point for group outings. Recognized by the State DNR as a "user built" trail it was saved from the axe in the layout of the Hardley-Mailbox timber sale (cut in

1999 and 2000).

Unfortunately, this largely boot worn path is not capable of sustaining the level of use it is now receiving. At current use rates I predict sections of trail will deteriorate to a multi-braided, deeply rutted mess. What to do? Encourage the State DNR or Forest Service to establish a formal trail and trailhead? Encourage WTA to organize volunteer maintenance of the trail? Either of these options would necessitate significant rerouting/regrading of the trail.

Stop using it?

Personally, I feel that until the condition of the trail is addressed in a formal process I am going to stop using it. I would strongly encourage individuals and organized groups (The Mountaineers, etc.) to also stop using it.

Don Goodman
Bellevue, Washington

GEOCACHING:

A Different Way of Hiking

A guy at work alerted Jim to a new kind of game that seems to be spreading like wildfire throughout the GPS community—Geocaching.

Geocaching involves individuals or groups who set up caches (hidden, secure storage spots that contain various small items) and publish their locations on the internet. GPS users then utilize the location coordinates to track them down. It is like a treasure hunt, and one never knows what one will find in a cache. It could be toys, books, key chains, candy, money, software, even a small C clamp like I found recently. The items should be small so they can fit in a watertight container about the size of a lunch box.

The rules of the game are that a person who finds a cache may take something from it, but then must leave something in its place and record his visit in a logbook stashed inside the cache. The logbooks remind me of summit registers.

Currently, geocachers have set up caches in thousands of locations all over the world and more are springing up every day. The website <www.geocaching.com> serves as the primary clearinghouse for cache coordinates. Caches are reached by bike, hike, boat, or even by going to downtown Seattle. Some caches have interesting twists,

like waypoints where you need to pick up important information in order to proceed. It is recommended that caches be put in public places and most are outside. We hear there is one on Mount Washington as well as somewhere on Little Si. Some involve mere walking and others a day hike.

Geocaching has been great for me as I recover from knee surgery. We spent a recent weekend in the Wenatchee area to enjoy the eastside sun and flowers and located two caches there, one off a dirt road above town and one at Peshastin Pinnacles State Park. Neither involved a lot of walking.

We did two local caches on a weekend and met other geocachers doing the same thing at one of them. It involved a bike ride on the Interurban Trail and since the other geocachers were ahead of us, we dropped back so we wouldn't discover the cache location inadvertently.

Since most caches contain toys, this is a fun family activity. Kids love looking for "buried" treasure. Caches aren't really buried but they are well hidden and can take some searching around to find. Geocaching is also a valuable training tool and is a fun way to learn how to use your GPS. Sort of a high tech hide-and-seek.

Ginny Evans
Renton, Washington

A SMALL CORRECTION FOR A SMALL PARK

Ginny Evans' trail report in the June issue (*page 10*) named the little elevation in King County's Spring Lake-Lake Desire Open Space "Cedar Mountain." On some maps this is wrongly labeled and the official name is Echo Mountain in the King County Master Plan.

It is not really undeveloped; and two new trails have been built by WTA, one off the top of the road to the water tank which keeps boot traffic off the fragile moss-covered rocks.

I wrote an article in *Pack & Paddle*, April 1999, describing the pleasures of this small wild place.

Betty Culbert
Maple Valley, Washington

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS





REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

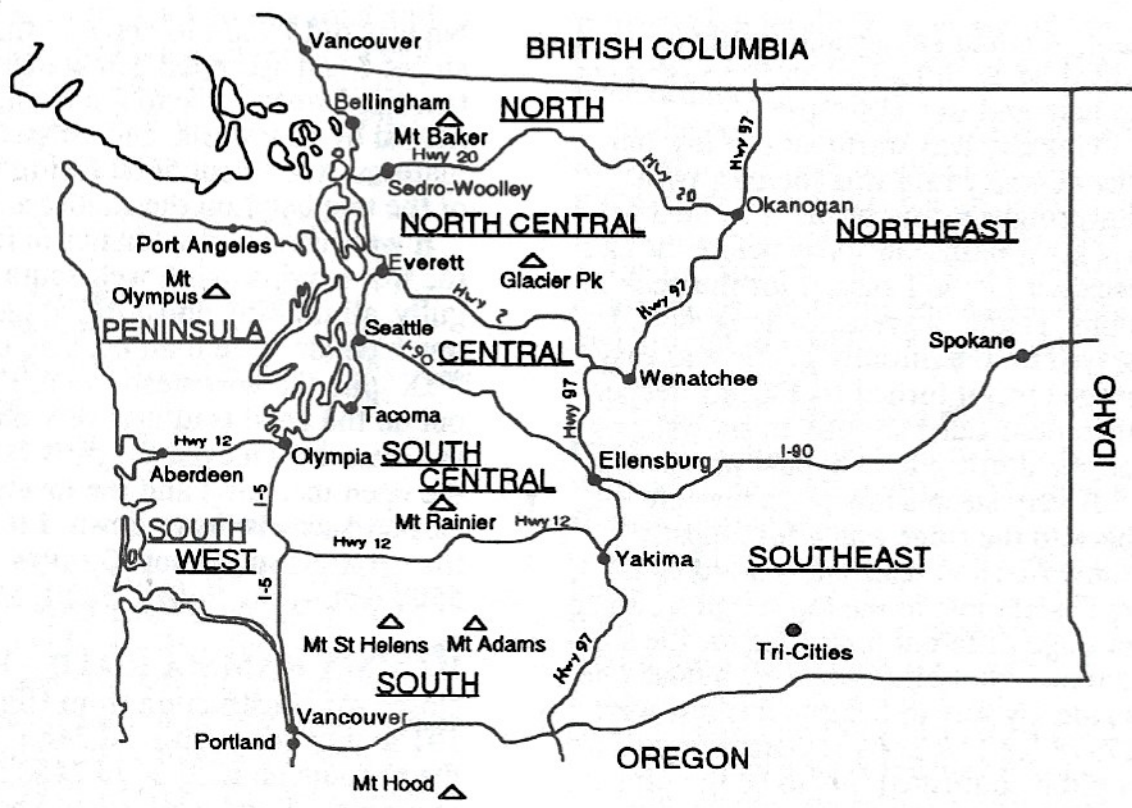
INTRODUCTION

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

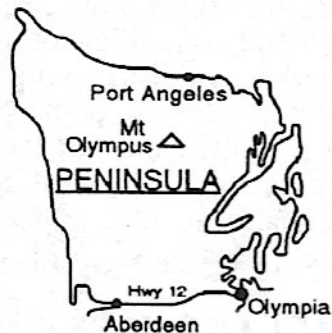
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PENINSULA




 **MARMOT PASS** (*CC Buckhorn Wilderness*)—Ray and I left in the late morning. The parking lot was not very crowded for a holiday. We watched a man loading up goats with specialty packs. Those little critters looked sturdy and capable.

The flowers on the open gravel slopes below Camp Mystery are about two weeks from igniting into the usual kaleidoscope. The snowcover in the basin is about 80% melted, and the glacier lilies are plentiful enough to provide a sea of yellow on the squishy meadows.

As soon as we crested the pass, the weather moved in, giving us a very pretty view of the rushing fog as it swirled around the Buckhorn summit. We turned around and started the knee-pounding but exhilarating descent back to the parking lot, meeting quite a few

parties coming up.—Larry Smith, Port Orchard, 5/27.

 **MARMOT PASS** (*CC Buckhorn Wilderness*)—This is one of my favorites. The hike starts at an altitude of 2500 feet and ends 5.3 miles later 3500 feet higher at 6000 feet. According to my trail guide, the first 2.6 miles to Shelter Rock camp has a gain of only about 1000 feet. It seems steeper.

My car was new before I started! Fortunately, there were other cars before me, so when they fell into the holes in the road, I could drive safely over the tops of their cars. The day was warm and beautiful. There were about 6 cars in the lot—since I only met 5 people, I guess one person must have driven two cars! Wait! One person had a dog! Oh, I guess that probably doesn't explain the extra car either.


Did I mention *warm*? I hike slower when it is warm (also when it is cold! or even when it is just right!). Well, I kept going. When I got to Camp Mystery (about 1/2-mile from the top) I stopped for lunch. While I was resting and reading my book, the guy with the dog came by and the dog definitely wasn't driving a car at that point!

I felt better after a rest and hiked the remaining way to the pass. The trail had snow over it in places, but the direction to go is evident (it is UP!). The pass was free of snow and the south facing side of Buckhorn Mountain was snowfree also. The basin below the pass was about half covered with snow.

The trail west down the other side

shortly ran into a snowbank and I didn't see any footprints. The trail north was free of snow for as far as I could see. One of the other hikers went part way up Buckhorn and he said there was a lot of wind up there.

The trip down was uneventful and when I got back there was one other car besides mine. Either I missed the hikers or they went down on the Lower Big Quilcene trail.—Lewis Coleman, Poulsbo, 5/31.

 **MOUNT WALKINSHAW** (*USGS Mt Deception*)—Not having been in the Olympics recently, I didn't know what to expect in this year of low snow. I was shocked to find the Royal Basin trail completely snowfree to where I left it in a tree band just past the main gully coming from the Walkinshaw-Graywolf saddle, about 5 miles from the trailhead, (4600 feet). In fact, the whole slope leading up to the saddle was also mostly snowfree except for patches in the gully itself.

I had intended to follow the tree band up as far as possible, but somehow I found myself forced to the right by brush and thick trees and ended up crossing the gully and scrambling up very unpleasant open terrain with steep loose scree and very poor footing on the north bank. Things improved as I got higher and entered another tree band that ended at a high talus basin (5900 feet). More steep loose scree and thick krummholz trees led to the Walkinshaw-Graywolf saddle (6400 feet).

I found a level spot about 10 feet down the other side to pitch my tiny

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS DEADLINE: July 17

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

tent. A small snowpatch nearby provided water. It had taken 5 hours to get to here and was now 4pm.

This day was warm and sunny, but the next day rain was forecast with lowering freezing levels. I wanted to get up Walkinshaw today before the bad weather hit, so I started for the peak at 6pm. Thank heavens for long days. I stayed on the initially gentle and easy ridge until it turned rocky and steeper, then descended slightly to snowslopes on the north side to bypass pinnacles.

A very steep snow pitch brought me back to the ridge and a fun, mostly snow free and reasonably solid Class 3 rock scramble to the top. I had a choice of three different pinnacles for the summit and after climbing over a false one, made my way to the one farthest west (7378 feet). A hefty register chained to a piton confirmed this to be the proper one. It was 7:30.

I took a moment to enjoy the views into the heart of the Needles to the south (where I was last fall; see *P&P November 2000*). Walkinshaw is the farthest northern Needle. Upper Royal Basin was still completely snowed in but it appeared that Royal Lake had very little snow. I was back at my camp by 9pm, the only difficult part of the descent backing down the steep snow pitch. I ate dinner watching the sun set with thickening clouds over the Graywolf valley.

I awoke at 7am. The night had been mild with only sporadic wind gusts and I had slept well. But I could see weather rapidly moving in. Both Walkinshaw and Graywolf were already hidden in the lowering clouds. By the time I was ready to leave at 8 it had begun to rain lightly. I retraced my steps down to the tree band below the high talus basin.

No way did I want to descend the awful slopes I had ascended below there, so I traversed steep scree to the right, much helped by goat trails, and crossed the main gully at about 5600 feet to the top of the tree band on the south bank.

It was then an easy matter to follow the tree band, staying well south of the gully, all the way down to the trail, a much better route than my way up.

Despite the now steady rain, the trip out on the good trail was very pleasant as I leisurely enjoyed the early flowers in the open meadows and the lovely moss carpeted woods lower down. I reached the car at noon. About 13 miles and 5500 feet.—Fay Pullen, Kent, 5/31-6/1.

HAMMA HAMMA ROAD—Road is closed for construction from Highway 101 to junction with road 2480. Take the re-route on road 24 to 2480 (rough in places). Road work should be done by 7/1.

Beyond Lena Lake trailhead road is blocked by a slide. Scheduled for repair this year.—Ranger, 6/2.

DOSEWALLIPS—Gate open at Park boundary. Road is in good condition. West Fork Dose trail to Anderson Pass closed due to bridge damage; scheduled for repair this fall.—Ranger, 6/2.

ELWHA RIVER—Cleared of trees from Whiskey Bend to within 1 mile of Chicago Camp (2300 feet). The trail is snowfree to just below Lake Mary (3500 feet) with several trees across the trail between 24 mile crossing and snow line. Check with Wilderness Info Center for camping restrictions.—Ranger, 6/3.

RULES AND REGULATIONS—For all the details on Olympic National

Park's requirements, call the Wilderness Information Center in Port Angeles, 360-565-3100.

SOUTHWEST



CAPITOL FOREST (USGS Capitol Pk)

—Lew and I hiked the southeast corner of Capitol Forest. Other than severe horse damage and resulting mud, this is a great area to hike when high country trails are still snowbound.

There are many miles of good trail and some old logging roads helter-skelter all through the approximately 100-square-mile park. We had a good DNR map but still saw one trail sign three times! We probably walked close to 10 miles through forest, past ponds, along rivers, through a large clear-cut and through and around lots of mud.

We had our lunch overlooking a beautiful small waterfall. Some views of neighboring hills but our trails never got close to the highest point which is probably about 2500 feet.—Tom Karasek, Mossyrock, 5/21.



MCLANE CREEK NATURE TRAIL (USGS Olympia)

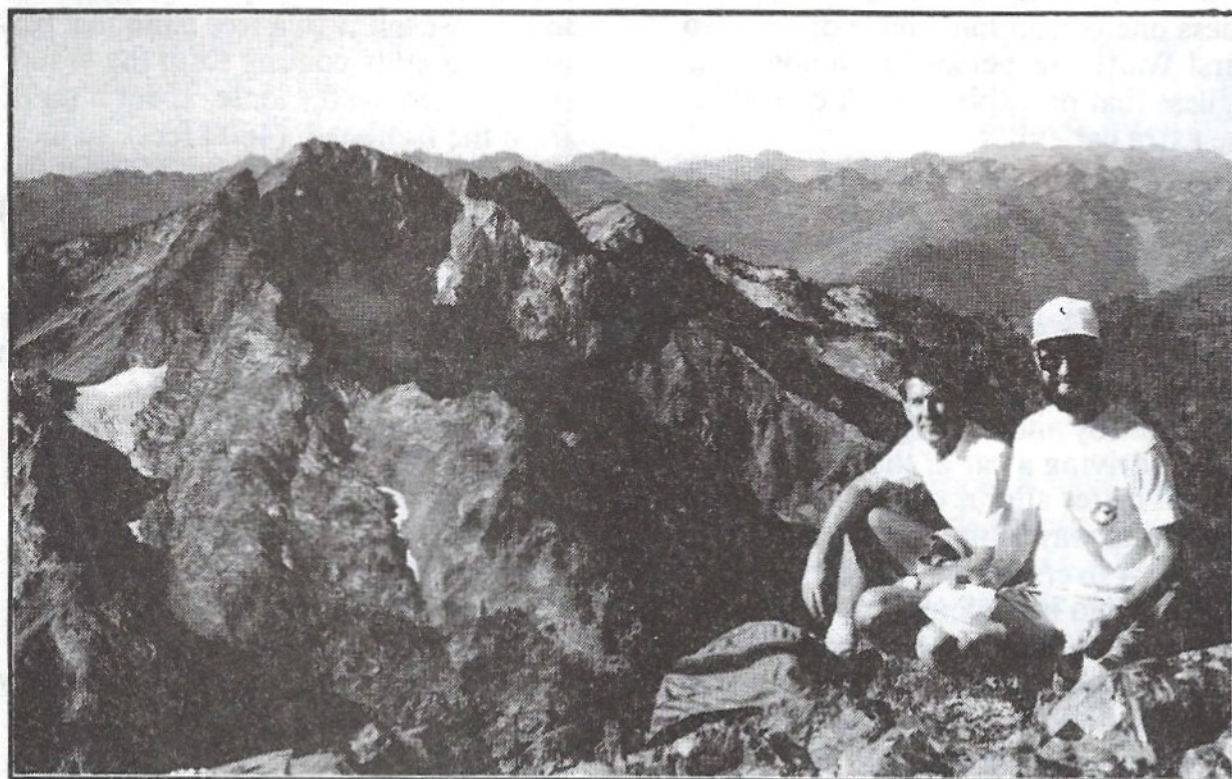
—We checked out this short hike on our way to another destination, and were impressed. There is a 1.1-mile loop trail around the 41 acres that includes beaver ponds and dams, bridges, a big-leaf maple tunnel, and many woodland, marsh, and swamp plants.

Part of the trail is wheelchair accessible. Even though it is short, there is so much to see that it takes longer than expected, especially if plants and flowers excite you.

We walked this trail on a mid-week morning and saw several other people. There was a nice display of corydalis blooming, and we had fun trying to see how many other plants we could identify. This is a great nature walk.

Between the nature trail and highway is a small parking lot and another trail you may have noticed on the drive in. This is the McLane Centennial Demo Forest Trail, a half-mile loop through the forest that makes a nice addition to the nature trail.

Driving directions are in *Walks and Hikes in the Foothills and Lowlands around Puget Sound*. There may be interpretive pamphlets at the trailhead.—C. Berner, Renton, 5/2.



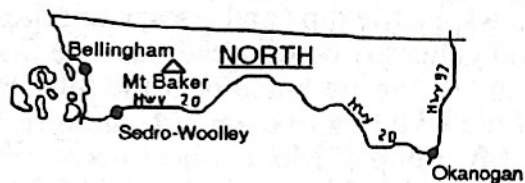
Jennifer Stein Barker

Steve (sorry, last name unknown) and Don Paulson on Mount Stone, Olympic National Park.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

REPORTS AND CONDITIONS

NORTH



TWIN SISTERS RANGE (USGS Twin Sisters Mt)

Phillip agreed to accompany me on a long exploratory traverse of the southernmost ridge of this range.

Please note! The Crown Pacific guard station at Hamilton on Highway 20 has changed their hours of access. Currently the guard house allows passage in and out only from 6am to 9pm. After that you spend the night—which can be arranged but should be planned. This makes long day trips a bit tricky. The mainline is open to the gate near Howard Creek.

We followed the road to its highpoint on the south side and then traversed ridges and frozen lakes out to George Peterson Butte. The snow suddenly began at 3100 feet and was continuous. We were on snowshoes for the rest of the trip, even on the narrow ridge traverses. Soft snow on a warm sunny day made us pick safe routes and work hard but the views were wonderful.

All the lakes remained snow covered and frozen. 13+ miles and about 5000 feet gain but we made it out with about an hour to spare.—Bud Hardwick, Bellingham, 5/11.

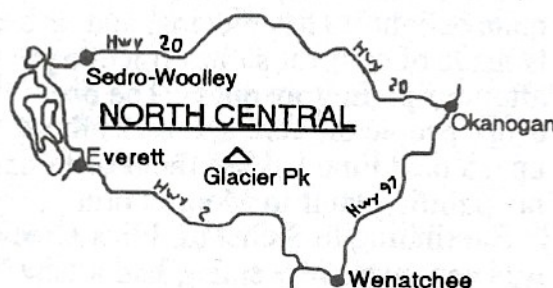
SETTING SUN, MCLEOD (USGS McLeod Mtn)

Mitch and I spent the night camped at the Goat Creek trailhead. After a quick breakfast we set off to the north around 5:45am on an abandoned logging road. When the road ended in a burn we ascended the gentle southeast ridge of point 7181. After less than a mile we came across the remnants of an old trail and cable that we continued to trip over all the way up toward Setting Sun. The going was easy and the trail was very good in places, especially as we neared the old lookout site.

Descending, we headed next up Whiteface Mountain, point 7670. After another very short stay we descended down to the broad saddle below McLeod where we took a break at an extremely picturesque larch rimmed tarn. Then we headed up the southern and southwestern slopes of McLeod. This was a pleasant ascent up to the summit at 8099 feet, with views in almost all directions. The descent in general went very quickly as we headed down a system of logging roads that brought us to below our dead-end approach road. We then had about a short

500-foot ascent back to this road and then back to Mitch's anxiously awaiting truck. This day took around 10 hours with 5000 feet of gain.—Pilar, Monroe, 6/3.

NORTH CENTRAL



KANGAROO TEMPLE, WALLABY PEAK (USGS

Silver Star Mtn)—Big fun. This was a *big fun* trip. We left the Washington Pass hairpin turn sometime before 10am and headed up to Kangaroo Pass. I have never been this way and I thought this little valley between Kangaroo Ridge and the Liberty Bell group was entirely enchanting.

The Mountaineers do this trip often so following the trail beyond Kangaroo Pass was a piece of cake. The first section of the climb is Class 4 but around the 2nd or 3rd pitch the climb takes a sharp left around a corner on a hand traverse that is low Class 5 with some big exposure and is solid with great places for protection. I had a blast leading around this corner to a belay tree.

The final section was up a large crack and then scrambling to the summit. We rappelled down and then took the trail back to Kangaroo Pass. From Kangaroo Pass we then hiked to the top of Wallaby and signed a register that probably gets fewer people than Kangaroo Temple. In it we found the Goodmans who were up there sometime in 1999. We came down without incident back to the car with some glissading down Kangaroo Pass and through the little enchanted valley.—Stefan Feller, Auburn, 6/9.

BIG SNAGTOOTH (USGS *Silver Star Mtn*)

—Reese, Pilar, and I camped overnight at the Cutthroat Lake trailhead. We left milepost 166 just after 8:30am on this day with the summit of Big Snagtooth cloudfree and looming before us. We crossed Early Winters Creek on a small log and headed toward Willow Creek, avoiding the cliffs by the waterfalls.

We worked our way up, and into the basin above Willow Creek, finally encountering snow in the basin above Willow Creek at 7000 feet.

We went almost to the head of this basin and then up to the col between Willow Tooth and Big Snagtooth. In

retrospect, a lot more snow would have been a lot more helpful and enjoyable by avoiding all the scree.

At the col, we looked at the rock and decided that Reese would climb the one pitch, then he belayed me up. From this point it is just a 60 foot scree scramble to the big summit slab. While this rock climbing was going on, Pilar went down and around to find the more accessible route in a gully.

He had difficulties and required roped assistance, but he did come up with a prize for his efforts—he found a stopper in that gully!

We got to the main summit block and looked at our options. This took some time. We did not have rockshoes which would have helped out enormously. Finally we were successful. I did a shoulderstand on Pilar, who then held my feet in place for a few feet and I “salamandered” up to the rappel slings. We all summited under sunny skies.

The way down was uneventful except for one time when it snowed on us for about 45 minutes.—Stefan Feller, Auburn, 6/10.

ROJO, ROUGE (USGS Mt *Stickney*)

—This may be a first ascent. If anyone knows if these peaks have been climbed or their history, please contact me at: sfeller@wizards.com.

Rojo is peak 5158 northwest of Red Mountain (Sultan) and has 758 feet of prominence. Rouge is peak 5360+ and has 480 feet of prominence. Rouge is almost directly north of Red.

The summit block of Rojo is Class 3 to the top. We looked for a cairn. No cairn. A snow dome existed about 7 meters away and we dug through it for a ways finding that the rock below had no cairn either. We made a summit cairn and left a summit register.

We headed for Rouge Peak. This summit had a much larger snowdome so we did not even try to dig to find a cairn. We made our own cairn next to a very large boulder on the south side and left another summit register.

Now it was down. The clearcut was horrendous coming down through. Bushwhacking 8.5.—Stefan Feller, Auburn, 5/19.

SPIRIT MOUNTAIN, MIS- SION PEAK (USGS Hoodoo

Pk)—Drive to Twisp and then go up the East Fork Buttermilk road.

This was a three-peak day so I will write up three mini reports. Peak One: Buttermilk Butte was a no brainer so we let Mitch's truck bag this summit for us. This grand peak is just over a mile farther up the road from where we

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parked to do Spirit. We actually got out of the truck to make it official.

Peak Two: Beginning up the abandoned road we quickly entered the Chelan Sawtooth Wilderness and continued up the old road to the East Buttermilk trail. We headed northwest up Spirit's gentle slopes. The summit comes in at a whopping 7910 feet. The going is in beautiful open forest and eventually gives way to open larch and talus slopes. We had great views of the Hoodoo-Raven Ridge peaks and of the Oval massif just across the valley. Our descent was down the gully between Spirit proper and point 7863. We arrived back at the truck some six hours after having started.

Peak Three: We drove back down the road and parked just on the east side of a creek northwest of the summit of Mission. There is actually an old trail in places in the beginning but after awhile it became simpler to just head straight up and in no time at all we found ourselves on top of the open summit at 5746 feet. It still wasn't precipitating but there were dark clouds everywhere and just as we arrived back at the truck it began to rain.—Pilar, Monroe, 6/2.

SYLVESTER, CROOK, PEAK 5687 (USGS Schaefer Lk)—Ian Mackay, Mike Bialos and I left the Schaefer Lake trailhead at 8:15. Mike just wanted to go as far as Schaefer Lake. Ian and I went for Sylvester.

The summit of Sylvester was a mound of snow. Soon we were off Sylvester heading for Crook. From the eastern part of the drainage we dropped our packs and headed up on a series of snow ramps leading directly to the summit. We made quick time coming down, glissading back to the packs.

From the packs we followed the Raging River down to about 5000 feet where we started heading due east to reach the 4760-foot col between Sylvester and Peak 5687. Ian decided to take a nap at the col while I headed up. The going is real easy with minimal downed trees and brush about knee height—someone had even flagged part of this section with white tape. The main summit has views east and a view of Crook. All other views are blocked by trees. I returned to Ian about 1 hour 15 minutes after I had left him.

We headed down and reached the car and the waiting Mike at 7:45.—Stefan Feller, Auburn, 6/2.

CHELAN LAKESHORE TRAIL (USGS Prince Cr, Lucerne, Sun Mtn, Stehekin)—Caught the boat (\$25 round trip) at Fields Point where there is parking at \$5 per night.

Got off at Prince Creek and hiked to Meadow Creek for the first night. Spent two nights at Moore Point. It is both spacious and popular.

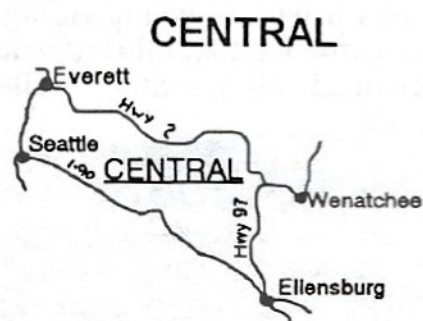
Had hauled stuff for painting, and finally got in enough exploring to stop and use it at Moore Point. The creek is quite delightful, fast moving, and its bed is made of colorful stones (nice to paint after our plain gray ones). The boat drops people off here and picks them up, so next time I'll use the boat to haul my painting stuff to Moore Point.

Continuing to Stehekin, Flick Creek was very nice, very small, had a new vault toilet, a shelter, and a floating dock for folks with small boats. As I got closer to town, the works of man (especially "no trespassing" signs) began to dominate the scene. The wind can blow (I picked a fair amount of debris out of my painting of the creek) but the lake can be mirror like, too.

On the return boat trip, we stopped to pick up 250 teenage Lutheran campers from Holden. The boat became a "sardine can" although the weather was fine and people were everywhere. Hikers who had traveled up-lake with them had wet weather and did not try to describe the situation beyond mention of the enormous number of people filling the aisles and solidly filling every area that was out of the weather.—Ramona Hammerly, Anacortes, 5/17-21.

NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK—For rules, regulations and current info, call the Wilderness Information Center in Marblemount, 360-873-4590 x39.—Ranger, 6/4.

STEHKIN—For shuttle bus info, call 360-856-5700 x340, then x14.—Ranger, 6/4.



LAKE DOROTHY (USGS Grotto)—No trees down or other trail obstacles, a few small snow patches on the south lake shore, tread very rocky and rooty. Those are the bare facts. Now for my subjective opinions.

The Lake Dorothy trail has old growth forest, river, waterfalls, a large alpine lake, mountain views, flowers, and fine campsites as its main attractions. It's very popular but that doesn't make the trip any less beautiful.

Once reaching the lake the trail par-

allels it along the south side with views, gentle dips and rises, campsites, and generally better tread than the first 2 miles. We ate lunch near the inlet end of the lake in a fine unused campsite.

My group of Mountaineer hikers were tired but happy at the end of the day. This hike is featured in *Best Hikes With Children in Western Washington* by Joan Burton. Stats: 7 miles; 1000 feet gain. 3 hours up; 2:40 down.—Bob Michelson, Seattle, 5/26.



INGALLS CREEK (USGS Blewett, Enchantment Lks)—

This is a reliable early season snowfree trail. This year we probably could have hiked it a month sooner and still avoided snow. We went as far as Falls Creek (3400 feet) and only saw snow 2000 or 3000 feet above on the mountain tops. This area near Blewett Pass is in the rain shadow of the main part of the Cascades and is consequently much drier and sunnier. So it was worth driving 2½ hours to the trailhead to enjoy a pleasant partly sunny and 99% rain-free day while western Washington and the Cascade passes were drenched in heavy rain most of the day.

The trail is in excellent condition with no blowdowns, slides or obstacles to report. The flowers are superb, the forest is a nice east side mix with many very large ponderosa pines, and Ingalls Creek is a constant wonder with rapids and little falls its entire length.

The snow has been gone too long here so we missed the glacier lilies and almost all of the trilliums. The dominant flower was lupine. We also saw many others, but the stars were the orchids!

My group had a small lunch at Falls Creek but it got too cold and windy for pleasant sunning here so we headed back down 1 mile or so to a wonderful warm riverside campsite for more food and relaxation. This spot was 15 degrees warmer with no wind. After that it was a pleasant walk back to the trailhead.

11 miles, 1400 feet elevation. Three hours up, 2:15 down.—Robert Michelson, Seattle, 6/2.



RACHEL LAKE OVERLOOK, POINT 5373 (USGS Chikamin Peak)—I have long wanted

to visit Box Canyon Lake just southeast of Rachel lake, and on this rainy spring day had five willing Mountaineers to explore the scramble with me. The plan was to drive to apparent road end west of the Rachel Lake trailhead. I had failed to scout the road, and so hadn't realized it was gated, giving us another 600 feet to gain on this 1½ mile stretch.

At road terminus, we found a logged area, but this gave us a bulldozer track

to follow up to about 3600 feet. Mature forest starts here, so we had no problem finding our way in a broad arc up minor spurs to the summit ridge. It was then a ramble over 7 to 10 humps (I lost track) around Box Canyon Lake's cirque and up the ridge to point 5373. This is a lovely spot for views. Rachel Lake was at our feet, with Rampart Lakes on the left and Box Canyon Lake tucked in below on the right.

We had intended to visit the lake, dropping down the north side of the ridge 200 feet to the ramp just east of the lake. But by then, we were soaked through and more interested in a viewpoint than a snow-covered lake. We broke for lunch about noon, and got about 15 minutes of warming by a haze-filtered sun. After this changed to blowing snow, we packed up and decided to climb to warm up.

The firm snow on the ridge made for easy going. But the number of rock outcrops covered with moss, well watered by the rain, did slow us up. It would have been a much quicker trip were the rock dry.

So this was Trails Day! Steady rain, changing to snow above 4500 feet. Gotta love the Northwest!—Michael Leake, Issaquah, 6/2.



COLCHUCK LAKE (USGS

Cashmere Mtn, Enchantment Lks)—Experience has proved the grass is drier if not greener on the other side. Anna Marie and I headed over to the Icicle on Thursday afternoon and got a dandy riverside tent site at 8 Mile.

Anna Marie had never been camping before, but her attitude and propensity for organization make her a natural. After pitching the tent we fixed chili and brownies for dinner. Later, we decided to make some Jiffy-Pop over the campfire despite the dire warnings on the package. They were correct of course, and although we didn't get any popcorn to eat, the pyrotechnic entertainment was well worth it.

In the morning we set out on the trail. We arrived at the lake in about 2½ hours over fine tread. The lake is a jewel set in a granite bowl under the rugged crags of Colchuck and Dragon-tail. A few larch trees scattered about welcomed us to the high country. Upon breaking out a picnic lunch we were immediately menaced by three surly chipmunks. One rummaged through my pack as I attempted to reason with another.

On the way down we were overtaken by a herd of young bucks who had been skiing on the glacier. They looked lean and hungry and we got out of their way. Back at the campground we slept

soundly to the roar of Icicle Creek.—Matthew Masterson, Snohomish, 6/2.



JOHNSON-MEDRA

CREEK (GT Mt Stuart)—On a late May day that felt more like mid-July, I hiked up this little used trail 1383. I had frequently passed the trailhead, but had never hiked it. The trailhead is located on the North Fork Teanaway River road, just north of Beverly Creek Campground. The trail starts by crossing the North Fork on a sturdy bridge and following Johnson Creek up a narrow wooded valley.

After .7-mile, the trail split, the left trail labeled Jungle Creek and the right trail heading to Medra Pass, following the North Fork Johnson Creek. Within a half-mile the trail crossed and re-crossed the creek as the valley narrowed. I waded through several inches of water at each ford.

The canyon was heavily forested lower down, but once the trail left the creek, it climbed steeply up open, rocky slopes in a series of banked, tight, rocky switchbacks. Scattered buckwheat gardens were growing there. I spotted some as-yet-unblooming bitterroot, also.

At about 4800 feet, the trail arrived at the ridge and the first great views. Then it climbed up the steep slope in a long series of switchbacks toward Medra Pass. In this area I began to encounter snow patches on the trail. When I got to a long, steep, exposed snow bank I decided to turn around.

From an open spot on the ridge I was able to look down at the upper North Fork Teanaway, Esmeralda Peaks, Ingalls, Iron, Higgins, Stuart and some ridges beyond. The view from the top probably would have been even better, but I preferred to err on the side of caution, being alone and without an ice axe.

I encountered only two other people on the trail, who had given up before I did. I also spotted a young buck bounding up a steep slope. Beautiful! There were many butterflies adding to the quiet beauty of the route.

The trail is designed for mountain bikers, horses and motorcycles, but the upper portions have not received a lot of use. After Medra Pass, the trail drops to the Middle Fork Teanaway River. Hikers can also reach the lonely summits of Malcolm and Koppen peaks from the Johnson-Medra trail. Give Stafford Creek, Ingalls Lake and Esmeralda Basin a break and visit some of these lesser known trails!—Liz Escher, University Place, 5/25.



JUNGLE-WAY CREEK

LOOP (GT Mt Stuart)—Today JK and I tried out the Jungle Creek-

Way Creek loop (6.8 miles, with road walk). I had never been up the Jungle Creek road. It's quite narrow and steep in spots, but not an impediment even to sedans. We parked at the Way Creek trailhead and then walked down the road, losing 600 feet to find the Jungle Creek trail.

The Jungle Creek trail climbs up through a narrow valley. On the way, I spotted some wild clematis blooming with delicate violet bells, a fragile vine-like plant. The trail eventually makes its way to a narrow ridgeline and junction with the Way Creek trail.

Way Creek trail traverses the ridge awhile and then begins to slowly drop ending on an old road. The road is rough and steep in places, plunging down in steps to little benches shaded by huge ponderosa pines and covered with grassy gardens. The old road finally ends at the parking lot, a spur off the main Jungle Creek road.

This loop was extraordinary in the amount of plants I was able to discover and identify, some 45 varieties! Do carry lots of water; none is available past the last creek crossing. We did not encounter any motorcycles this day, although it was plain they do come this way occasionally.—Liz Escher, University Place, 6/9.



TEANAWAY BUTTE (GT

Mount Stuart)—Drive the Teanaway road past MP7 and turn west on the West Fork road. Go .65-mile and turn north on the Middle Fork road. Go 3.8 miles and find the unsigned trailhead on the right side of the road just before the white section marker post 21/22 across from the Indian Camp campground. The paved, then gravel,

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Betty Hensel

On Teanaway Peak (6779) with Bill's Peak directly behind, and Volcanic Neck far right. From left: Lindy, Ann, Joan, Manita, Sharon, Linda, Nancy. Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

road is in good shape. Motorbikes and horses also use this route, though we saw nobody on our mid-week hike. This trail opens up around mid-May.


Follow the trail up through trees a short mile to its intersection with a road and turn left. Soon the road levels off, then goes downhill slightly for about a half mile before it heads uphill again. Due to recent tree cutting, views open up for most of the rest of the way. We saw several deer and lots of deer tracks.

At about the 2.5 mile mark, pass a road junction sign, "Teanaway Butte-Rye Creek," by section marker 15/11. Continue up on the main road all the way, ignoring recently built side roads and spurs. Eventually, the road bends left around the backside of a hill and views open up of the Stuart Range.

The road splits at a saddle. The left motorbike trail goes to the top of a nearby knoll. We went right for another quarter mile to road end. Here a short trail begins, with several switchbacks leading to the summit. The beginning and ending trail segments are not shown on the map, but the road is. Views are in all directions.

Teanaway Butte is the site of an old lookout that was abandoned in 1968. Some broken glass and a couple of cement foundation posts remain. High point is at 4769 feet elevation.

There are ticks here. Lots of flowers were blooming—gooseberry, death camas, luina, paintbrush, and waterleaf to name a few. We hiked 8 miles with an elevation gain of 2100 feet.—C. Berner, Renton, 5/30.

 **MILLER PEAK** (GT Mt Stuart, Liberty)—It was Memorial Day weekend and the campgrounds were bursting at the seams, but there

was hardly anybody on this steep, difficult trail. Thank goodness!

Robbie, Rebecca, Diane and I started up the trail, following Miller Creek through a pretty wooded canyon. There were a lot of trilliums in the lower, cooler canyon, some glacier lilies and violets higher up. Once the last creeklet was crossed at about 2 miles, the trail started climbing up a series of steep switchbacks. We encountered two fallen logs in inconvenient spots, but were able to get around them.

The trail was more heavily forested than I expected, having traveled the Iron Creek side of Teanaway Ridge a week before. I suspect that this side of the ridge receives more moisture and is cooler, so larger trees like grand fir, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, silver fir and Douglas-fir can thrive.

Eventually the trail reached the top of a narrow ridge and the first territorial views. Mount Rainier loomed to the southwest with Table Mountain and Swauk Pass to the east, and the Kittitas Valley to the southeast. We could see the County Line trail to the east, following the same curving ridge.

The rocky outcroppings sported assorted tiny alpine specimens, including alpine lupine, sky pilot (*Polemonium elegans*) and bitterroot.

At about 4 miles, we arrived at the junction with County Line trail 1226. The Miller Peak trail climbs the last ½-mile to the exposed rocky summit. This last portion was the hardest, with weather-shattered rock underfoot, and steep exposed slopes, but with increasing views. When we arrived on the summit, we had 360 degree views. We could look down at Gold Creek Basin or over the nearby Teanaway ridges, including Navaho and Earl Peak, the

Brothers, as well as the Stuart Range, Mount Rainier, Mount Adams and many distant ridges and mountains.

It was a tough hike (9 miles, 3200 feet) especially in hot weather, but well worth the effort. We encountered five other hikers all day.

The trailhead is located at the end of Stafford Creek road, 3.6 miles from the North Fork Teanaway road. Iron-Bear (or Bear-Iron) trail also starts at the end of the road, so a long loop can be made by combining the Iron-Bear, County Line and Miller Peak trails for a loop trip of approximately 13 miles round trip.

There is no water on the ridge. Horses, mountain bikes and motorcycles are allowed on these trails, but only hikers can travel the short spur trail to the summit of Miller Peak.—Liz Escher, University Place, 5/26.



IRON BEAR (GT Liberty)—

I accompanied a group of Mountaineer Naturalists led by Ann Marshall to Iron-Bear, off Highway 97 near Swauk Pass. The trail was well maintained, freshly logged and brushed. This is motorcycle country, also open to horses and mountain bikes. We met three horses and riders, five dogs and two mountain bikers. Everyone, including the dogs, was friendly. We saw a few other hikers, as well.

We climbed to 5489 feet, to what is known as Iron-Bear summit, a high spot on Teanaway Ridge. We got a clear view of Mount Rainier capped with a huge lenticular cloud, Mount Stuart and the Wenatchee Mountains. Earl Peak and Navaho, at over 7000 feet, dominated the foreground. Since there were only a few snow patches along the ridgeline, travel to Miller Peak along trail 1226 should not be a problem. This ridge is also accessible from the end of the Stafford Creek road.

Since this was a Naturalist trip, naturally we had our noses to the ground exploring all the local flora. We saw many varieties of plants and flowers, including a rare treat, steer's-head. On the ridge we spotted some bitterroot, also not blooming yet.

There is something for every hiker here, naturalist or not. We had perfect weather, good company, and lots of early flowers.—Liz Escher, University Place, 5/20.



IRON BEAR (GT Liberty)—

I am working away from home, so I didn't have the usual repertoire of hiking equipment. I grabbed a can of Sterno for coffee, pulled the comforter off my bed to serve as a sleeping bag, threw in a can of Dinty Moore

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stew for breakfast, and pulled out of Renton in the afternoon for the warm-weather zone of the Teanaway country.

The flowers have exploded into bloom, with more on the way! I found an interesting overlap of three flower species—trillium (usually in the lowlands in early spring), glacier lily (usually in the alpine zone in late spring), and balsamroot (usually in the high desert and open ridges in late spring)—and caught them all together with my camera.

I rolled myself up in the comforter in the gravel just below Teanaway Ridge on the leeward side of the wind, and had a most comfortable night. And, of course, the Sterno gave me that all-important coffee for the morning. Mount Stuart was dark against a pink sky in the evening, and pink against a dark sky in the morning.—Larry Smith, Port Orchard, 5/23.



IRON CREEK (GT Liberty)

—One of our favorite hikes for the early season. Iron Creek road is in good condition except at the end where the creek is bermed. The creek itself is nearly dry but Ann says don't take her car across the berms. It is her car so we walk ¼-mile to the trailhead (as we've done before). The trail is in good condition and there's a changing floral display all the way. When we got to the rocky, sunburned slopes there were scarlet gilia showing off.

At the saddle, we turned right on Teanaway Ridge trail 1364. In a few hundred feet the trail becomes a narrow ridge with sharp drop-off on both sides; a rock-garden jewel. Here we hoped to find bitterroot (*Lewisia rediviva*) but mid-morning the only promising findings were a few little buds pushing out between rocks and saying, "Come back next week."

Farther up the trail we found some glacier lilies enjoying late season. I'm not going to list the other choice flowers but I'm going back to the bitterroot. After lunch and accompanying shower we headed down and at the ridge we saw lots of bitterroot flowers in bloom, not at maximum show, but what a change within a few hours. That was a first for both of us and helps Teanaway Ridge keep its top rating for me.—H & A Davidson, Medina, 6/8.



IRON BEAR (GT Liberty, Mt Stuart)

—We just did this hike about two weeks ago, but from the Iron Creek trailhead. This time we decided to do it from the Bear Creek trailhead which is located at the end of the Stafford Creek road 9703 which turns off of the North Fork Teanaway road.

This is the same location as the Miller Peak trailhead. You begin by crossing Miller Creek, which was a little tricky as snow melt had caused the creek to swell, covering many of the rocks.

For about the first 3 miles the trail follows up the valley through forest paralleling the creek. I have never seen so many trilliums as were blooming along this part of the trail along with yellow violets. The last mile the trail leaves the creek and climbs to the ridge top and its junction with the Teanaway Ridge trail as well as the Iron Creek trail from the east.

We usually turn north and head to the Iron Bear high point along the ridge for lunch but this time we turned south and in just a few hundred yards came to a great lunch spot with views in both directions, down the Iron Creek valley and down over Bear Creek and the Teanaway peaks, especially Navaho and Miller.

It began to sprinkle as we finished lunch so we did not stay long but started back to do battle with the mosquitos which must have just hatched and had no respect for our repellent.—Leigh Champlin, Seattle, 5/27.



MALCOLM MOUNTAIN

(USGS Teanaway Butte)—Our

party of three from Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club left North Bend at 8am. This was at least an hour late for hot days like we had this week. It's a hair less than 90 minutes to the trailhead at the top of the Jungle Creek, 3600 feet.

This is also a trailhead for the Way Creek trail, which could be used for a one-way downhill, about 5 miles, along the Middle Fork Teanaway River. You could leave a car at the Indian Camp Campground.

As it was, we left the car at 9:40am, happy to still have cool morning breezes as we immediately took on the first mile and 1000 feet of gain up an old eroded jeep trail.

Once you reach road end, you enter very nice woods on a pack trail. There are a couple of trees down, but more of a problem for horses than hikers. Much too soon the trail starts into the sun and traverses around the Way Creek drainage and under point 5220. For the adventurous, one can go up the ridge and over the point to save about a mile of trail. The rock outcropping on top is a fun destination in its own right in the fall when there is blowing mist and snow flurries—very gothic, lots of atmosphere.

The trail goes around the point, loops up over its southwest spur, and heads northeast. It quickly meets another pack trail that goes east for about a

mile, then splits to drop either into Johnson Creek or down to Jungle Creek, almost 2 miles below the cars. For Malcolm, you pass this junction and head generally north toward Koppen Mountain along the ridgetops.

Follow the ridge as the trail goes up and down, swapping sides of the crest and (it seems) losing as much elevation as you gain. Once you start to the northwest, and gain a knoll marked 4938 on the map, the Koppen Mountain trail bears to the right and you can just continue up the ridge to the northeast spur of Malcolm.

There is about 100 yards of bare dirt and rock that requires care, then you push up through brush on a way trail (pick one), turn left and follow the ridge. When you get off the ridge, you can find a boot track that goes around to the north. Ignore it and just head uphill; now again you are in the trees. The summit is just 300 feet above you.

From the summit, you have typical Teanaway views, from Rainier in the south, to Stuart, the Enchantments, Navaho, and Esmeralda. Breezes kept it cool on top and relatively bugfree. We indulged in an hour's lunch, sunning and conversation.



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On the way down, we thought to avoid the 100 yards of bare dirt just below the northeast ridge, and started down the first gully, through the trees. This was dumb, for one, because it can't be avoided. For two, because we ended up instead having to traverse close to 1/3-mile on scree and that same dirty slope, which runs like a band across the mountain. When we got off it, Chong had a big smile on her face, exclaiming, "That was fun!" Women!

In the heat, on the way back, we had a discussion about whether I had underrated the trip. I called it 6 miles and about 2000 gain. Kathy insisted it was more, maybe 8 miles. So I got out my map wheel, and measured 7 1/2 or so.

Then I looked more closely at the trail, as shown on USGS. From the trailhead to the summit, at about 5480 or so, it is 1880 gain. But the trail undulates quite a bit, like a goldfinch in flight, as it moves around the ridges and rock outcroppings.

All those cumulative losses, if accurate on the map, add up to about 790 feet on the way in. Coming out with two digressions we made, we lost another 590 feet that got made up again, before the final descent. So we had about 1380 on top of the obvious 1900.

Has anyone done this trip with an accurate altimeter set to display cumulative gain? I'd be curious to know the actual total gain on this trip.—Michael Leake, Lynnwood, 5/26.



IRON PEAK (GT Mt Stuart)

—We usually do this hike in late May or early June when we cannot yet get up into the high Cascades. The trailhead is on the North Fork Teanaway road a couple of miles past Camp Wahoo. There is parking for several cars. Trail 1399 begins right on the road. In previous years there has been a trail register since you enter the Alpine Lakes Wilderness at the saddle, but it was not there this time.

There is an elevation gain of 2700 feet to the 6100-foot saddle and about another 800 to the summit of Iron Peak. About 10 miles round trip.

I am not sure about the fact that we are being told the snow pack is less this year. Last year when we did this hike we did not encounter snow until the saddle. This time there were patches of snow right at the beginning. About half way we were slogging through about 4 feet of snow.

At this point we could not follow the trail which switchbacks to the saddle and were basically just climbing over the snow in the general direction where we knew the saddle to be. Three of us turned back a short way from the

saddle. The rest went on and 5 made it all the way to the summit. They reported splendid views.—Leigh Champlin, Seattle, 5/20.



PEAK 4800+ (USGS Liberty, Red Top)

—In the Teanaway country, a bumpy ridge divides the valley containing Stafford and Bear Creeks from the valley of Jack Creek. The crest sports two tops with over 400 feet of clean prominence. One of these, Peak 4600+, lies just southwest of the Miller Peak trailhead at the end of road 9703.

The other, Peak 4800+, has two equal summits .4-mile apart, one on the Liberty quad and the other on the Red Top Mountain quad, the intervening ridge dropping to 4640-feet. As with most peaks in this area, many different approaches are possible.

Having time for only a short hike, I drove up road 9738 and parked just before the bridge over Jack Creek, elevation about 3540 feet. A pleasant, moderately steep cross-country walk north and then northeast up the ridge directly north of the bridge led to the true ridge crest at 4600 feet, just southeast of the southeast (Liberty quad) summit. A level bit followed by a moderate scree slope finished the climb.

There was minimal brush on this route. The open rocks at the top afforded good views of the still-snowy higher peaks just north, especially Earl, Navaho and Miller.

The round trip was only about 3 miles (only 2 without traversing), and the gain 1300 feet.—Mick Campbell, Puyallup, 5/19.

SOUTH CENTRAL



NORTH RIDGE LOOK-OUT (GT Easton)

—Following Bob Dreisbach's excellent directions in *Seattle Outdoors* we arrived at the trailhead about 9:40. (The only tip on driving is where road 4517-112 forks uphill right, go left to the trailhead). The hike begins by crossing a couple of logging roads then staying on nice forest trail. The trail then descends about 200 feet to cross a creek; continues uphill eventually crossing a rather scenic (relative) clearcut (where we saw 5 elk).

Above this clearcut a trail junction is encountered; go left; cross a couple of

more roads; and go over a 5200-foot high point. Oregon anemone, lady slipper, glacier lilies, yellow bell, and other flowers were scattered along the trail. The trail again descends about 300 feet and reaches a saddle and the north ridge of North Ridge. Here we left the trail and ascended the steep ridge about 900 feet to the double summit, 5960 feet.

On this day we encountered rain, snow, hail, a few sun breaks, and a lot of solitude. Dirt bikes are allowed on this trail so my guess is on a nice day more might be encountered. We heard a couple in the near distance.

This hike is under-rated in my opinion and is much more scenic than I was expecting. Also the cool weather had some appeal as some of the hike is exposed and would be hot on a sunny day. About 14 miles and at least 3500 feet gain.—Sally Pfeiffer and Ish Wood, Seattle, 6/2.



FISHHOOK FLAT TRAIL

(USGS Cle Elum)

—This trail is in the Taneum Creek Area southeast of Cle Elum. Find your way to road 33. Turn off onto road 3300 and follow this to road 3322 which is very narrow. It is impossible to pass another car on this road but it is only 1/2-mile to the end of the road and the trailhead at South Fork Meadow. The South Fort Taneum trail 1367 leads in 1/2-mile to Fishhook Flat trail 1378. The trail is mostly through woods.

After a couple of miles the trail intersects the Taneum Ridge trail and crosses road 3300 at which point it descends to Fishhook Flats. The only problem with all of the trails in this area is they are open to motorcycles. We encountered one group with no problem. It was an interesting hike in spite of a little rain and a few motorcycles.—Leigh Champlin, Seattle, 6/10.



PEAK 5720+ (SKWIS-KWIS) and SHRINER PEAK

(USGS Chinook Pass)—Not finding any mid-week climbing compadres, I decided to pick a no-worries trailed summit. Shriners fit the bill, and has stupendous views of Rainier. But after looking at the map, I decided to skip the trail.

Going cross-country from the hairpin in the road north of Shriners at Deer Creek would save me 1100 feet vertical, and also give me another summit (Peak 5720+, with 560 feet P) 1 1/4 miles east of Shriners, and a nice loop trip.

I parked at the 3502-foot hairpin and basically looped clockwise around a south tributary of Deer Creek which hits it just upstream from the road. The woods were decent as I avoided the

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cliffs coming northwest of 5720+ by keeping them on my left. Near the top, I followed both goat and bear tracks. The summit afforded interesting views of many unnamed Cascade Crest peaks from Chinook Pass to White Pass.

"Skwis-kwis" (Chinook jargon for squirrel) seemed an appropriate name here, since this is an elongated, bushy-tailed summit. My bet is that the Indians came up with this name based on the sound a squirrel makes with its feet after it spots you and scurries up the nearest tree.

Other familiar Chinook animal names in the state include: Mowitch (deer), Moolock (elk), Talapus (coyote), Chetwoot (black bear), Itswoot (bear), Kiuatan (horse), Cosho (pig), Melakwa (mosquito), and Kahloke/altered to Klawatti (swan). Another onomatopoeic Indian name is their one for "heart," tum-tum, tum-tum, tum-tum—one of my favorites.

I plunge-stepped down to Shriner Lake, and plugged on up to the top of Shriner, 5834 feet, to take a nap on the porch of the locked lookout. A couple who'd come up the trail woke me up. They hadn't hit snow until 4200 feet.

Exiting down the north ridge of Shriner, I was back to the car in short order.—John Roper, Bellevue, 5/23.



GOBBLERS KNOB (USGS Mt Wow)

—Lew and I drove the 3 miles up the West Side road to the closure. We walked the next 3 miles of perfectly good road and were passed by two government vehicles. A few views from the road and easy walking, but driving would have been a lot easier.

We took the Gobbler's Knob trail the .9-mile up a pleasant trail to snow covered Lake George. Beyond the trail was about half covered by snow. We lost the trail several times and saw large footprints in the snow with the very evident claw marks of a large bear.

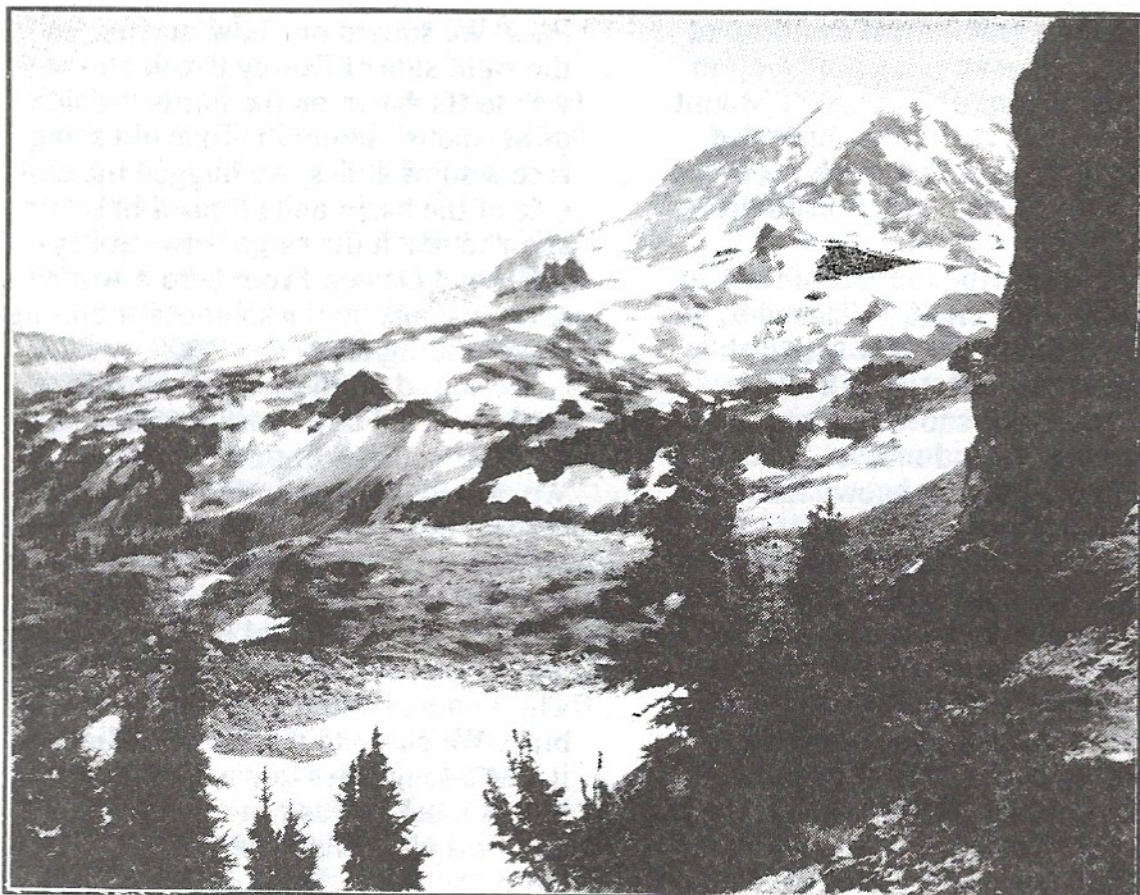
Just below the look-out on the north side of the peak the trail traversed a steep slope and had snow covering it for about eight dangerous feet. We were tempted but resisted going across and up the few feet to the summit with its great view of Rainier. We just ate our lunches near the trail and enjoyed the views we could see.

The trip down was fast. Total hike was about 13 miles and 2000 vertical feet and took about six hours to hike.—Tom Karasek, Mossyrock, 6/7.



YELLOWSTONE CLIFFS, WINDY LAKE (USGS Mowich Lk)

—I had a window of opportunity for this afternoon, so made the run through Carbonado and up to Ipsut



Paul Schaufler

Rainier from Knapsack Pass.

Creek Campground. Only two cars at the trailhead.

I took the long way around to the Northern Loop trail by crossing the Carbon at the suspension bridge and following the superb and scenic trail on the north side of the river down to the junction. The greenery on this trail was a virtual explosion of leaves and buds. Just sublimely beautiful, and worth the extra couple of miles.

I geared down and sweated my way up the switchbacks toward Bee Flat, noting the extra-big Douglas-fir trees lower, and then the transition to a post-glacial cove of classic huckleberry/silver fir forest. Bee Flat was well-watered and squishy, and I found a few deep woods blooms starting.

I contoured below Yellowstone Cliffs on a rising traverse, glimpsing the melted-out meadows at the top of the cliffs through breaks. The rocky hillside across the valley and above Crescent Lake was still streaked with snow.

The subalpine realm below Windy Gap is about 70% melted out, and the early flowers are rising! Windy Gap itself was snowy, but the cover is thinning rapidly. The views to the north were great, and I spent about an hour just reveling in the quiet beauty, listening to the wind and the birds.—Laurence Smith, Port Orchard, 6/7.



LAKE ELEANOR (USGS Sunrise)

—Did a quick scouting trip to check out the easy approach to Lake Eleanor. If you come in from Sunrise, it is about 14 miles, round trip. Go from the north access, and it's

about 3/4-mile from the car.

The road is melted out all the way to the parking area, next to Eleanor Creek. The woods have varying amounts of snow, from none next to the trees, to as much as four feet in some clearings. The lake is still barely covered with a film of white. From Eleanor, it is about 2 miles and 500 feet gain to the north edge of Grand Park.

The road is in great condition, hardly a pothole to be seen. Leave Highway 410 6 or 7 miles past Greenwater on road 73. This has a good surface and is fairly level for about 6 miles as it parallels Huckleberry Creek.

Then it goes gravel, turns sharply north and climbs the ridge separating the Huckleberry and Eleanor drainages. As it quickly gains about 1000 feet, any right-hand riders will be able to look down the cliff face toward Huckleberry Creek. The road then switches back south, and in about 2 miles you are at the parking area, about 10 miles from 410.—Michael Leake, Issaquah, 5/31.



CARBON RIVER, MO-RAINE PARK (USGS Mowich Lk)

—Another wonderful spring dawn, so I lashed my skis to my pack in search of that "perfect snow." Mount Rainier looked lovely as I drove up the incredibly lush Carbon River valley.

I took a leisurely stroll through the riparian forest, pausing for a photo or two at the beautiful cataracts and double rainbows of Cataract Creek. A cool zephyr called upon my senses as I flat-footed over the suspension bridge at Carbon River crossing.

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The roaring, gray-brown cauldron of the river gave me an image of being in Nepal. Looking up, the image of Mount Rainier in the morning sun reminded me of the incredible luck we have in living in the Northwest, every bit as beautiful as Nepal.

As I rose along the margin of the Carbon Glacier to my right, I listened to the crunch and roar of the very active ablation zone. To my left, the cliffs were sending rivulets of snowmelt into the tiny dwarf violets and mosses. Ahead, I could see the gleaming snow "risers" of lower Moraine Park.

I hit snow at Dick Creek, and skinned up through the thinning forest for about an hour, finally reaching the little headwall below Moraine Lake at about 6000 feet. I turned around here and had an absolutely fabulous run down the slope back to Dick Creek. The creek hollow had turned the terrain into a sort of "half-pipe," so I just swung right and left, up the sides of the drainage, with easy ball-bearing telemarks all the way!

I met a huge crowd at the suspension bridge, so opted for the trail on the north side of the river down to the lower crossing. I was back at the car before I wanted to be there.—Larry Smith, Port Orchard, 5/26.



SHORT TRAILS (USGS)

Sawtooth Ridge, Wahpenayo Pk, Mt Rainier W—On Mothers' Day Sherron and I took a pleasant series of short hikes on our way to Paradise. First, we tried to drive the 7 miles to High Rock off road 52 between Packwood and Ashford. At about 5 miles from the road we ran into heavy snow on the road and turned back. Some good views of Mount Rainier on the drive up.

Once on the Ashford-Paradise road 706, we took the very short walk to see the Kautz Creek avalanche debris area. We next walked the .7-mile Trail of the Shadows across from the Longmire Inn. Short but beautiful. A little farther on we walked a bit of the Wonderland Trail across the fast-flowing Nisqually River on a series of three log (with handrails) bridges and up a switchback to a view point. Nice views of the Mountain.

Back into the car with stops at Christine Falls (by the road) and Narada Falls (steep trail to the lower viewpoint was slippery with snow). On to Paradise for views but no open trails yet and the road was blocked to the east here but due to open May 18.—Tom Karasek, Mossyrock, 5/13.



DEWEY PEAK (GT Bumping Lk)

—Four of us started at 9am where Dewey Creek crosses Highway 123, about 1.5 miles from Cayuse

Pass. We started on snow, staying on the right side of Dewey Creek all the way to the basin on the northeast side of Seymour Mountain. To avoid some recent snow slides, we hugged the east side of the basin and climbed in soft snow to reach the ridge between Seymour and Dewey. From here it was a short distance to the southeast-trending ridge leading to Dewey Peak.

We stayed on the south side of the ridge to avoid large cornices. The summit area consists of three large blocks. We passed the first on the right by traversing under it, then climbed a short gully to a notch between it and the next block. Here we found a short and exposed Class 3 step that led to loose rock ledges and easy scrambling to the top. The step had a handline made of webbing. We chose to place a fixed line, as it was a long ways down. From on top of this block it was just a few steps to the third block and true summit, which has a survey marker. Time to the summit, 6710 feet, was five hours.

We descended the loose rock and step in two rappels on a short rope. It could be done with one rappel with a 50-meter rope. That took about an hour, then two hours to descend in the softening snow to the car. We returned to the car at 5:30pm.

This was a good early season trip with excellent views of Rainier, Adams, and St. Helens.

Map notes: Dewey Peak is unnamed on my Green Trails Bumping Lake map. The 7.5 minute USGS map may have it labeled, but I do not have a copy. I used a National Geographic Trails Illustrated Map (Mt Rainier National Park) and liked it a lot. It is a slightly larger scale than Green Trails and includes the whole park and surrounding area.—Don Schaechtel (reporter), Glenn Eades, Dale Flynn, Dave Collins, 5/20.



SILVER KING MOUNTAIN, CRYSTAL LAKES (GT Mt Rainier East)

—I wanted to get out of the Alpine Lakes area for something different. I headed to Mount Rainier and to the Crystal Creek trail. Since the trail switchbacks up a west/southwest facing slope, it was pleasantly snowfree all the way to 5200 feet.

The snow began abruptly and was constant above Lower Crystal Lake. I put on snowshoes at the lake since it was soft and very hollow. After passing the upper lake I continued northeast to the Elizabeth Creek saddle. Skirting a couple of outcrops along the ridge easily on the south, I took the gentle southeast ridge of Silver King to the 6998-foot summit. I was a bit surprised to see the ski area influence: out-of-bounds signs

and an explosive pulley and cable.

Not long after I began descending, the encroaching cold front was upon me, closing in all the peaks and shedding a pleasant snow. So after lunch at the lakes, I enjoyed the forest hike out.—John Morrow, Roslyn, 5/17.



CRYSTAL LAKES (GT 270 Mt Rainier East)

—We were awakened by Lili a little earlier than usual at 5:30am. We arrived at the trailhead around 9:45am. Started on the trail about 10:05am, elevation 3500 feet.

Made our way for a mile and a half on a very dry trail. We got a peek of Mount Rainier right before the junction which led either to the lakes or Crystal Peak. It was my first trip to the lakes as I had always bypassed them in earlier days to go to Crystal Peak.

Hubby promised me the lakes were very pretty but I felt higher elevations beckoning. We took a sip of water and headed to the lakes knowing Lili was good for at most 7 miles and a trip to the peak would be a little too long. It was another 1.6 miles to the upper lake and the now-21-pound-turkey was getting antsy. Mom and Dad picked up the speed and soon hit snow at the lower Crystal Lake.

We ran into some people we knew from earlier hiking days. They were planning on camping that evening. At 11:30am arrived at the higher lake which was still frozen. Baby woke just in time to check out the views of Crystal Peak, Threeway Peak, The Throne and others. Ran into another person we knew and had a great time reminiscing about previous mountaineering adventures, taking pictures and sharing lunch. The upper peaks were very impressive. Saw one other party enjoying the views.

Started down at 1pm taking in far off Marcus and Palisades peaks. Why, it was only last year that we were scrambling those! How times have changed!

Our old friend and his buddy followed us down. We passed many late starters coming up. Back to the truck around 2:30pm and down to Wapiti Woolies for a mocha. Round trip 6 miles and 2300 feet gain. Lili is turning into quite a hiker and her parents are pleased as punch!—Halley, Joey and Liliana, Tacoma, 5/27.



PECHUGH PEAK, COLQUHOUN PEAK, SAWMILL RIDGE (USGS and GT Lester)

—I wanted to make it a quick day so I could be back in town to see Peggy Goldman's talk on her great new 75 *Scrambles* book. I wasn't expecting it to be as quick as it was.

It was 55 miles from my house to the

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Greenwater River road 70. I drove this to road 7030 up Whistler Creek to the ridge between Kelly Butte and Pyramid Peak, expecting to hit snow at 4200 feet or so. But there was a ton of logging and road building going on up here, so the roads were in good shape and clear. I can't remember ever seeing so many logging and dump trucks in one area in my entire life. At least a dozen of them forced me to the side of the road at different times.

Pechugh Peak (5505 feet with 785 feet Prominence) was my first goal. This unnamed summit is the highest peak on the Lester quad. I drove east past Colquhoun to a saddle on the ridge separating the Green and the Greenwater Rivers, just west of this summit. A spur road now switchbacks up this slope to about 5100 feet, but snow stopped the car at 4840 feet.

This is a bulky landform, treed on top, and shaved on the west. Since it's on the divide of the Greens, and the highest summit on this quad, I first thought of it as Envy Peak, but that's too good a name for it. MoLester also came to mind, for what they've done to this landform on the Lester Q, but that's not PC, so in my mind it became Pe-chugh Peak, after the Chinook word for "green." It also finally dawned on me that Kelly Butte probably got its name from the Green theme as well.

Harry Majors, in his fact-full masterpiece, *Exploring Washington*, tells this

story: "About 1963, song writer John Denver (born as Henry John Deut-schendorf, Jr.) worked for a summer in a logging camp near Lester. One of the loggers didn't like John's singing and smashed his guitar."

Kakawak Point (5121 feet) is just west of Pechugh. This is Chinook for "light green." It has 361 feet of Prominence. There are some open views just west of its tufted summit.

Colquhoun Peak (5173 feet) looks like a wooded pyramid as you approach it from the lower Greenwater, but its east face is a rock cliff. A spur road off the main drag accesses a short trail to the top of this former lookout site, where the views are now pretty much bothered by trees, but if you walk the mossy/rocky rib southwest from the last switchback, there are great views.

What is the source of this unusual name? Hitchman notes that the owner of a summer home near the peak applied the name for his son who drowned in a nearby pool. The skinny spur road was blocked by snow just before its wide end so this made for a nervous backdown, then edge-hanging turn-around for me.

Sawmill Ridge (5207 feet) is named on the USGS map but not my 1975 Lester Green Trails map. [Ed. Note: Sawmill Ridge is a named feature on the GT Lester 2001 revision.]

A road now takes off from the Kelly Butte road to access a tree-mowing

project out beyond this ridgetop. This makes for quick access to an easy walk up the last bit of the southwest ridge in open meadows to terrific 360° views. Colquhoun gets swallowed by Rainier from this angle.

The above four "peaks" took 3 hours. I had so much time left over, I decided to drive up and over the Naches Pass road, a place I'd never been to before, and down the other side.

On a trip last month, 7-year-old Aaron was thumbing through DeLorme and discovered something Jeff Howbert and I (two people who spend way too much time looking at maps) had never appreciated. Naches Pass is the one and only place in Washington State where four counties touch (King, Pierce, Kittitas, and Yakima).—John Roper, Bellevue, 5/31.



LOWER BACKBONE RIDGE (GT Packwood)—

Drive Highway 123 south from Cayuse Pass to its intersection with Highway 12. Turn south for 2.5 miles, then turn north on road 1270, and follow 3 miles to the trailhead at road end. The paved, then gravel road is in good condition.

The trail starts out a little steeply, then eases off a bit, reaching a fork in about .5-mile. The right downhill trail leads east to little Backbone Lake, which it circumnavigates. The lake seems to be popular as a fishing spot and easy backpack. A young couple and

the Good Old Days



Unloading the trunk (and the lucky trunk rider) to climb Marten Peak, 1973. Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

Scott Dobrowolski, emerging from the trunk; Bill Gorjance, Jr., with hat; and Dave Sousa, in white t-shirt

Photo by Steve Fry.

...
The "good old days" is that era before Gore-tex. Readers are invited to submit photos and stories for this occasional feature.

BACKCOUNTRY NEWS

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their dog were just leaving as we arrived, and we spent a few minutes politely convincing them that they needed to douse their smoldering campfire with lake water.

The main trail heads north, following Backbone Ridge. There are several steep up and down sections. Part way up is a mossy rock open area with a great view of the Tatoosh Range. Nice trees, lots of salal, and flowers—we saw our first beargrass of the season just beginning to bloom.

This lower section of the ridge trail ends at Stevens Canyon Highway 706 in Mount Rainier National Park, where you will find a fantastic view of the mountain.

We hiked a total of 7 miles with an overall elevation gain of 2330 feet, which includes the uphill on the way back. Starting elevation is 1800 feet and ending at 3400 feet.—C. Berner, Renton, 5/26.



YAHNE CANYON (USGS *Taneum Canyon*)—After reading about this intriguing area from C. Berner in the June *P&P*, I decided I had better go see for myself. I wasn't disappointed—in fact, this was a superlative hike into magnificent meadows! Thank you very much, C. Berner, for a great route description.

I followed the track up through just-blooming balsamroot and lupine to reach the rock quarry mentioned in the description. From there, the country really opened up, and the gentle upper reaches of the canyon were truly beautiful, reminding me of the high meadows of Yellowstone Park.

This is another beautiful "transition area" between the desert and mountains. The upper meadows were awash in color. I saw a very large and very light brown bear in the lower meadow above the quarry, and also about half a dozen elk lower down in the fir and pine forest. This is a gem of a hike.—Larry Smith, Port Orchard, 5/29.



ROBINSON CANYON (USGS *Taneum Canyon, Thorp*)—This was a new area for us to explore, full of old roads and ridges. We had heard this narrow canyon was a good place to hear birds and see rattlesnakes. The blocked road looked like it was mostly used by horse riders, hunters, and elk, although the upper roads can be accessed via other routes by 4WD vehicles.

From I-90, take Thorp exit 101 and head south. At .7-mile turn right onto Kilmore Road. Drive 2.3 more miles and turn right on Robinson Canyon Road. After another .8-mile the pave-

ment ends and passenger cars need to be careful. Beyond this point, the road is not open until after the first of May. In another .7-mile reach an elk fence at the L.T. Murray Wildlife Rec Area boundary. Open the gate and drive through, staying straight ahead on the lower road, which is barricaded .3-mile farther in.

The narrow lower canyon is basically wide enough for the road and small creek. About a half mile in, Robinson Creek crosses to the right side of the road under a concrete bridge. We spoke with a man who said the road had been permanently closed a couple of years ago. About 1.75 miles in, find a section marker post 29/30. We headed right at the Y-intersection here to begin our loop.

Our route followed the road on a gentle ascent up to its intersection with another road in the meadows above, about 6 miles from the car and 1680 feet elevation gain. The meadows were blooming with many flowers.

After reaching the meadows and a lunch and photo break, we continued another half mile west to a triangular road intersection. Here we turned left (southwest) shortly crossing over another road. Straight across from this point, find a bermed very faint grassy old road that soon crosses a small creek and bends sharply left, after which the road becomes more visible. Follow this road through a wooded area for about a mile to its intersection with a more prominent road and turn left (south). Follow this main road for about .8-mile, then turn left on a road heading southeast. Follow this road about 4.5 miles, mostly through open meadows with nice views, to its intersection with the Robinson Creek Road at section marker 29/30, thus completing a loop.

This route is about 14 miles long with an elevation gain of 1850 feet. We heard lots of birds but didn't see any snakes.—C. Berner, Renton, 5/19.



BALDY (some call this *Lookout Mountain*; USGS *Wymer*)—About 2 miles south of the Umtanum Recreation Area in Yakima Canyon, just a few hundred yards south of the Lmuma Recreation Area, is a parking area with room for three or four cars on the east side of the highway. The summit of Baldy is visible with its communication tower on top.

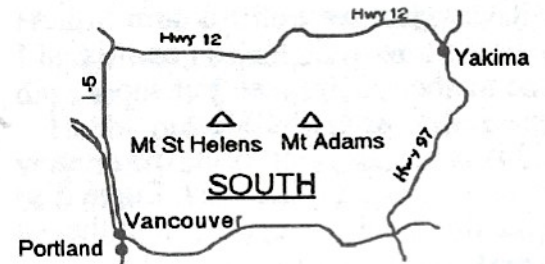
A steep climb leads up to the plateau where you can then follow animal trails up the ridge toward the tower. The trail disappears at times but is easy to follow cross-country along the ridge keeping the tower in view. This is sagebrush country. There were many desert wildflowers in bloom, but the feature was

the bitterroot which was just beginning to bloom. It is 2 to 3 miles to the summit where we stopped for lunch.

I think it is about 2000 feet of elevation. There are views in all directions, the most interesting to the southwest over the Yakima Canyon and its meandering river with Adams and Rainier on the horizon.

It is possible to make a loop by following an access road down to the main highway but this requires a mile or so along the highway so most of us returned the way we had come up. A Dairy Queen stop in Ellensburg completed the day.—Leigh Champlin, Seattle, 6/3.

SOUTH



LAVA CANYON (USGS *Smith Cr Butte and maybe others; actually used GT map*)—Trail is open. Left the trailhead at about 10am. Wonderful cascades and waterfalls on this less-than-2-mile-long trail. Wondered and gawked so times mean little but reached a ladder at 10:45 and topped out at a side trip viewpoint called The Ship at 11:15. Continued downstream on the Smith River trail for lunch. Wandered around looking for a lake in the vicinity with no success. Interesting large flat with sparse stunted trees.

Crossed a small newly established bridge to the east side of Muddy Creek and back upstream to another bridge to the west side and the intersection of the Smith Creek trail 225 and Lava Canyon trail 184. Nice to have all these loops to avoid retracing steps. At .9-mile from the parking lot took the suspension bridge back to the east side again on 184A for a look at the waterfalls from a different angle. Final bridge back to west side and to parking lot at 4pm for lemonade and watermelon.

Forecast for day was for 10 degrees cooler than previous day; good thing—it was still hotter than a pistol.—Paul Schaufler, Olympia, 5/23.

MT ADAMS DIST—Wildflowers are beginning to bloom all over the forest now and will last well into summer. Some of my favorite spots are Grassy Knoll, Lookout Mountain and Silver Star. The bloom in these areas is just starting and in a couple of weeks they should be spectacular.—Ranger, 6/4.

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MT ST HELENS—Although some bare ground and rocks are exposed, plan to be on snow for most of your ascent. Ski and snowboard conditions have generally been fair to good.

The Monitor Ridge climbing route is currently the shortest and most direct route to the summit.

Climbing permits are \$15 per person. Until 11/1, climbing is limited to 100 persons per day. For climbing information call 360-247-3961.—Ranger, 6/11.


CANADA

 **MOUNT FROMME** (*Vanc N. 92 G/6; see Day Trips, by Jack Christie*)—This low (3842 feet) forested peak is an easily accessed prominence east of Grouse Mountain. The North Shore of Vancouver is a "rabbit warren" of trails, ridges, and peaks so you'll want to use a guide book to sort out your options.

At the St. Georges trailhead a group from the Valley Outdoor Club gave me great advice on shortcuts and alternate routes. I followed the book approach to the roadside gravel pit and then found the ridge trail, a forest jumble of roots and twists, to be a cool escape from the hot sun. The domed summit gave me a perfect view of the next two ridge systems to the east. Garibaldi with Atwell Peak made a dramatic view in the cool, clearer air to the north.

At this point a large group from the North Shore Hiking Club popped up on the south summit from a different approach. After meeting them again on the north summit of Fromme, I accepted their invitation to join them. We dropped on a steep marked trail to the west, then continued north to Thunderbird Ridge. The side-hill trail led to the summit and open views all around. Then onto Dam Mountain and around Grouse to the top of the sky-lift. After warm farewells, the group went down on the gondola.

I replenished my energy at the resort with beverage and beavertails (the pastry, not the animal). The remaining snow let me do a standing glissade down the east side ski slope to the lowest road cut. A hairpin brought me south again and more by chance than skill I noticed a flagged boot trail dropping into the Mosquito Creek drainage. This rough trail led to the Old Grouse Mountain Highway and a view of Mosquito Creek falls. Great weather, enjoyable company, and superb views. I can't wait to get back to this area to explore more of those ridges and peaks.—Bud Hardwick Bellingham, 5/23.

 **DEEKS PEAK, MOUNT WINDSOR** (*Squamish 92 G/11; ITMB Map 179 Vancouver's Northshore Hiking Trails*)—A few years before I tried to reach Deeks Peak on the Howe Sound Crest, by way of Kallahne

Creek (trailhead 6.5 miles north of Lions Bay) as described in *103 Hikes in SW BC*. Fresh snow, ice, and short day resulted in a turn-around quite a distance from the peak (I won't try it again). This time, from the same trailhead, I took the Deeks Lake trail (thanks to the North Shore Hiking Club for info and dedicated trail maintenance).

Grant Myers joined me on what proved to be a straightforward, lovely snow-hike. The confusing description of junctions proved simple with the plentiful signs and markings as we made our way through forest on abandoned roads and steep rugged trails. Deeks Lake proved to be unexpectedly scenic with bright open views.

A short distance to the left brought us to the marked trail to the col between Deeks and Windsor. We made a pleasant traverse northwest to Deeks on the left side of the ridge with only one short easy scramble spot to the summit at 5490+ feet. Wonderful 360-degree views that included saltwater, islands, and distant mountains provided our lunch time enjoyment. After the easy descent to the col, the shorter and more open ridge to Windsor (5500+ feet) seemed almost effortless.

A pleasant and easy return found us at Horseshoe Bay, enjoying clear views of Hat and Brunswick Mountains while eating fish and chips on the sunny lawn at the harbor.—Bud Hardwick, Bellingham, 5/31.

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.

WANTED—Looking for a few women to start a weekly hiking group, but only during the week. I am a 64-year-old woman who has hiked extensively in Washington for 30-35 years, except for the last two. I want to start up again. Bellevue, near I-90. Marita, 425-746-3877.

WANTED—Hiking/climbing partner for Old Goat. Intermediate skills. If you're over 50 and still got it, give me a call. 253-838-8621; ask for Pat.

TRAVEL—Wanted: Adventurous people to join a Hike-n-Bike tour of Austria, September 9-19. Hike and bike

with a certified Austrian Guide to Austria's lovely Karwendel Nature Park, cross the Achensee, Maryhofen, much more. Group size limited to 20 members. For information e-mail <jack.melill@juno.com> or call 425-313-4632.

FOR SALE—Garmin GPS III Plus Personal Navigator. Purchased new in 1999, never used. \$200. 360-830-0755 (Sebeck).

FOR SALE—Asolo Yukon boots, men's size 10½. These are very nice boots. I used them once but found they were too small. \$100 or make me an offer. 360-871-4818 (Port Orchard).

FOR SALE—Two avalanche transceivers like new condition, work fine. One Orthovox 1994 Model with adjustable range, \$75; and one Pieps 2 newer model, no adjustments, \$50. Both units transmit and receive on both frequen-

cies. Or both units for \$100. Call Jack Melill, 425-313-4632.

FOR SALE—Werner Camano paddle, fiberglass, blue/white, 230 cm (7½ feet) non-take-apart, unfeathered, \$100; and Beran, beautiful wooden paddle, 7 feet, 3" long, non-take-apart, feathered, \$75. 425-823-2118 (Bothell).

FOR SALE—REI Ultra external frame backpack. Like new, 2500 cu.in. \$50. Call 425-641-4415 (Bellevue).

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).

DON BEAVON

Hudson's Mountain Adventure

—SUMMITS IN THE NORTH CASCADES—

My cousin Hudson contacted me from California last year saying he would be in the area for a wedding in mid-July and wanted to do a mountain adventure. I have been wanting to climb Mount Spickard and Mount Redoubt for many years now and I began planning.

Hudson packed for the trip 6 weeks ahead of time and then flew to Italy for some foreign exchange classes. He would later fly directly from Europe to Seattle and, with very little rest, would attend his wedding and then depart with us at 5am the next morning. Also in the party was Scott from Salem, Oregon, an extreme mountain biking buddy of Hudson's and a fairly strong Smith Rock climber. Neither had a lot of alpine mountaineering experience, however, which made me a little nervous, and Scott had never been to the North Cascades.

Although Mount Spickard and Mount Redoubt are in the United States, the "easiest" approach is up Depot Creek from the Canadian side. We decided to spend an extra day in the area and climb Mount Custer and Mount Rahm as well. Grant Myers would hike in the following day and join us for our climbs of Custer, Rahm and Spickard. He had already climbed Mount Redoubt so I made plans for us to climb it on the day Grant would hike in.

The driving instructions in Beckey are very good but it is important to pay close attention to the mileage as the Depot Creek road is totally unmarked and eventually becomes very overgrown. A high clearance 4 wheel drive vehicle is a must. The best place to park is just before a wooden bridge where the road makes a sharp bend to the right. Be sure to take the two left forks en route to this spot. From here hike straight ahead (do not cross the bridge), eventually going left uphill on one road and turning right when it hits another old road. Follow this old brush-covered stream-bed of a road to the border. It'll take about 45 minutes if you don't get turned around.

Once on the US side the trail im-

proves and is easy to follow to a magnificent waterfall. A National Park register at the border indicated that another party of 3 were ahead of us with similar plans to climb Spickard and Redoubt. Before we got to the waterfall, we spotted someone in the heavy forest coming toward us fairly rapidly. When we asked what peaks he had done he said, "Nothing. A member of our group is just below the lake with a broken ankle suffered in some loose talus."

He gave us some good route info regarding our approach and was soon gone. The waterfall we encountered was pretty amazing and the route just as amazing: Up through the base of the stream, through the spray, up and over slimy wet slabs, up a fixed line, through more spray, in and out of brush and up a near vertical hillside.

Above the top of the upper falls the route opened up into meadows and a

great view of Redoubt. Here we made our way over to the left hand side hugging talus slopes until the brush became too heavy. We later hopped rocks in the main stream-bed to avoid the worst of the brush.

As the route opened up we could see someone on a moraine way ahead. After checking on the injured party we continued up the boulder strewn slopes toward the headwaters of Depot Creek. Pam, the injured climber, and her partner were well equipped and in a fairly good location for what would later be a helicopter rescue.

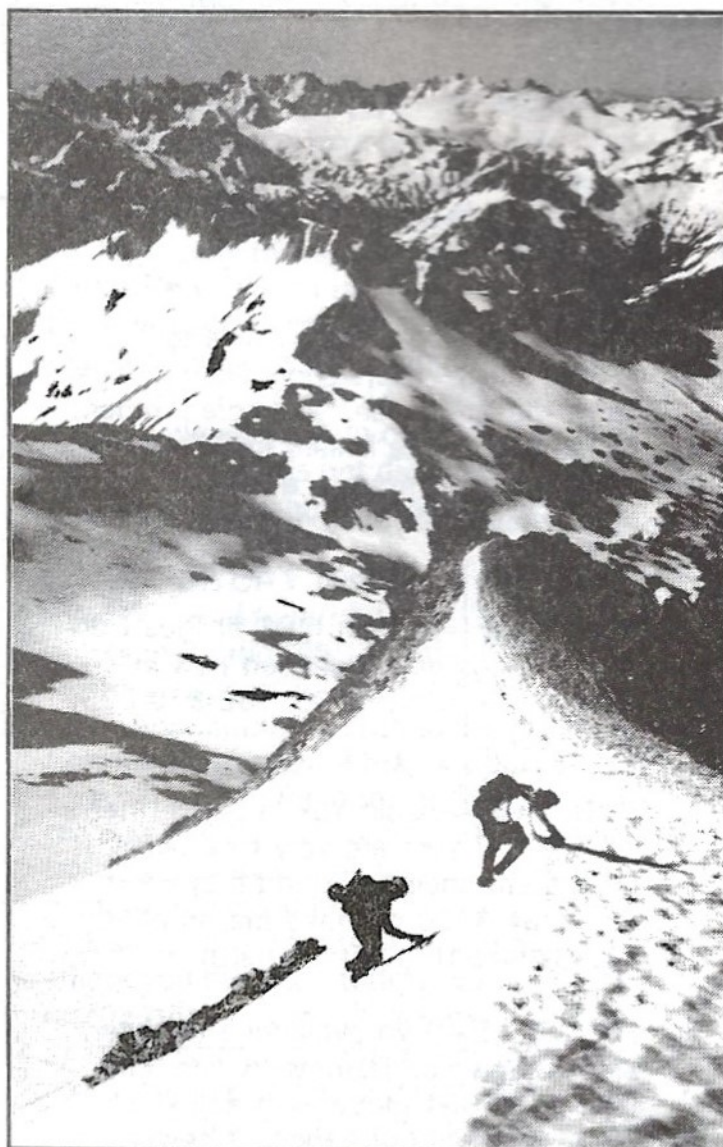
Ahead of us was the head of the basin, the west side of Mount Spickard and beautiful little Ouzel Lake. The lake was still partially iced over. We set up camp at about 3:30 and enjoyed an afternoon lounging in the sun. It was an odd but good feeling not to be climbing until late in the day. I was glad that we'd gotten a fairly early start.

MOUNT REDOUBT

On July 17, 2000, we rose before 5am and left camp at about 5:15. For the first 20 minutes we threw large rocks in the outlet of Ouzel Lake in an effort to improve the crossing. We really didn't want to start the climb with wet feet. Once across the tricky crossing, we headed up a rock buttress that looked harder than it was. In short order we were on the Redoubt Glacier.

This glacier along with the adjoining Depot Glacier comprises an area of over 5 square kilometers. From below one has no indication of the amount of ice that lies ahead. The farther we ascended the greater the glacier ahead appeared to be. When we got high enough on the glacier to see Redoubt we headed for its Flying Buttress, an amazing feature on Redoubt's east side.

Climbing to a ridge left of the buttress we looked for an easy way to cross. Luckily the lowest part of the ridge was the easiest. The opposite side of the ridge was all snow as was



Climbing Redoubt: Scott, left, and Hudson.

Don Beavon

most of our route. We dropped a couple of hundred feet before angling up and left. Friends of mine had warned me about staying too far to the right both here and in the gullies ahead. The route was still in the shadows so with firm snow we put on crampons. Where the route steepens we gingerly made several steps across a deep 'schrund.

We hit a ridge-line to the left and eventually removed our crampons for good at the bottom of the even steeper rock gullies above. The route was mostly enjoyable Class 3 scrambling with a lot of loose rock laying around prompting us to climb close together. This is no place for a party of 12 and we were thankful that no one else was ahead of us. We ascended numerous gullies always staying to the left when we had options.

High on the mountain we encountered about 60 feet of 55-degree snow and ice that ended at an intimidating hole below the ridge-crest. We got out the rope. I led up to the cannonhole, placing one picket, and peered through. What I saw nearly took my breath away: an almost sheer drop of well over 1000 feet to the Depot Glacier with a drop that appeared just as far again to the Depot Creek Meadows below.

As I fumbled to place a runner for protection, Cousin Hudson yelled, "I think I'm going to wait here." I assessed the situation and the route ahead. Good blocky Class 4 rock angled up toward the 8969-foot summit. The north side is incredibly exposed but I felt I could protect the lead and bring the others up safely.

I yelled back, "Don't worry, Hudson, I can get you up this safely." With as-



Don Beavon

Mount Rahm, 8478 feet, from Mount Custer. Silver Lake at lower right corner, and Devil's Tongue just to the right of Rahm.

surances Hudson soon joined me at the hole in the ridge.

Making sure he was well anchored, I threw the rope down to Scott. There is not much room at this spot so I moved up a bit to make room for Scott's entry to The Other Side. He then belayed me on up to the summit ridge-crest. I appreciated his good rope handling skills.

I then belayed Hudson and Scott on up. The actual highpoint required a cat crawl by two of our three members across the narrow exposed summit ridge. The weather was warm, clear and beautiful and the sea of peaks in every direction was very impressive: British Columbia's Coast Range, Mount Challenger, Luna Peak and the Pickets, Baker and Shuksan, Mount Spickard and the Twin Spires along with all the peaks around Ross Lake.

It was particularly special to Scott who had now climbed his very first North Cascades peak!

By the time we descended, the snow had softened making for some nice sitting glissades. A six foot leap down and over the bergschrund was especially exciting. Each of us leaped across the chasm landing in the sitting position on the downward side in a full glissade.

It was a very enjoyable descent down the easy glacial slopes below as we each beamed with contentment on how well the climb

had gone. When camp came into view below we could see that Grant had arrived and was waiting for our return.

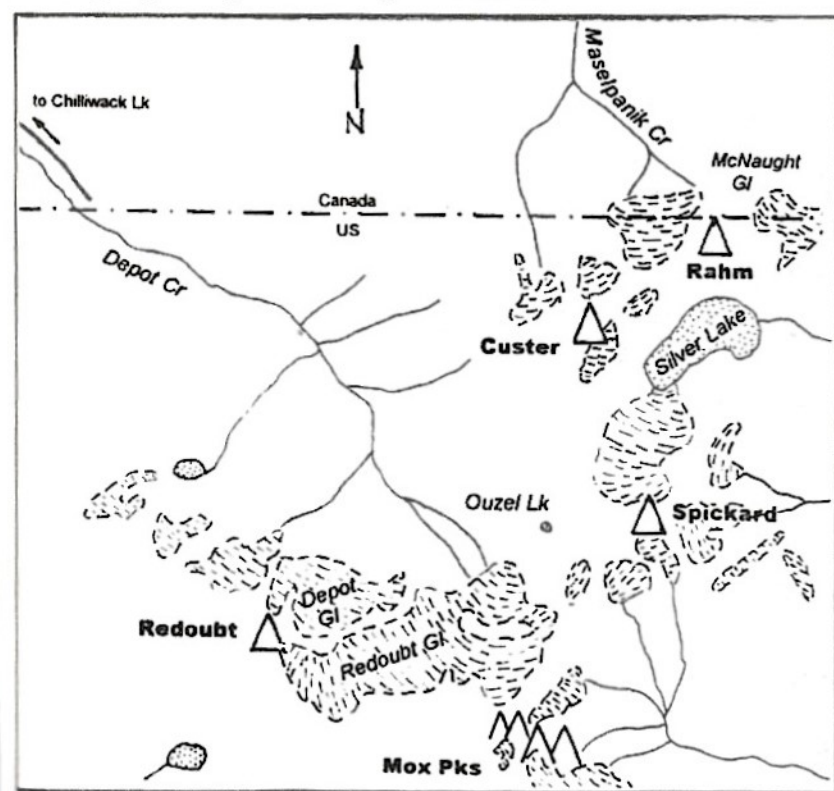
MOUNT RAHM AND MOUNT CUSTER

We rose early again from our camp at Ouzel Lake. Now our party was four strong. We headed in a northeasterly direction from camp up firm snow slopes to the 7362-foot pass above Silver Lake.

It was fun hearing everyone's exclamations on viewing Silver Lake down the opposite side of the pass. It is a beautifully large lake for such an alpine setting. Mount Custer and Mount Rahm are on one side with a high connecting ridge and Mount Spickard and the Silver Lake Glacier are on the other side. On the far side is Devil's Tongue and Devil's Toothpick, smaller rugged peaks looking as intimidating as they sound.

Here we got out my monocular and studied the route. We decided to follow snowfields below the cliffs of Custer to a cliff band beneath Rahm. We understood that there is a weakness in these cliffs that would allow passage to the upper part of the mountain. It was a lengthy side hill occasionally across steep snow to these cliffs. Scott, our rock jock friend, wasn't always comfortable with the steep snow.

Several gullies led into these cliffs and we chose the wrong one. The correct one is the one farthest to the east. The one we chose is Class 4 and had a lot of loose rock. Scott and I climbed this section unroped but Hudson and Grant weren't as comfortable. I put in a





Mount Redoubt from Mount Spickard. Scott, left, Hudson, and Grant.

fixed line for them to use. We were soon climbing across the upper snow slopes and talus toward Rahm's summit.

From the top we had good views of portions of Ross Lake with Hozomeen Mountain and Jack Mountain dominating the skyline above the lake. Mount Custer, directly south, was impressive as was Redoubt. With the monocular we could actually see the cannonhole that we had used to access Redoubt's upper north face.

To get to Custer we thought about traversing the high ridge but we had heard that this could be real tedious. We instead decided to climb back down the cliff band and traverse back across the snow slopes to Custer's opposite south ridge.

At this ridge, Hudson and Scott decided they were happy and didn't need another summit. They decided to rest a while on the lower ridge while Grant and I forged on.

Unfortunately this ridge becomes increasingly narrow and loose. To get to the upper part of the south ridge involves a scary downclimb that neither Grant nor I was willing to do even with the rope. The route up the south ridge is described as Class 3 but does not include this section. We wasted a lot of time here before retreating.

Back at the low part of the ridge, I thought that we should head down loose talus to the west to see if we could find a route. It was now approaching 4:30pm and Grant thought it was too late to continue.

I still wanted to take a look but it took some time to get down the loose rock. Grant said he would give me 5 minutes and then he was heading back to camp. I agreed to turn around at 7pm so I could get back to camp before dark.

When I finally rounded the bend, I could see almost continuous snowfields beneath the west side cliffs of the ridge. I made good time in the snow and was below our previous highpoint at about 5pm. Here I ditched my big pack and took just the top flap with water, food and my first aid kit. If the climbing got too difficult I promised myself that I would turn around.

Fred Beckey describes the upper south ridge as being easier than it appeared and indeed it was. I was standing on the summit less than an hour after I left Grant. I felt bad that he wasn't with me but happy to get good photos looking over toward Rahm.

I could have saved time by returning the same way I'd come. Having more time than I thought I would I instead glissaded as far down on the northwest side as I could directly toward Mount Redoubt. I thought I would traverse high slopes back toward camp but when the brush got too heavy, I downclimbed a big rocky buttress to the mosquito laden valley beneath Redoubt's north face.

I then had to climb back up to the head of the valley, returning to camp at about 7:30 just as my friends were finishing dinner.

MOUNT SPICKARD

We planned to climb Mount Spickard and hike out in the same day. To do this would require an early start. We rose about 4:15 and were heading up toward Mount Spickard's south ridge by 5am. Clouds had moved into all the valleys overnight but it remained clear and beautiful in the high country.

We headed up toward the pass we'd gone to the previous day and turned right on a nice bench above the steep area directly above our camp. From here it was fairly easy snow slopes to the ridge. We started heading directly up the rocky ridge but gradually were pulled around the east side by attractive looking snowslopes. We traversed the snow on the east side as far north as we could.

The final snow gully is long and steep but is a direct shot toward the summit. I was a little worried about how Scott would do with the steepness but he didn't seem to have any problem. He must be getting used to all this alpine climbing, I thought to myself.

We all wore crampons and I tried to kick good steps for the others. The climb was nice and uncomplicated and by 9:30 to 10am we were all basking in the warmth of the sun on the summit.

In my exuberance to satisfy my hunger pangs, I accidentally dropped my helmet down the Silver Lake Glacier. We watched it until it was a barely perceptible speck. It bounced over numerous crevasses before finally depositing itself in the depths of one of the lower ones. I had that helmet since 1983 and felt like I'd lost an old friend.

Oh well, it was hard to stay sad long in such a wonderful place. The Mox Peaks were especially impressive from this vantage point as were the other peaks we had climbed the previous couple of days. The snow softened up nicely making for a quick retreat back to camp.

We were back at the tents in a little over two hours with no worries about getting caught by darkness. It was another very enjoyable trip in a superb area with good company.

Don Beavon, of Lynnwood, is a respiratory therapist whose summits include such peaks as Cho Oyu ('97) and Everest ('98).

GORAN KROPP—Goran Kropp will be in Seattle on July 13 to present a program of slides and stories at Town Hall (8th Avenue and Seneca) at 7:30pm.

He is the Swedish fellow who climbed Mount Everest on his own power—that is, he rode his bicycle from Sweden to Nepal, climbed Mount Everest, then got on his bike and rode back home to Sweden.

Advance tickets are \$10 and are available from Helly Hansen in Bellevue Square (425-467-6371) or Helly Hansen at Pacific Place in Seattle (206-652-0683). Tickets at the door are \$12.

SEMINARS—The North Cascades Institute has scheduled several seminars of interest to backcountry folks this summer. Here are just a couple of them:

- **Biology Backpack**, July 8-13, with instructor Dana Visalli. Dana is a resident of the Methow Valley and publishes the *Methow Naturalist*. This trip into the Sawtooths requires previous backpacking experience. Learn about the various life forms of the meadows and mountains, and search for two rare alpine plants along the way. \$225.

- **Puget Sound Up Close**, August 3-5, with instructors Buzz Shaw and David Steele. The P&P staff has taken a marine biology class with Buzz Shaw so we can give a first-rate recommendation here. The class will be conducted in kayaks (rental is included in the price) around the Vashon Island and Blake Island shorelines on one of the lowest tides of the year. \$350.

- **Glacial History of the North Cascades**, August 3-5, with instructors Jon Riedel and Rob Burrows. Jon is a National Park geologist studying the North Cascades and Rob is a glacier researcher. The North Cascades has more glaciers than anywhere else in the lower 48. From a base on the Skagit River you'll explore glacial landforms and deposits in the Ross Lake basin and the Skagit River watershed. \$165.

For more information, registration, and details on many other wonderful seminars, contact:

North Cascades Institute
2105 Highway 20
Sedro-Woolley WA 98284

360-856-5700 x209
www.ncascades.org

TRAILS FUNDS—The Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests have released a brief accounting of projects funded by our Northwest Forest Pass money in 2000.

Naches District: Matched IAC grants for trail maintenance.

Cle Elum District: Replaced bridge on Sculpture Rock trail. Installed new puncheon Deception Pass trail. Brushed PCT from Cathedral Pass to Deception Pass. Re-treaded Camp Creek trail. Maintained 20 miles of trail.

Leavenworth and Lake Wenatchee Districts: Maintained 200 miles of trail. Matched IAC grants for trail maintenance.

Entiat District: Matched IAC grants for trail maintenance.

Chelan District: Maintained Summer Blossom trail.

Methow Valley District: Installed new toilet Andrews Creek trailhead. Installed four steel hitch rails at trailheads. Maintained 85 miles of trail. Logged out 50 miles of trail. Brushed 20 miles of trail.

Tonasket District: Maintained 85 miles of trail.

GRIZZLY RELOCATION—This fall BC biologists plan to capture five grizzlies from Chilko Lake on the east side of the Coast Range, and relocate them to Manning Provincial Park, in the middle of the North Cascades. The overall plan is to relocate a total of 25 grizzlies over the next five years.

The targeted bears will be young females, and the transfer will take place in October, so the bears will look for denning sites instead of trying to go back home.

An article in *The Vancouver Sun*, 6/5, by Larry Pynn, notes that the recovery plan could require seasonal closures of hiking trails, delays of logging, and an end to sheep grazing.

Manning Park is the chosen site because of its distance from population centers. Officials from

BC's ministry of environment have held 35 meetings in local communities to explain the recovery program. The ministry hopes the grizzly population in the North Cascades will rise to 150 animals in 50 years.

The estimated number of grizzlies in BC ranges from 4,000 (conservationists' figure) to 13,000 (government figure).—*from information in The Vancouver Sun*, 6/5.

TRAIL PROJECT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS—Six Ridge needs you this summer! The Peninsula Wilderness Club has logged almost 1500 hours of work on the Six Ridge trail in Olympic National Park in the last three years.

Rescuing this desperately overgrown route in the remote southeast corner of the park has turned into a major project for Doug Savage, Joe Weigel and Kevin Kilbridge, who organize the club's Six Ridge work sessions.

PWC members have cleared the first 3.5 miles of the trail from its junction with the Staircase trail. This year they hope to reach the halfway point at Camp Belview.

The Bremerton-based club is opening its 9-day work party this year to all hikers who want to contribute to the trail maintenance effort. Participants can join in for one day or the entire week, and those who volunteer for at least two days will receive a one-year ONP pass.

PWC provides all the trail tools, and the gear is packed in by the Backcountry Horsemen.

The work party is scheduled from July 14 through July 22 this year. If you are able to help, call Doug Savage, 360-698-9774, for all the details.

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REST STOP EQUIPMENT, RECIPES, TIPS

DRINK MIX—A reader recently requested a copy of a recipe that Paul Schaufler sent in a few years ago. With all the new drink formulas on the market these days, we thought this simple one is worth repeating:

Here is a formula for electrolyte replacement drink from Group Health, a great deal less expensive than the widely advertised "sports" drinks.

In one quart water: 2 tablespoons sugar, 1/2 teaspoon baking soda, 1/2 teaspoon salt. Doesn't taste bad at all.

Have considered adding some vitamin

C but not sure how it would react with the soda.—*Paul Schaufler, Olympia.*

KITCHEN SINK COOKIES—For a hearty hiker's lunch or no-cook breakfast. Great in the car with a mug of tea while heading over the pass.

1 cup oil
1/2-cup peanut butter
3/4-cup honey
1 cup molasses
2 eggs
2 cups whole wheat flour
1/4-cup soy flour

2 cups rolled oats
1 cup wheat germ
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 cup raisins
1 cup shredded coconut
1 cup chopped peanuts

Mix oil, peanut butter, honey and molasses; add eggs. In a separate bowl, combine rest of ingredients and stir into oil mixture. Drop by spoonful onto an oiled cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for about 10 minutes.—*from Living It Up!, the newsletter of the Loma Prieta chapter, Sierra Club*

THE ART OF WAND-MAKING

When navigating off-trail in the backcountry there is a simple tool known as a wand which can, quite possibly, make the difference between a pleasant trek and a route-finding dilemma.

Wands can be used for marking a change in direction of travel, flagging a gear stash site or plotting a route across a snowfield. Here's a good one: wand the yellowjacket's nest you just discovered on the way in when you were stung twice—you'll avoid the same experience on the way out.

Materials

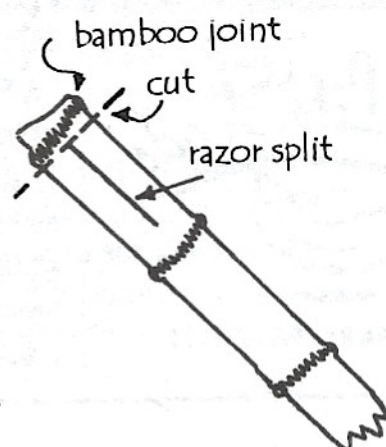
- bamboo stakes for gardening
- duct tape
- permanent marker
- single-edged razor blade
- plastic survey tape, in international orange
- pencil sharpener with changing diameter option
- small hammer
- ruler

Construction

Prepare the end of the bamboo stake that will hold the survey tape by trimming the bamboo joint. This will allow maximum spread for ease of inserting the survey tape.

To make the split, hold the single-edged razor blade on top of the wand and tap gently with the hammer.

Spread the split and insert the center of a 5-



inch piece of survey tape, allowing at least 1/4-inch of clearance from the top edge of the tape and the top of the wand. Wrap this section with a narrow piece of duct tape. If you like you can use a longer piece of survey tape and tie it off after inserting the tape into the wand. This guarantees the tape will remain put. I don't tie it—I find that the clamping action of closing the split along with the duct tape is more than enough to hold the survey tape fast.

Run the bottom tip of the wand into a pencil sharpener. Don't sharpen to a point, stop short so you have a taper and a dull tip. You'll notice the ease when piercing crust-topped snow with a tapered tip instead of a blunt tip.

Finish by putting an identifying mark on the wand. I put my initials on the survey tape with a permanent marker. There could be other climbing partys' wands placed on a popular route. This identifying mark will deter others from mistakenly removing your wands, causing confusion for you later.

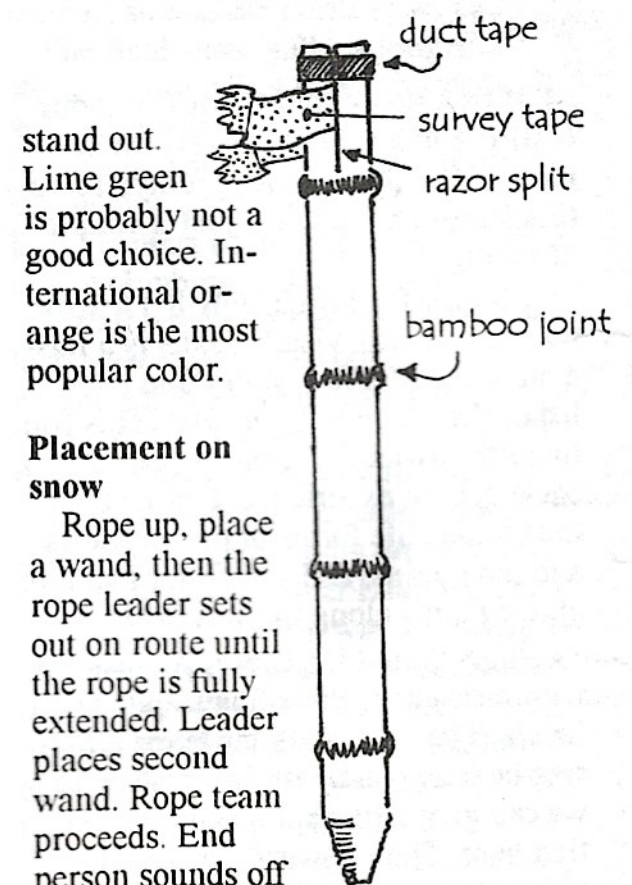
Be sure to remove all your wands. A wand left behind is just garbage.

Length

Choosing the length of a wand is really up to you. I have both two- and three-foot wands. If you're going to do a lot of brush crashing, think about the height of your pack compared to the wands' extension above the pack. If snow or driving wind is possible during your trip, use longer wands ... it's hard to see a buried marker.

Color

Be sure to pick a color tape that will



stand out. Lime green

is probably not a good choice. International orange is the most popular color.

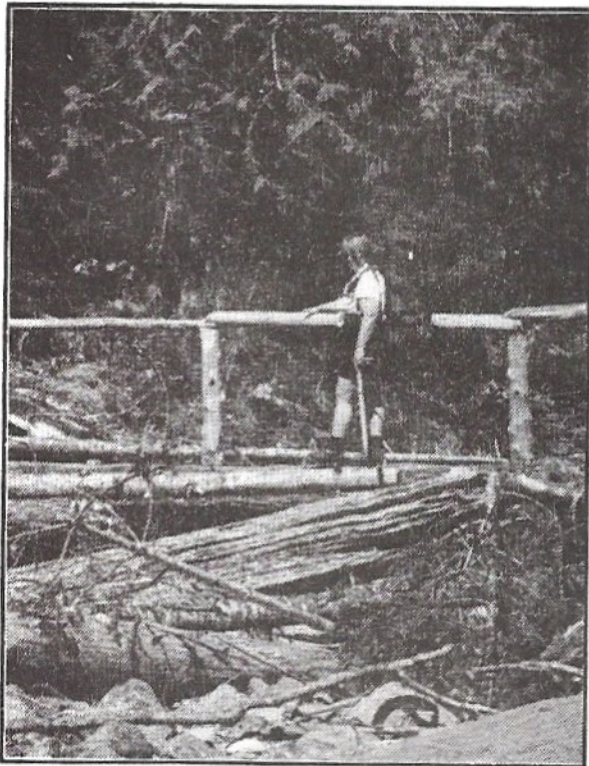
Placement on snow

Rope up, place a wand, then the rope leader sets out on route until the rope is fully extended. Leader places second wand. Rope team proceeds. End person sounds off when reaching the second wand, thereby letting rope leader know it is time to place another wand. Continue this sequence.

Now imagine you are descending a peak. The weather has gone from bad to worse and it is a whiteout. You are on your wand-staked route from earlier in the day. With one rope length between wands, the rope leader can go ahead into the whiteout while the last climber remains at the present wand. When the rope becomes taut the leader will be in the vicinity of the next wand. The leader can "pendulum" until he finds the wand—then call in the troops and start the search for the next wand, and right on down the line.

Think of a wand as a friend, one who remembers where you've been.

—Ed Agius, Bremerton



On the West Fork Foss River trail.

FROM THE MAIL BOX—"Great magazine! I show it to my friends."—*Puyallup*

"I love your no-frills magazine. It's my number one favorite."—*Loomis*

"I read *P&P* from cover to cover as soon as I get it. The *Backcountry News* is most useful when planning a trip."—*Seattle*

MAKAH BAY—When Lee suggested that we join friends for a weekend of surfing at Makah Bay I was not at all sure I would even get my kayak wet. After all, Makah Bay, on the open coast between Cape Flattery and Cape Alava, is where the *big waves* are.

I was reassured, however, to see that on this weekend some of the smaller waves were in the range that I could handle. The others enjoyed rides on the bigger waves, and we all had fun.

Hobuck Beach Campground, although primitive, was a delightful place to car-camp and gave us easy access to the beach.

MERRITT LAKE—What a fine turnout our women's group had for this hike—ten of us gathered at Nancy's cabin in Baring; in fact, all of us except Manita (and we sorely missed her) were able to attend.

Solid snow began well below the trail junction but it was well consolidated. One steep traverse across a sidehill, however, made us wish we had our ice axes instead of poles. We talked with two guys and a dog who were camping at the stream crossing.

ANNOUNCEMENT—Here's some news for you: I am retiring! This means that *Pack & Paddle* is retiring, too.

It's been a wonderful, fun ten years and I will miss all of you, but I am looking forward to Life Without Deadlines.

LAST ISSUE—Lee and I plan to keep publishing, unless we have an unforeseen crisis, through the December issue, which will come out at the end of November.

NUTS AND BOLTS—There are some details yet to work out. First, those of you whose subscriptions are up for renewal between now and The End will be able to renew for the remaining issues. Your renewal notices will provide the details.

Second, for those of you with subscriptions that extend beyond the December issue, we will come up with a re-imbursement plan. Details to come.

Third, we may have your photographs, manuscripts or other materials here at the office. We will begin returning this material in the fall.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call, write or e-mail.

A frigid wind, grey sky, and falling snow at the lake convinced us not to explore further and after a brief lunch, during which we put on all our extra clothes, we headed down. When we got to that steep sidehill we found that the two guys had used their shovels to make the scary crossing into a flat sidewalk!

TAO BERMAN—Just about every kayak shop in the world must have a poster of Tao Berman shooting over a waterfall, airborne, in his kayak. This amazing 22-year-old holds the world record for a kayak waterfall descent: 98.4 feet over Johnston Canyon Falls near Banff.

Now, this may be of only passing interest to most readers of *P&P*, except that we recently discovered, through reading an article in the *Methow Valley News*, that Tao Berman is the son of Birch Berman of Winthrop.

Birch is the owner of Backcountry Burro Treks, the outfit that makes Pasayten travel so easy for the *P&P* readers who have gone on his trips.

TEANAWAY FALL—When TG became our first subscriber back in 1991, he jumped to right up near the top of our list of Special People. We were dismayed to learn that in early May he was seriously injured in a fall while hiking in the Teanaway.

It's quite a story. On Thursday, May 3, he and a friend, Sally Davies, were hiking cross-country along a ridge above Stafford Creek, where TG has hiked, both solo and accompanied, for many years. While trying to get over a rock outcrop, he fell. The fall, said Sally, was more than 100 feet and over a cliff. In the rugged terrain she was not able to locate him and decided she must go for help.

Her hike out was difficult because, although she is an experienced hiker, she was not familiar with the area, and had trouble finding her way on the cross-country route. She ran the Stafford Creek road out to 29 Pines campground. Cell phones didn't work there, so someone drove her back toward Cle Elum and she notified the sheriff about 6:30 Thursday evening.

Kittitas Search and Rescue searched the trail that evening from 9pm until 2am. Early Friday the search resumed. 26 hours after his fall searchers located TG—eventually by following the trail of blood he had left down the mountain. With an open skull fracture, hypothermia, and frostbite, he was unresponsive when rescuers found him.

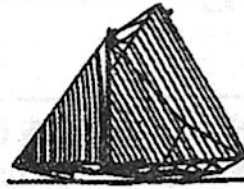
Sally heaped praise upon Kittitas Search and Rescue. "They did an outstanding job," she said. Two emergency medical technicians treated him on the scene, and he was evacuated by foot because the terrain was not suitable for a helicopter. From the trailhead he was transported by ambulance to Cle Elum and flown to Harborview.

After surgery to remove part of his skull to relieve brain swelling, TG is on a long road to recovery and rehabilitation at Virginia Mason Medical Center.

Through it all he has kept a sense of humor. When I asked him if he remembered how he had fallen, he said, "There were lots of steer's-heads blooming on the hillside. I think one of them got up and butted me."

See you in the backcountry

Ann Marshall



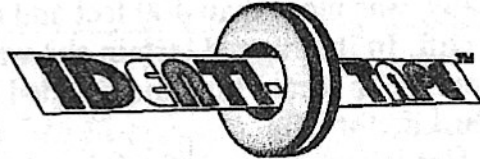
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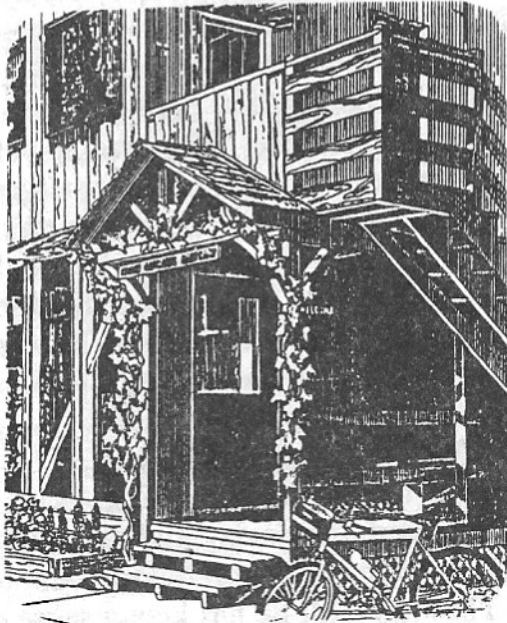


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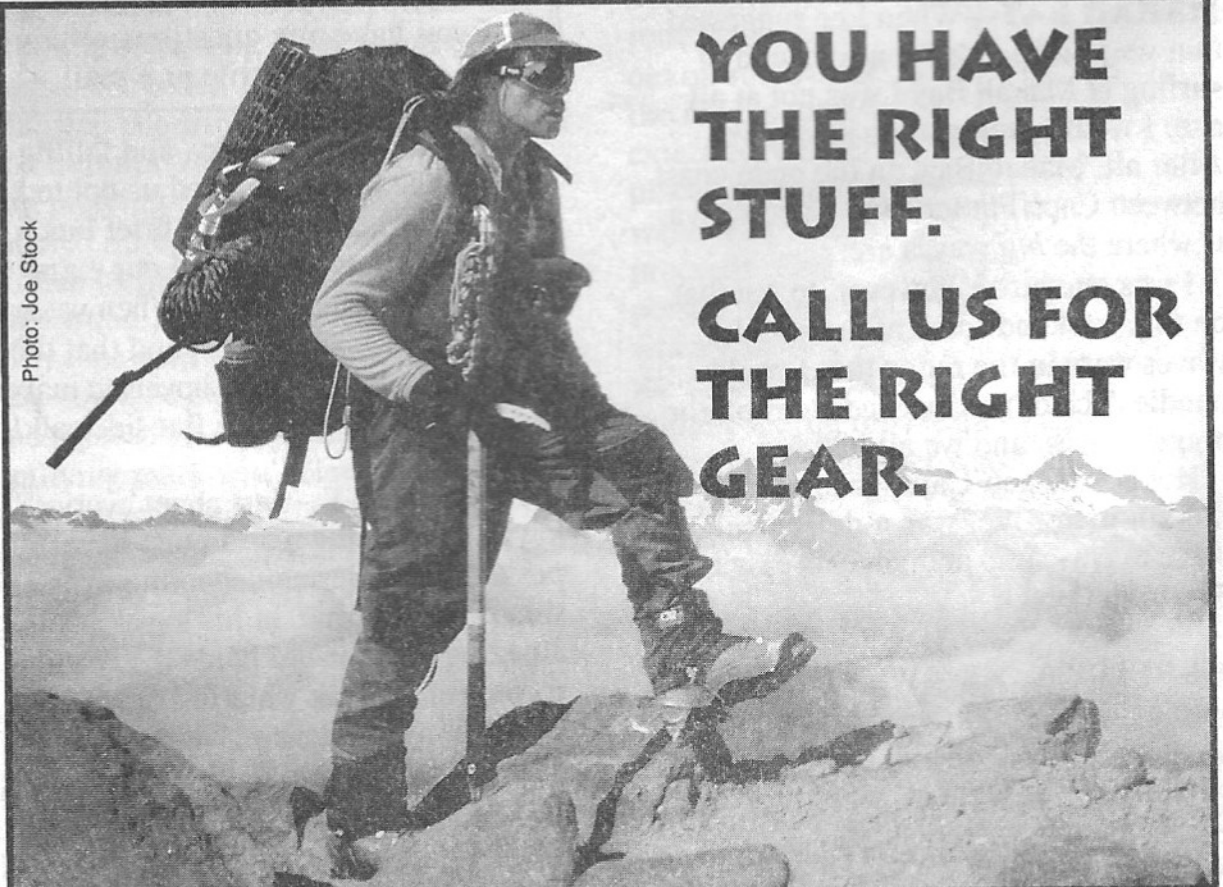
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