

# Horsethief Butte Outing

## Weekend Objectives:

- **Review and practice the basic skills that you will need for the rest of this class.**
- Review knots, belaying and rappelling, build anchors (Saturday)
- Learn how to aid climb, jumar/prusik, pack haul, Tyrolean traverse (Sunday)
- Have fun and get to know each other

This first weekend will serve as a shakedown cruise to get everyone acquainted and up to the same level of knowledge. The instruction will emphasize the skills and techniques for multi-pitch climbing. These skills are essential for the subsequent weekends where we move into lead climbing, as well as the alpine ascents later this summer.

The rock area at Horsethief Butte is extensive, but the routes are short. There is quick and easy access to both the top and the bottom of the rock, making this area ideal for review of the academic portion of rock climbing. We plan on reviewing a lengthy list of rope techniques, so be patient, learn fast, and we can have fun climbing. Please remember that the focus of this weekend is not climbing per se, but to learn the techniques so we may do the spectacular climbs later – safely.

**Recommended Reading:** *Freedom of the Hills* (7th edition), Chapters 9-11, 13-15

**Topics:** Knots, belaying, anchors, rappelling, rock protection, leading, and aid climbing.

**When:** Friday: leave Seattle around 5:00 pm  
Saturday: 8 am to 4 pm  
Sunday: 8 am to 3 pm  
Back to cars at 3:30 pm on Sunday

**Where:** Horsethief Butte is a prominent feature of Horsethief Lake State Park, located 14 miles west of Goldendale, WA on Highway 14 (just north of the Columbia River). The driving time is 3 hours 46 min via [I-90 \(Google Map\)](#)

Friday night traffic usually makes the I-90 route quicker. Since the outing starts at 8 am on Saturday morning, a Friday departure from Seattle is highly recommended.

**Camping:** [Maryhill State Park \(Google Map\)](#) Group Campsite is typically reserved for the Friday and Saturday nights. Bathrooms and a covered shelter are available. If the group site isn't available, individual campsites can be rented on a first come first serve basis.

**What to Bring:**

- Camping gear (tents or bivy sacs)
- Climbing harness
- Climbing helmet
- Belay device
- Single- and double-length slings, cordelettes
- Locking and non-locking 'biners
- Glacier protection (two prusiks + pulley for specific skills this weekend)
- Rock protection (optional)
- Etriers, jumars (optional)
- Personal gear including rain pants/coat (it can get very windy– ask anyone who has been to the pack hauling station)
- Light-weight (hiking) boots
- Food and water (breakfast and lunches), potluck item for Saturday

**Breakfast:** If you want to buy breakfast, we will be at [Linda's Restaurant](#) (Google Map), located in Biggs Junction, OR across the river from Maryhill State Park. The meeting time for breakfast is 6:15 am, and by 7:15 am driving to Horsethief Butte.

Don't plan to return to the cars during the day. **There is no water available at Horsethief Butte**; there is water at the Maryhill campsite. Also please don't forget to bring food and water for lunch both Saturday and Sunday.

**Dinner:** Saturday night will be potluck. Since we're car camping, be creative! Beverages are up to the individuals. We will pass around a sign-up sheet to get the food/utensils/grill covered.

**Park info:** Conserve resources and carpool (work this out at the meeting or by e-mail). This area is frequently used by the Mazamas climbing club from Portland, please be considerate of others in the park. This state park is also a sensitive archaeological site with native hieroglyphs. Please respect this so we may continue to use the area in the future. Park rangers have marked the locations of hieroglyphs with signs; please do not climb in these areas!

## Saturday

**6:15 am:** Breakfast @ [Linda's Restaurant](#) (Biggs Junction, OR).

**7:15 am:** [Leave Linda's for Horsethief](#)

**8:00 am:** Meet at the [Horsethief Lake State Park Parking Lot](#)

**8:00 – 8:30 am:** Hike in, gear up, outing introduction

**8:30 – 9:30 am:** Knots (All Students)

Figure eight	Prusik
Water knot	Clove hitch
Kleimheist	Monster münter
Bowline	Münter hitch
Bowline on a coil	Butterfly
Double fisherman	Bachmann knot
Euro Death knot	Rope coiling (from ends & as backpack)

**9:30 am – noon:** Belays (½ students)

Hip belay	Belay devices
Münter hitch belay	Securing a fallen climber
Hanging belays	Belay through a knot
Escape from a belay	

**9:30 am – noon:** Rappels (other ½ of students)

Arm Rappel & Dulfersitz	Device rappels
Auto block	Rappel through a knot
Rappel anchors	Testing anchors
Rappel CAUTIONS	Free rappel
Rappel with a pack	Extended Auto Block

**12:00 – 2:30 pm:** Belay and Rappel groups switch

**2:45 – 4:00 pm:** Practice placing pro and building gear anchors

**4:00 pm:** Break down anchors and head to cars

## Sunday

**6:15 am:** Breakfast @ [Linda's Restaurant](#) (Biggs Junction, OR).

**7:15 am:** [Leave Linda's for Horsethief Butte](#)

**8:00 am:** Meet at the [Horsethief Lake State Park Parking Lot](#)

**8:30 – 9:00 am:** Aid climbing demo

**9 am – noon:** Rotate through the four stations:

1. Aid climbing
2. Jumaring/prusiking
3. Pack hauling Systems (1:1, 2:1, and 3:1)
4. Tyrolean Traverse

**12:00 – 1:40 pm:** Continue stations

**1:45 – 2:00 pm:** Zipper Stopper Group Demo

**2:00 – 3:00 pm:** Practice lead climbing

Testing holds	Placing protection
Racking protection	Need for early protection
Zipper stopper	Rope drag & runners
Natural protection	Traverses
Kiwi Coil	Running belays

**3:00 – 3:30 pm:** Breakdown, pack up, and a quick weekend debrief

**3:30 pm:** Depart Horsethief Butte

# Horsethief Butte Checklist and Evaluation

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Students are responsible for making sure all items on their checklist get checked off. Instructors will initial each item when the student demonstrates proficiency with that item.

## Knots:

Figure eight \_\_\_\_\_  
Water knot \_\_\_\_\_  
Bowline \_\_\_\_\_  
Bowline on a coil \_\_\_\_\_  
Double fisherman \_\_\_\_\_  
Euro Death knot \_\_\_\_\_  
Kleimheist \_\_\_\_\_

Prusik \_\_\_\_\_  
Bachmann knot \_\_\_\_\_  
Münter hitch \_\_\_\_\_  
Monster Münter \_\_\_\_\_  
Clove hitch \_\_\_\_\_  
Butterfly \_\_\_\_\_  
Rope coiling \_\_\_\_\_  
Rope coil as backpack \_\_\_\_\_

## Harness:

Tying in end of rope \_\_\_\_\_

Tying in mid rope \_\_\_\_\_

## Belays:

Hip belay \_\_\_\_\_  
Münter hitch belay \_\_\_\_\_  
Belaying from anchor \_\_\_\_\_  
Hanging belays \_\_\_\_\_

Belay devices \_\_\_\_\_  
Belay through a knot \_\_\_\_\_  
Redirect from anchor \_\_\_\_\_  
Escape from a belay \_\_\_\_\_  
(tying off fallen climber, releasing belay)

## Rappels:

Body rappels \_\_\_\_\_  
Auto Block \_\_\_\_\_  
Rappel anchors \_\_\_\_\_  
Rappel CAUTIONS \_\_\_\_\_  
Rappel with a pack \_\_\_\_\_

Device rappels \_\_\_\_\_  
Rappel through a knot \_\_\_\_\_  
Testing anchors \_\_\_\_\_  
Free rappel \_\_\_\_\_  
Extended Rappel \_\_\_\_\_  
+AutoBlock \_\_\_\_\_

## Anchors:

Horizontal equalization \_\_\_\_\_  
Redundancy \_\_\_\_\_  
Cordelletes \_\_\_\_\_

Vertical equalization \_\_\_\_\_  
Opposition \_\_\_\_\_

## Protection/Leading:

Testing holds \_\_\_\_\_  
Racking protection \_\_\_\_\_  
Zipper stopper \_\_\_\_\_  
Natural protection \_\_\_\_\_  
Communication & signals \_\_\_\_\_

Placing protection \_\_\_\_\_  
Need for early protection \_\_\_\_\_  
Rope drag & runners \_\_\_\_\_  
Traverses \_\_\_\_\_  
Running belays \_\_\_\_\_

## Climbing/Etc:

Aid climbing \_\_\_\_\_  
Lead climbing \_\_\_\_\_

Jumaring & prusiking \_\_\_\_\_  
Hauling (1:1, 2:1, 3:1) \_\_\_\_\_